



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7120

LCO No. 4025



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS OR
CAMPUSES WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
5 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System,
6 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak
7 State College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and
8 postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System,
9 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak
10 State College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3)
11 establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State
12 University System, the regional community-technical college system
13 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the

14 effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional
 15 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in
 16 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) merge or close
 17 institutions or campuses within the Connecticut State University
 18 System [.] and the regional community-technical college system and
 19 Charter Oak State College in accordance with criteria established by
 20 the board, provided (A) such recommended merger or closing of a
 21 campus that is not a full-service campus, as defined in section 2 of this
 22 act, shall require a two-thirds vote of the board [.] and [(B)] notice of
 23 such recommended merger or closing shall be sent to the joint standing
 24 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance [over] of
 25 matters relating to higher education, [and to the General Assembly]
 26 and (B) such recommended closing of an institution or a full-service
 27 campus, as those terms are defined in section 2 of this act, is conducted
 28 in accordance with the provisions of sections 3 and 4 of this act; (6)
 29 review and approve mission statements for the Connecticut State
 30 University System, the regional community-technical college system
 31 and Charter Oak State College and role and scope statements for the
 32 individual institutions and campuses of such constituent units; (7)
 33 review and approve any recommendations for the establishment of
 34 new academic programs submitted to the board by the state
 35 universities within the Connecticut State University System, the
 36 regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College,
 37 and, in consultation with the affected constituent units, provide for the
 38 initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs; (8)
 39 develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs at the
 40 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
 41 technical college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B)
 42 institutions within the Connecticut State University System and the
 43 regional community-technical college system and enforce standards
 44 through licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the
 45 Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8,
 46 consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets for the
 47 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
 48 technical college system and Charter Oak State College developed in

49 accordance with the provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and
50 make recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State
51 University System, the regional community-technical college system
52 and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in
53 section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives
54 from public and independent institutions of higher education to study
55 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public
56 institutions of higher education under its jurisdiction with The
57 University of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher
58 education to implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12)
59 evaluate (A) means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-
60 11c, and (B) any recommendations made by the Planning Commission
61 for Higher Education in implementing the strategic master plan
62 pursuant to section 10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional
63 approaches such as external degrees and credit by examination; (13)
64 coordinate programs and services among the Connecticut State
65 University System, the regional community-technical college system
66 and Charter Oak State College; (14) assess opportunities for
67 collaboration with The University of Connecticut and the independent
68 institutions of higher education to implement the goals identified in
69 section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into contracts, leases or other
70 agreements in connection with its responsibilities under this part,
71 provided all acquisitions of real estate by lease or otherwise shall be
72 subject to the provisions of section 4b-23; (16) be responsible for the
73 care and maintenance of permanent records of institutions of higher
74 education dissolved after September 1, 1969; (17) prepare and present
75 to the Governor and General Assembly legislative proposals affecting
76 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
77 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (18) develop
78 and maintain a central higher education information system and
79 establish definitions and data requirements for the Connecticut State
80 University System, the regional community-technical college system
81 and Charter Oak State College; (19) report all new programs and
82 program changes at the Connecticut State University System, the
83 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State

84 College to the Office of Higher Education; and (20) undertake such
85 studies and other activities as will best serve the higher educational
86 interests of the Connecticut State University System, the regional
87 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College.

88 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section and
89 sections 3 and 4 of this act:

90 (1) "Board" means the Board of Regents for Higher Education;

91 (2) "President" means the president of the Connecticut State
92 Colleges and Universities;

93 (3) "Institution" means any institution within the Connecticut State
94 University System and the regional community-technical college
95 system and Charter Oak State College; and

96 (4) "Full-service campus" means any facility where an institution
97 under the governance of the Board of Regents for Higher Education
98 offers programs leading to a degree or certificate and provides
99 students access to adequate equipment, library resources, academic
100 advising and other necessary instructional support services.

101 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The board shall develop
102 criteria to be used in any decision to close an institution or a full-
103 service campus within the Connecticut State University System and
104 the regional community-technical college system and to close Charter
105 Oak State College. Such criteria shall be consistent with the following
106 goals: (1) The policy goals of the state system of higher education listed
107 in subsection (b) of section 10a-6 and section 10a-11c of the general
108 statutes, (2) to ensure that the residents of the geographic areas in
109 which an institution or full-service campus may be closing have access
110 to a conveniently located institution or full-service campus, (3) to
111 minimize the negative effects of such closing on students enrolled at
112 the institution or full-service campus and the community surrounding
113 institution or full-service campus, and (4) to preserve those programs
114 and fields of study which (A) are unique to the institution or full-

115 service campus that may be closing, or (B) serve specific industries,
116 employment needs or community needs in the state.

117 (b) Prior to approving the criteria developed pursuant to subsection
118 (a) of this section, the board shall hold one or more public hearings to
119 receive public comment on the criteria. The president and a majority of
120 the members of the board shall attend each public hearing. Not later
121 than fifteen days before the first public hearing, the board shall post on
122 its Internet web site and send to the electronic mail address on record
123 of all enrolled students and employees of each institution (1) a notice
124 of the time and place of each public hearing, (2) the criteria developed
125 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (3) a means for all
126 interested persons to submit written testimony or recommendations
127 regarding such criteria.

128 (c) Following the completion of all public hearings conducted
129 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the board may amend the
130 criteria based on the oral and written testimony and recommendations
131 received through the public hearings. The criteria for closing an
132 institution or full-service campus, as amended through the public
133 hearing process, shall be approved by a majority vote of the board. Not
134 later than fifteen days after such approval, the board shall submit the
135 criteria, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
136 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
137 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
138 and shall post such criteria on its Internet web site.

139 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) If the board or the president
140 determines that it is necessary to close any institution or full-service
141 campus within the Connecticut State University System or the regional
142 community-technical college system or to close Charter Oak State
143 College, the board shall use the criteria approved pursuant to section 3
144 of this act to assess each institution, determine which institutions or
145 full-service campuses should be closed and develop a closure plan for
146 such institutions or full-service campuses. For each institution or full-
147 service campus to be closed, the closure plan shall include, but not be

148 limited to, (1) an explanation of the reasons for such closure, (2) the
149 annual net cost of keeping such institution or full-service campus
150 open, (3) the net savings of closing such institution or full-service
151 campus, (4) an explanation of how students currently enrolled at such
152 institution or attending such full-service campus may be able to
153 complete their degree or certificate with minimal impact, (5) an
154 explanation of how any program or field of study that (A) is unique to
155 such institution or full-service campus, or (B) serves specific industries,
156 employment needs or community needs in the state will be preserved,
157 and (6) recommendations for any alternatives to closing such
158 institution or full-service campus, including, but not limited to, tuition
159 increases or other cost savings.

160 (b) Prior to approving any closure plan developed pursuant to
161 subsection (a) of this section, the board shall hold one or more public
162 hearings at each institution or full-service campus for which a closing
163 is planned. The president and a majority of the members of the board
164 shall attend each public hearing. Not later than fifteen days before each
165 public hearing, the board shall post on its Internet web site and send to
166 the electronic mail address on record of all enrolled students and
167 employees of each institution or full-service campus for which a
168 closing is planned (1) a notice of the time and place of such public
169 hearing, (2) the closure plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of
170 this section, and (3) a means for all interested persons to submit
171 written testimony or recommendations.

172 (c) Following the completion of all public hearings held pursuant to
173 subsection (b) of this section, the board may amend the closure plan
174 based on the oral or written testimony and recommendations received
175 through the public hearings. If the board amends such closure plan to
176 include another institution or full-service campus, the board shall hold
177 an additional public hearing at such institution or full-service campus
178 in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. The closure plan, as
179 amended through the public hearing process, shall be approved by a
180 two-thirds vote of the board. Not later than fifteen days after such
181 approval, the board shall file the closure plan, along with its

182 assessment of all the institutions using the approved criteria, with the
 183 clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the General
 184 Assembly and shall post the same on its Internet web site. The board
 185 shall not close any institution or full-service campus until the closure
 186 plan is accepted or deemed accepted by the General Assembly in
 187 accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

188 (d) The General Assembly may reject the closure plan filed by the
 189 board in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this
 190 section by a majority vote of each house not later than thirty days or
 191 three session days from the receipt of the plan, whichever is later. The
 192 thirty-day period shall not begin or expire unless the General
 193 Assembly is in regular session. For the purposes of this subsection, any
 194 closure plan filed with the clerks while the General Assembly is not in
 195 session shall be deemed filed on the first day of the next regular
 196 session. If the plan is rejected by the General Assembly, the board may
 197 conduct a new analysis of the institutions under the approved criteria
 198 and develop a new closure plan in accordance with the provisions of
 199 this section. If the General Assembly takes no action on the closure
 200 plan, the board may implement the closure plan when the time for
 201 legislative action, pursuant to this subsection, has elapsed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-6(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to establish a plan, receive public comment and seek the approval of the General Assembly prior to closing any institutions or campuses within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

