Substitute Bill No. 7162

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

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

1   Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) For the purposes of this
2   section:

3   (1) "Open educational resource" means a college level resource
4   made available on an Internet web site to be used by students, faculty
5   and members of the public on an unlimited basis at a cost lower than
6   the marketing value of the printed textbook or other educational
7   resource, including full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks,
8   streaming videos, tests, software and other similar teaching, learning
9   and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been
10   released under a creative commons attribution license that permits the
11   free use and repurposing of such resources;

12   (2) "Creative commons attribution license" means a copyright
13   crediting the author of a digital work product that allows for the free
14   use and distribution of such work product; and

15   (3) "High-impact course" means a course of instruction for which
16   open educational resources would make a significant positive financial
17   impact on the students taking the course due to the number of
18   students taking the course or the marketing value of the printed

19   textbook or other educational resources required for such course.

20   (b) There is established the Connecticut Open Educational Resource
21   Coordinating Council, which shall be part of the Executive
22   Department. The executive director of the Office of Higher Education
23   shall appoint the members of the council which shall consist of the
24   following: (1) A state-wide coordinator, who shall collaborate with all
25   institutions of higher education to promote open educational resources
26   and administer grants; (2) one faculty member, one administrator and
27   one staff member from The University of Connecticut; (3) one faculty
28   member, one administrator and one staff member from the regional
29   community-technical college system; (4) one faculty member, one
30   administrator and one staff member from Charter Oak State College;
31   (5) one faculty member, one administrator and one staff member from
32   the Connecticut State University System; (6) one faculty member, one
33   administrator and one staff member from the independent institutions
34   of higher education; and (7) one student from any public or
35   independent institution of higher education in the state. All initial
36   appointments to the council shall be made not later than September 1,
37   2019, and shall expire on August 30, 2022, regardless of when the
38   initial appointment was made. Any member of the council may serve
39   more than one term.

40   (c) The state-wide coordinator appointed by the executive director
41   of the Office of Higher Education shall serve as the chairperson of the
42   council. The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the council,
43   which shall be held not later than October 1, 2019. The administrative
44   staff of the Office of Higher Education shall serve as administrative
45   staff of the council.

46   (d) Appointed members of the council shall serve for three-year
47   terms which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as
48   provided in subsection (b) of this section. Members shall continue to
49   serve until their successors are appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled
50   by the executive director of the Office of Higher Education. Any
51   vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for

52 the balance of the unexpired term. A majority of the council shall
53 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The members
54 of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the
55 limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily
56 incurred in the performance of their duties.

57 (e) The council shall perform the following functions:

58 (1) Identify high-impact courses for which open educational
59 resources will be developed, converted or adopted;

60 (2) Establish a program of competitive grants for faculty members of
61 institutions of higher education in the state for the development,
62 conversion or adoption of open educational resources for high-impact
63 courses with any funds identified by the council and within available
64 appropriations;

65 (3) Accept, review and approve competitive grant applications,
66 provided any faculty member who is approved for a competitive grant
67 shall license such open educational resources through a creative
68 commons attribution license;

69 (4) Administer a standardized review and approval process for the
70 development, conversion or adoption of open educational resources;

71 (5) Establish a state-sponsored digital clearinghouse that shall
72 function as a publicly accessible database for the collection, storage
73 and purchase of open educational resources; and

74 (6) Promote strategies for the production, use and access of open
75 educational resources.

76 (f) The council shall meet quarterly, or as often as deemed necessary
77 by a majority of the council.

78 (g) Not later than January 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the
79 council shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of

80   section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
81   the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
82   education regarding (1) the number and percentage of high-impact
83   courses for which open educational resources have been developed, (2)
84   the degree to which institutions of higher education promote the use
85   and access to open educational resources through the state-sponsored
86   digital clearinghouse, (3) the amount of grants awarded by the council
87   and the number of open educational resources developed by grant
88   recipients, and (4) its recommendations for any amendments to the
89   general statutes necessary to develop open educational resources.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2019*	New section

HED   *Joint Favorable Subst.*