



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 749**

LCO No. 4044



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER  
OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS 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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2019*):

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 within the Connecticut State University System, the  
18 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
19 College in accordance with criteria established by the board, provided  
20 (A) such recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds  
21 vote of the board, [and] (B) notice of such recommended merger or  
22 closing shall be sent to the joint standing committee of the General  
23 Assembly having cognizance [over] of matters relating to higher  
24 education, [and to the General Assembly] and (C) such recommended  
25 merger or closing shall be accepted by a majority vote of both houses  
26 of the General Assembly or rejected by a majority vote of either house  
27 of the General Assembly not later than one year after receiving notice  
28 by the board pursuant to this subsection or the adjournment of the  
29 next regular session of the General Assembly, whichever is later,  
30 provided if the General Assembly fails to act, such recommended  
31 merger or closing shall be deemed accepted; (6) review and approve  
32 mission statements for the Connecticut State University System, the  
33 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
34 College and role and scope statements for the individual institutions  
35 and campuses of such constituent units; (7) review and approve any  
36 recommendations for the establishment of new academic programs  
37 submitted to the board by the state universities within the Connecticut  
38 State University System, the regional community-technical colleges  
39 and Charter Oak State College, and, in consultation with the affected  
40 constituent units, provide for the initiation, consolidation or  
41 termination of academic programs; (8) develop criteria to ensure  
42 acceptable quality in (A) programs at the Connecticut State University  
43 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter  
44 Oak State College, and (B) institutions within the Connecticut State  
45 University System and the regional community-technical college  
46 system and enforce standards through licensing and accreditation; (9)  
47 prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly, in  
48 accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated operating and capital

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

83 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) report all  
84 new programs and program changes at the Connecticut State  
85 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
86 and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher Education; and  
87 (20) undertake such studies and other activities as will best serve the  
88 higher educational interests of the Connecticut State University  
89 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter  
90 Oak State College.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	10a-6(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require legislative approval for the merger or closing of institutions 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.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.; REP. BOYD, 50th Dist.  
REP. WOOD, 141st Dist.

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