



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4621



Offered by:

REP. HADDAD, 54<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. SLAP, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5363

File No. 236

Cal. No. 177

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 10a-11b of the 2024 supplement to the general  
4 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
5 (*Effective from passage*):

6 (a) There is established a Planning Commission for Higher Education  
7 to develop and ensure the implementation of a higher education  
8 strategic master plan in Connecticut.

9 (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:  
10 (A) The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the  
11 president of The University of Connecticut, or their designees from the  
12 Board of Regents for Higher Education and Board of Trustees; (B) the  
13 provost of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and the

14 provost of The University of Connecticut; (C) the [chair] chairperson of  
15 the Board of Regents for [the Connecticut State Colleges and  
16 Universities] Higher Education, and the Board of Trustees for The  
17 University of Connecticut, or the chairs' designees; (D) the president,  
18 provost or chair of the board of a large independent institution of higher  
19 education in the state, to be selected by the president pro tempore of the  
20 Senate; (E) the president, provost or chair of the board of a small  
21 independent institution of higher education in the state, to be selected  
22 by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (F) a representative from  
23 a private career school, to be selected by the executive director of the  
24 Office of Higher Education; (G) a teaching faculty representative from  
25 the Connecticut State [Universities] University System, to be selected by  
26 the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities; (H) a  
27 teaching faculty representative from the regional community-technical  
28 colleges, to be selected by the president of the Connecticut State Colleges  
29 and Universities; (I) a teaching faculty representative from The  
30 University of Connecticut, to be selected by the president of The  
31 University of Connecticut; (J) a teaching faculty representative from a  
32 private career school in the state, to be selected by the executive director  
33 of the Office of Higher Education; (K) one member appointed by the  
34 president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a representative of a  
35 large manufacturing employer in the state; (L) one member appointed  
36 by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a  
37 representative of a large financial or insurance services employer in the  
38 state; (M) one member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,  
39 who shall be a representative of an information technology or digital  
40 media employer in the state; (N) one member appointed by the minority  
41 leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of a small business  
42 employer in the state; (O) one member appointed by the majority leader  
43 of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of a  
44 health care employer in the state; [and] (P) one member appointed by  
45 the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a  
46 representative of a small business employer in the state; and (Q) the  
47 chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of  
48 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher

49 education and employment advancement. The commission  
50 membership shall, where feasible, reflect the state's geographic, racial  
51 and ethnic diversity.

52 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting  
53 members on the commission: (A) The Commissioner of Education, the  
54 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the  
55 Labor Commissioner, or their designees; (B) a representative of an  
56 association of the state's independent institutions of higher education,  
57 appointed by the Governor; (C) a member of the State Board of  
58 Education, as designated by the chairperson of the state board; (D) the  
59 superintendent of the technical high school system, or the  
60 superintendent's designee; (E) the chief executive officer of Connecticut  
61 Innovations, Incorporated, or the chief executive officer's designee; (F)  
62 the executive director of the Office of Higher Education; (G) the  
63 [chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of  
64 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
65 education and employment advancement;(H) the] Secretary of the  
66 Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; and [(I)]  
67 (H) the Chief Workforce Officer.

68 (3) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later  
69 than June 1, 2024. The Governor, president pro tempore of the Senate  
70 and speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint [the] a  
71 chairperson from among the commission's voting members. [The  
72 commission shall elect a vice-chairperson at its first meeting.] Such  
73 chairpersons shall jointly schedule the first meeting of the commission,  
74 which shall be held not later than July 1, 2024. Any vacancies shall be  
75 filled by the appointing authority. The term of each appointed member  
76 of the commission shall be three years from the date of appointment,  
77 except a member shall continue to serve until such member's successor  
78 is appointed. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum  
79 for the transaction of business. The commission members shall serve  
80 without compensation.

81 (4) The commission may (A) seek the advice and participation of any

82 person, organization or state or federal agency it deems necessary to  
83 carry out the provisions of this section, [ The commission may,] (B)  
84 within available appropriations, retain consultants to assist in carrying  
85 out its duties, [ The commission may] and (C) receive funds from any  
86 public or private sources to carry out its activities.

87 (5) The [commission shall be within the Office of Higher Education  
88 and shall be responsible for implementing any policies developed by the  
89 commission] administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
90 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
91 education and employment advancement shall serve as the  
92 administrative staff of the commission.

93 (b) The commission shall revise and update the higher education  
94 strategic master plan adopted in 2015. Such revised strategic master  
95 plan shall:

96 (1) Examine the impact of demographic, workforce and education  
97 trends on higher education in the state;

98 (2) (A) Assess progress toward the numerical goals established for  
99 the years 2020 and 2025 under the strategic master plan adopted in 2015  
100 and revise or establish numerical goals for the years [2025] 2026 and  
101 2030 to (i) increase the number of people earning a bachelor's degree,  
102 associate degree or certificate, (ii) increase the number of people  
103 successfully completing coursework at the community college level and  
104 the number of people entering the state's workforce, and (iii) eliminate  
105 the postsecondary achievement gap between minority students and the  
106 general student population, and (B) include specific strategies for  
107 meeting such goals, as well as strategies for meeting the goals pursuant  
108 to subsection (b) of section 10a-6 and section 10a-11c;

109 (3) Examine and recommend changes to funding policies, practices  
110 and accountability in order to (A) align policies and practices with the  
111 goals set forth in subsection (b) of section 10a-6 and section 10a-11c; (B)  
112 determine how the constituent units shall annually report to the General  
113 Assembly and the public in a transparent and thorough manner

114 regarding each constituent unit's expenditures, staffing and state  
115 support, including the state appropriation, personnel expenses,  
116 personnel fringe benefits, capital improvement bonds and financial aid  
117 to students; and (C) improve coordination of appropriation, tuition and  
118 financial aid and seek ways to maximize funding through federal and  
119 private grants to accomplish state goals; and

120 (4) Recommend ways in which each constituent unit of the state  
121 system of higher education and independent institution of higher  
122 education in the state can, in a manner consistent with such institution's  
123 mission, expand such institution's role in advancing the state's economic  
124 growth.

125 (c) In updating the higher education strategic master plan, the  
126 commission shall review the plan developed pursuant to section 10a-6.  
127 In addition, the commission may consider the following: (1)  
128 Establishing incentives for institutional performance and productivity;  
129 (2) increasing financial aid, especially in workforce shortage areas and  
130 for minority and first-generation students; (3) expanding dual credit  
131 and career pathway opportunities in high schools and aligning such  
132 opportunities with institutions of higher education; (4) promoting  
133 partnerships with the business community and institutions of higher  
134 education to expand work-based learning opportunities for students  
135 and retraining and development opportunities for employees; (5)  
136 establishing collaborative partnerships between public high schools,  
137 community organizations and institutions of higher education to  
138 expand college access for underserved and first-generation students; (6)  
139 assessing and promoting programs in high school to assist high school  
140 students seeking a college track or alternative pathways for post-  
141 secondary education, such as vocational and technical opportunities; (7)  
142 developing policies to promote and measure retention and graduation  
143 rates of students, including graduation rates for students who have  
144 transferred among two or more constituent units or public institutions  
145 of higher education; (8) developing policies to promote [Transfer]  
146 transfer and [Articulation] articulation programs and the Connecticut  
147 Automatic Admissions [program] Program state wide; (9) addressing

148 the educational needs of minority, underserved and first-generation  
149 students and nontraditional students, including, but not limited to, part-  
150 time students, incumbent workers, adult learners, former inmates and  
151 immigrants, in order to increase enrollment and retention in institutions  
152 of higher education; (10) addressing the affordability of tuition at  
153 institutions of higher education and the issue of increased student  
154 indebtedness; and (11) developing policies to award credits for prior  
155 learning and experience.

156 (d) Not later than September 1, [2024] 2025, the commission shall  
157 submit a preliminary report on the development of the update of the  
158 higher education strategic master plan and, not later than December 1,  
159 [2024] 2025, the commission shall submit the higher education strategic  
160 master plan, including specific goals and benchmarks for the years  
161 ending [2025] 2026 and 2030, together with any recommendations for  
162 appropriate legislation and funding to the Governor and the joint  
163 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
164 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,  
165 education, commerce, labor and appropriations and the budgets of state  
166 agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

167 (e) Not later than January 1, [2026] 2027, and annually thereafter, the  
168 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing  
169 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
170 relating to higher education and employment advancement, education,  
171 commerce, labor and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
172 in accordance with section 11-4a, on the implementation of the plan and  
173 progress made toward achieving the goals specified in the plan. The  
174 commission may periodically suggest changes to the goals as necessary.

175 (f) [Not later than January 1, 2018, for] For purposes of implementing  
176 the higher education strategic master plan pursuant to subsection (b) of  
177 this section, the commission [, in collaboration with the Office of Policy  
178 and Management,] shall establish two standing subcommittees and may  
179 establish any working groups necessary to supplement the work of the  
180 subcommittees or work. The [chairperson and vice-chairperson]

181 chairpersons of the commission shall jointly appoint the members of the  
182 standing subcommittees and working groups, and may appoint  
183 members to such standing subcommittees and working groups who are  
184 not members of the commission.

185 (1) One standing subcommittee shall focus on data, metrics and  
186 accountability, and build upon the work of the Preschool through 20  
187 and Workforce Information Network in its measures and data. Such  
188 measures shall be used to assess the progress of each public institution  
189 of higher education toward meeting the commission's goals. The  
190 subcommittee shall collaborate with the Labor Department to (A)  
191 produce periodic reports, capable of being sorted by student age, on the  
192 employment status, job retention and earnings of students enrolled in  
193 academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs, both prior to  
194 enrollment and after completion of such courses and programs, who  
195 leave the constituent units upon graduation or otherwise, and (B)  
196 develop an annual affordability index for public higher education that  
197 is based on state-wide median family income. The subcommittee shall  
198 submit annual reports to the commission and the constituent units.

199 (2) One standing subcommittee shall focus on the higher education  
200 strategic master plan, analyzing the plans submitted since 2014 and  
201 making recommendations to the commission on key areas. The  
202 commission may recommend key areas of focus each year and require  
203 the standing subcommittee to report to the commission on such key  
204 areas.

205 (g) The commission may appoint advisory committees with  
206 representatives from public and independent institutions of higher  
207 education to study methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of  
208 the public institutions of higher education and the independent  
209 institutions of higher education to implement the goals identified in  
210 section 10a-11c.

211 (h) The commission may review its goals and plans and determine  
212 how best to align its work with the work of the Higher Education

213 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Working Group and the Higher  
214 Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee, established  
215 pursuant to sections 32-39s and 32-39t."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-11b