



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 5113

LCO No. 1117

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2020*):

4 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
5 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System, the
6 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
7 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 State
10 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 regional
18 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College in
19 accordance with criteria established by the board, provided (A) such
20 recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds vote of the
21 board, [and] (B) notice of such recommended merger or closing shall be
22 sent, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
23 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance over
24 matters relating to higher education, and [to the General Assembly] (C)
25 such recommended merger or closing shall be accepted by a majority
26 vote of both houses of the General Assembly or rejected by a majority
27 vote of either house of the General Assembly not later than one year
28 after receiving notice by the board pursuant to this subsection or the
29 adjournment of the next regular session of the General Assembly,
30 whichever is later, provided if the General Assembly fails to act, such
31 recommended merger or closing shall be deemed accepted; (6) review
32 and approve mission statements for the Connecticut State University
33 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter
34 Oak State College and role and scope statements for the individual
35 institutions and campuses of such constituent units; (7) review and
36 approve any recommendations for the establishment of new academic
37 programs submitted to the board by the state universities within the
38 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical
39 colleges and Charter Oak State College, and, in consultation with the
40 affected 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 system
46 and enforce standards through licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare
47 and present to the Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with
48 section 10a-8, consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10a-6(a)
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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.]