



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7253

LCO No. 5078



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS
OPERATED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF
THE STATE.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-57f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

3 (a) Not later than January 1, 2017, the Office of Higher Education
4 shall enter into a multistate or regional reciprocity agreement for
5 purposes of enabling the state and Connecticut institutions of higher
6 education to participate in a nation-wide state authorization
7 reciprocity agreement (1) establishing uniform standards for distance
8 learning programs across states, and (2) eliminating the need for a state
9 participating in the state authorization reciprocity agreement to assess
10 the quality of a distance learning program offered by an out-of-state
11 institution of higher education through the participating state's
12 authorization, licensing and accreditation process. Notwithstanding
13 the provisions of part III of this chapter and upon the Office of Higher
14 Education entering into the multistate or regional reciprocity

15 agreement, an out-of-state institution of higher education that
16 participates in the state authorization reciprocity agreement may
17 operate a distance learning program in the state in accordance with the
18 uniform standards.

19 (b) Any Connecticut institution of higher education that seeks to
20 participate in the nation-wide state authorization reciprocity
21 agreement under subsection (a) of this section shall submit an
22 application with the Office of Higher Education on a form prescribed
23 by the office. The office shall approve or reject the institution's
24 application in accordance with the terms of such agreement.
25 Authorization by the office to participate in such agreement shall be
26 valid for a period of one year and may be renewed by the office for
27 additional one-year periods. The office shall establish a schedule of
28 application and renewal fees for all Connecticut institutions of higher
29 education that participate in such agreement. The fee schedule shall be
30 graduated based on the number of full-time equivalent students at
31 each Connecticut institution of higher education.

32 (c) Any out-of-state institution of higher education that does not
33 participate in the nation-wide, state authorization reciprocity
34 agreement and seeks to operate a distance learning program in the
35 state shall submit an application to the Office of Higher Education on a
36 form prescribed by the office. Each institution shall agree to abide by
37 standards, similar to those in the nation-wide, state authorization
38 reciprocity agreement and established by the office. The office shall
39 approve or reject the institution's application in accordance with the
40 standards established by the office. Authorization by the office to
41 operate a distance learning program in the state shall be valid for a
42 period of one year and may be renewed by the office for additional
43 one-year periods. The office shall establish a schedule of application
44 and renewal fees for all out-of-state institutions of higher education
45 that do not participate in the nation-wide, state authorization
46 reciprocity agreement and are approved by the office. The fee schedule
47 shall be graduated based on the number of full-time equivalent

48 students enrolled at each out-of-state institution of higher education.

49 [(c)] (d) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed
50 to affect the authority of the Attorney General to enforce the provisions
51 of chapter 735a or Title X of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and
52 Consumer Protection Act, P.L. 111-203, as amended from time to time.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2020	10a-57f

HED *Joint Favorable*