

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5109

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CHARGING OF GRADUATION FEES AT PUBLIC

Title: INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Vote Date: 3/18/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/18/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Representative Gonzalez, 3rd Assembly District

REASONS FOR BILL:

Charter Oak State College currently charges a fee for aggregating credits from a variety of sources including other higher education institutions, standardized tests, military training, licensure and certifications, and portfolios with COSC courses to help students graduate with a degree. Their graduation fee covers the costs of the degree audit and the diploma. This bill would eliminate that charge.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Sean Bradbury, Senior Director of Government Relations and External Affairs](#) Connecticut State Colleges & Universities submitted written testimony opposing this bill. Mr. Bradbury indicated that this “expansive degree audit is a significant cost driver for COSC, the fee is passed along to graduating students, and not to non-matriculating students. The Board of Regents approves COSC’s tuition and fee rates and would be happy to work with them to clarify the language around this fee to avoid confusion in the future. However, elimination of this fee in its entirety would double COSC’s current budget deficit or would lead to increased tuition and fee costs for all students.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Representative Gonzalez testified in support of this bill.

Nelky Maldonado testified in support of this bill.

[Joshua Cam](#) submitted written testimony in support of this bill.

[Kyle Dearborne](#) submitted written testimony in support of this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

See Administration/Agency response.

Reported by: Jeanie Phillips, Clerk

Date: March 23, 2021