



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 5108**

LCO No. 5746



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
TO ESTABLISH A POLICY REGARDING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION  
ON CAMPUS.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2022, the  
2 Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board of  
3 Regents for Higher Education shall develop and adopt a policy on  
4 freedom of expression at the public institutions of higher education  
5 governed by said boards. Such policy shall include, but not be limited  
6 to, (1) the goal of prioritizing freedom of expression in the fulfillment of  
7 such institution's mission, including, but not limited to, freedom of  
8 expression in research, teaching, discussion and debate, (2) the role of  
9 the institution in protecting freedom of expression on campus,  
10 including when the ideas or opinions expressed are disagreeable or  
11 offensive, (3) reasonable limitations on time, place and manner of  
12 expression, provided such limitations are content-neutral and necessary  
13 to a compelling institutional interest, (4) allowance for protest or  
14 demonstration by any person lawfully present on campus, including a  
15 spontaneous protest or demonstration, provided such protest or

16 demonstration does not substantially or materially interfere with such  
17 institution's function or in the ability of others to engage in or listen to  
18 an expressive activity, (5) the designation of public areas on campus as  
19 public forums that are open on the same terms to any speaker, and (6)  
20 the availability of resources for protecting the safety and freedom of  
21 expression of any speaker invited on campus by any student, student  
22 group or faculty member, which resources shall be available on the same  
23 terms to any invited speaker.

24 (b) Not later than February 1, 2022, the Board of Trustees of The  
25 University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher  
26 Education shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
27 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
28 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education the  
29 policy adopted pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
30 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2021	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To require public institutions of higher education in the state to adopt a policy on freedom of expression on campus.

*[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: REP. CHEESEMAN, 37th Dist.; REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.  
REP. WILSON, 66th Dist.; REP. FRANCE, 42nd Dist.  
REP. WOOD, 141st Dist.

H.B. 5108