



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 9405



Offered by:

SEN. SLAP, 5th Dist.
SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.
REP. ELLIOTT, 88th Dist.
REP. HAINES, 34th Dist.
REP. FARRAR, 20th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 881

File No. 679

Cal. No. 227

"AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT."

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section
4 and section 2 of this act:

5 (1) "Participating institution" means (A) (i) an institution of higher
6 education within the Connecticut State University System, or (B) (ii) any
7 other institution of higher education in the state that enters into a
8 memorandum of understanding with the Board of Regents for Higher
9 Education in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

10 (2) "Other institution of higher education" means an institution of
11 higher education in the state that (A) is not within the Connecticut State
12 University System, (B) is a nonprofit institution of higher education, (C)

13 has graduated one hundred or more students with a bachelor's degree
14 each year for the preceding four years, (D) maintains eligibility to
15 participate in financial aid programs governed by Title IV, Part B of the
16 Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended from time to time, (E) has
17 not been determined by the United States Department of Education to
18 have a financial responsibility score that is less than 1.5 for the most
19 recent fiscal year for which the data necessary for determining the score
20 is available, and (F) is accredited as a degree-granting institution in good
21 standing for ten years or more by a regional accrediting association
22 recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of
23 Education, and maintains such accreditation status.

24 (b) Not later than April 1, 2022, the Board of Regents for Higher
25 Education, in consultation with institutions of higher education that are
26 eligible to be participating institutions, shall (1) establish the
27 Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program, and (2) adopt rules,
28 procedures and forms necessary to implement such program. Under the
29 Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program, a participating institution
30 shall admit an applicant as a full-time, first-year student to an in-person
31 bachelor's degree program if such applicant (A) meets or exceeds the
32 academic threshold established pursuant to subsection (e) of this
33 section, (B) qualifies as an in-state student pursuant to section 10a-29 of
34 the general statutes, (C) is in his or her last school year before graduation
35 and enrolled at a public high school in the state or a nonpublic high
36 school in the state, approved pursuant to subsection (g) of this section,
37 and (D) if required by a participating institution, earns a high school
38 diploma. A participating institution may conduct a comprehensive
39 review of any application submitted by an applicant who applies
40 through the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program, which may
41 entail requesting additional application materials from such applicant
42 or result in denying admission to such applicant. Each participating
43 institution shall make an effort to minimize the number of students
44 subjected to a comprehensive review if such student meets the
45 requirements of subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subsection.
46 Applicants admitted to a participating institution under the Connecticut

47 Automatic Admissions Program are not guaranteed admission into any
48 specific bachelor's degree program at such institution.

49 (c) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall create a simple
50 online application form for students to apply to participating
51 institutions under the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program.
52 Such application form shall require a student to verify that such student
53 meets the qualifications specified in subsection (b) of this section. Such
54 application form shall not require (1) an application fee, or (2) the
55 submission of an essay or recommendation letters. The board shall make
56 such application form available on its Internet web site.

57 (d) Any other institution of higher education may enter into a
58 memorandum of agreement with the Board of Regents for Higher
59 Education to participate in the Connecticut Automatic Admissions
60 Program. Each such other institution of higher education shall use the
61 online application form created pursuant to subsection (c) of this
62 section, make such application form available on its Internet web site,
63 and comply with the provisions of subsection (e) of this section. The
64 Board of Regents for Higher Education may charge a reasonable fee to
65 such other institution of higher education that is not a constituent unit
66 of the state system of higher education for participation in the program.
67 Such fee shall not exceed the board's cost for including such other
68 institution of higher education in the program or twenty-five thousand
69 dollars, whichever is less.

70 (e) (1) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall establish (A)
71 a minimum class rank percentile for applicants to qualify for admission
72 through the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program to each
73 participating institution, and (B) a standardized method for calculating
74 grade point average that shall be used to determine class rank
75 percentile.

76 (2) Each participating institution shall establish an academic
77 threshold for admission to such institution through the Connecticut
78 Automatic Admissions Program. Such academic threshold shall be one

79 or more of the following: (A) The minimum class rank percentile
80 established by the Board of Regents for Higher Education pursuant to
81 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, (B) a minimum
82 grade point average calculated in accordance with the standardized
83 method established by the board pursuant to subparagraph (B) of
84 subdivision (1) of this subsection, or (C) a combination of a minimum
85 grade point average calculated in accordance with the standardized
86 method established by the board pursuant to subparagraph (B) of
87 subdivision (1) of this subsection and performance on a nationally
88 recognized college readiness assessment administered to students
89 enrolled in grade eleven pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of
90 section 10-14n of the general statutes. Each state university within the
91 Connecticut State University System shall establish the academic
92 threshold set forth in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and may
93 establish the additional academic thresholds set forth in subparagraphs
94 (B) and (C) of this subdivision. An applicant shall be deemed to have
95 satisfied the academic threshold for admission to a participating
96 institution through the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program if
97 such applicant satisfies any one of the academic thresholds established
98 by such institution.

99 (3) No governing board of a participating institution shall establish
100 policies or procedures that require any academic qualifications in
101 addition to the qualifications specified in subsection (b) of this section
102 and the academic threshold established pursuant to this subsection for
103 the purposes of the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program.

104 (f) No participating institution shall consider the admission of a
105 student through the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program in
106 determining such student's eligibility for need-based or merit-based
107 financial aid.

108 (g) The supervisory agent of a nonpublic high school in the state may
109 submit an application to the Board of Regents for Higher Education, in
110 the form and manner prescribed by the board, to participate in the
111 Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program. The board shall approve

112 any such application provided such nonpublic high school (1) is
113 accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization or is
114 operated by the United States Department of Defense, and (2) complies
115 with the provisions of section 2 of this act.

116 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) For the school year
117 commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, for the
118 purpose of qualifying a student for the Connecticut Automatic
119 Admissions Program, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, each
120 local and regional board of education shall (1) calculate a grade point
121 average using the standardized method established by the Board of
122 Regents for Higher Education pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1 of
123 this act, for each student who completes eleventh grade or who is
124 graduating high school, and (2) determine whether such student's class
125 rank percentile is above or below the minimum established by the Board
126 of Regents for Higher Education pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1
127 of this act. Each local and regional board of education shall share a
128 student's grade point average and whether such student is above or
129 below the minimum class rank percentile with (A) the student, (B) the
130 student's parent or guardian, (C) the Department of Education, in the
131 form and manner prescribed by the department, and (D) upon the
132 student's request, a participating institution for the purposes of
133 applying to such participating institution under the Connecticut
134 Automatic Admissions Program.

135 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a local or
136 regional board of education to publish or provide a class ranking for any
137 student or to publish on a student's transcript the grade point average
138 calculated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or whether such
139 student is above or below the minimum class rank percentile established
140 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education pursuant to subsection (e)
141 of section 1 of this act.

142 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
143 thereafter, each local and regional board education shall notify each
144 student enrolled in his or her final year of high school, and the parent or

145 guardian of such student, whether such student may be admitted to at
146 least one participating institution under the Connecticut Automatic
147 Admissions Program based on the academic threshold established by
148 such institution pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1 of this act.

149 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

150 (1) "Eligible organization" means any provider of a training program
151 including, but not limited to, a provider of a training program listed on
152 the Labor Department's Eligible Training Provider List, an
153 apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program sponsor, a provider of an
154 alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of
155 Education, an institution of higher education, a private occupational
156 school, an employer, a state or municipal agency and a public or
157 nonprofit social service provider in the state; and

158 (2) "Approved class" means a set of employees, clients, students or
159 customers of an eligible organization.

160 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of
161 Transportation shall establish CTpass program to allow individuals in
162 an approved class for an eligible organization to use certain public
163 transit services without cost or at a reduced cost. The commissioner shall
164 post information regarding the CTpass program and application
165 process for such program on the Department of Transportation's
166 Internet web site in a manner that, in the commissioner's discretion, will
167 maximize awareness and participation by the greatest number of
168 eligible organizations.

169 (c) Upon receipt of an application from an eligible organization to
170 participate in the CTpass program, the commissioner may negotiate the
171 terms and conditions and enter into a contract with such eligible
172 organization. The commissioner may treat several eligible organizations
173 as a single eligible organization for the purposes of a contract under the
174 CTpass program. Such terms and conditions shall include, but need not
175 be limited to, (1) the amount of compensation or reimbursement
176 required from the eligible organization, (2) the definition of approved

177 class specific to the eligible organization, and (3) any limitations on
178 times of use or types of public transit services available to the approved
179 class. The compensation or reimbursement negotiated in the contract
180 shall be in an amount as the commissioner deems necessary or
181 advisable, provided the amount is sufficient to ensure that transit
182 service expenditures incurred by the department do not increase as a
183 result of the CTpass program and to cover any administrative costs
184 incurred by the department in the operation of the CTpass program. A
185 contract under the CTpass program shall be valid upon the approval of
186 the Office of Policy and Management for a term of not more than two
187 years, except the first contract with an eligible organization shall not
188 exceed twelve months. Prior to any renewal of a contract with an eligible
189 organization under the CTpass program, the commissioner shall
190 consider prior pass utilization information and any transit service
191 expenditure increases incurred by the department for the purpose of re-
192 evaluating the amount of compensation or reimbursement required
193 from such eligible organization.

194 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
195 Commissioner of Transportation shall submit a report to the Secretary
196 of the Office of Policy and Management on the financial data and pass
197 utilization information for each contract under the CTpass program.

198 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than December 1,
199 2021, and annually thereafter until December 1, 2024, each employer in
200 the state with one hundred or more employees shall notify the
201 employees of such employer who are residents of the state about (1)
202 whether such employer offers to employees an education assistance
203 program under 26 USC 127, and (2) if an education assistance program
204 is offered to employees, the benefits included in such program and the
205 manner in which an employee may enroll in such program.

206 (b) An employee shall have no cause of action against an employer
207 for not offering an education assistance program under 26 USC 127 to
208 employees or for failure to notify employees about such program
209 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

210 (c) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
211 shall make information and resources regarding education assistance
212 programs under 26 USC 127 available to employers in the state.

213 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The University of Connecticut shall
214 (1) to the extent possible, remove prerequisites from each University of
215 Connecticut Early College Experience course offered in the state, and (2)
216 work with local and regional boards of education to increase access to
217 such Early College Experience courses.

218 (b) Not later than October 1, 2022, The University of Connecticut shall
219 submit to the Commissioner of Education and, in accordance with the
220 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
221 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
222 relating to higher education and education a report on (1) the
223 prerequisites required for University of Connecticut Early College
224 Experience courses, (2) how these prerequisites compare to
225 prerequisites required for similar courses offered by other institutions
226 of higher education and for advanced placement, International
227 Baccalaureate and Cambridge International programs, (3) the
228 demographics of enrolled students, and (4) the actions taken by the
229 university to increase access to its Early College Experience courses.

230 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than February 1, 2022, the Board
231 of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents
232 for Higher Education shall each submit to the Commissioner of
233 Education and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
234 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
235 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
236 higher education a report on its policies for each institution of higher
237 education governed by such board concerning when course credit is
238 awarded to an undergraduate student attending such institution of
239 higher education for such student's score on an advanced placement, an
240 International Baccalaureate, a Cambridge International or a University
241 of Connecticut Early College Experience exam taken while enrolled in
242 high school.

243 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Any information contained in
244 federal or state applications for student financial aid and personally
245 identifiable information contained in applications for admission to
246 institutions of higher education, including applications under the
247 Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program established pursuant to
248 section 1 of this act, held by any department, board, commission, public
249 institution of higher education or any other agency of the state, or any
250 local or regional board of education or state-administered school system
251 shall not be deemed to be a public record for purposes of the Freedom
252 of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes,
253 and shall not be subject to disclosure under the provisions of section 1-
254 210 of the general statutes.

255 (b) No officer, employee, or agent of a department, board,
256 commission, or any other agency of the state, or any officer, employee
257 or agent of a local or regional board of education or an institution of
258 higher education in the state, shall share, disclose or make accessible in
259 any manner records or information regarding any applicant for
260 admission, student or family member of an applicant or student
261 obtained by such officer, employee or agent, to any federal immigration
262 authority, as defined in section 54-192h of the general statutes, unless
263 such applicant, student or family member of such applicant or student
264 provides written consent for such information to be shared with a
265 specific federal agency for a specific purpose.

266 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

267 (1) "Credential" means a documented award issued by an authorized
268 body, including, but not limited to, a (A) degree or certificate awarded
269 by an institution of higher education, private occupational school or
270 provider of an alternate route to certification program approved by the
271 State Board of Education for teachers, (B) certification awarded through
272 an examination process designed to demonstrate acquisition of
273 designated knowledge, skill and ability to perform a specific job, (C)
274 license issued by a governmental agency which permits an individual
275 to practice a specific occupation upon verification that such individual

276 meets a predetermined list of qualifications, and (D) documented
277 completion of an apprenticeship or job training program; and

278 (2) "Credential status type" means the official status of a credential
279 which is either active, deprecated, probationary or superseded.

280 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the executive director of the Office
281 of Higher Education, in consultation with the advisory council
282 established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall create a
283 database of credentials offered in the state for the purpose of explaining
284 the skills and competencies earned through a credential in uniform
285 terms and plain language. In creating the database, the executive
286 director shall utilize the minimum data policy of the New England
287 Board of Higher Education's High Value Credentials for New England
288 initiative, the uniform terms and descriptions of Credentials Engine's
289 Credential Transparency Description Language and the uniform
290 standards for comparing and linking credentials in Credential Engine's
291 Credential Transparency Description Language-Achievement
292 Standards Network. At a minimum, the database shall include the
293 following data for each credential: (1) Credential status type, (2) the
294 entity that owns or offers the credential, (3) the type of credential being
295 offered, (4) a short description of the credential, (5) the name of the
296 credential, (6) the Internet web site that provides information relating to
297 the credential, (7) the language in which the credential is offered, (8) the
298 estimated duration for completion, (9) the industry related to the
299 credential which may include its code under the North American
300 Industry Classification System, (10) the occupation related to the
301 credential which may include its code under the standard occupational
302 classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United
303 States Department of Labor or under The Occupational Information
304 Network, (11) the estimated cost for earning the credential, and (12) a
305 listing of online or physical locations where the credential is offered.

306 (c) There is established an advisory council for the purpose of
307 advising the executive director of the Office of Higher Education on the
308 implementation of the database created pursuant to subsection (b) of

309 this section. The advisory council shall consist of (1) representatives
310 from the Department of Economic and Community Development,
311 Office of Higher Education, Office of Policy and Management, Labor
312 Department, Department of Education, Connecticut State Colleges and
313 Universities, The University of Connecticut and independent
314 institutions of higher education, and (2) the Chief Data Officer. The
315 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the Chief
316 Data Officer and the executive director of the Office of Higher
317 Education, or their designees, shall be cochairpersons of the advisory
318 council and shall schedule the meetings of the advisory council.

319 (d) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, each
320 institution of higher education, private occupational school, provider of
321 an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board
322 of Education, and provider of a training program listed on the Labor
323 Department's Eligible Training Provider List shall submit information,
324 in the form and manner prescribed by the executive director of the
325 Office of Higher Education, about any credential offered by such
326 institution, school or provider for inclusion in the database created
327 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Such information shall
328 include, but need not be limited to, the data described in subdivisions
329 (1) to (12), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, except an
330 institution of higher education may omit the data required pursuant to
331 subdivisions (6), (9) and (10) of subsection (b) of this section if such data
332 is not applicable to a credential offered by such institution.

333 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any state
334 agency or department to submit credential information to the database
335 created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

336 (f) The Labor Department may, in consultation with the advisory
337 council established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, require any
338 program sponsor of a preapprenticeship or apprenticeship program
339 registered with the department to submit information about such
340 program to the Office of Higher Education for inclusion in such
341 database.

342 Sec. 9. Subsection (l) of section 10a-34 of the general statutes is
343 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
344 *2021*):

345 (l) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (j), inclusive,
346 of this section and subject to the authority of the State Board of
347 Education to regulate teacher education programs, [up to twelve new
348 programs of higher learning in any academic year and any program
349 modifications proposed by] an independent institution of higher
350 education, as defined in section 10a-173, shall not [be subject to] require
351 the approval [by] of the Office of Higher Education on or before June 30,
352 2023, for any new programs of higher learning or any program
353 modifications proposed by such institution, and on or after July 1, 2023,
354 for up to fifteen new programs of higher learning in any academic year
355 or any program modifications proposed by such institution, provided
356 (1) the institution maintains eligibility to participate in financial aid
357 programs governed by Title IV, Part B of the Higher Education Act of
358 1965, as amended from time to time, (2) the United States Department
359 of Education has not determined that the institution has a financial
360 responsibility score that is less than 1.5 for the most recent fiscal year for
361 which the data necessary for determining the score is available, and (3)
362 the institution has been located in the state and accredited as a degree-
363 granting institution in good standing for ten years or more by a regional
364 accrediting association recognized by the Secretary of the United States
365 Department of Education and maintains such accreditation status. Each
366 institution that is exempt from program approval by the Office of
367 Higher Education under this subsection shall file with the office (A) on
368 and after July 1, 2023, an application for approval of any new program
369 of higher learning in excess of [twelve] fifteen new programs in any
370 academic year, (B) a program actions form, as created by the office, prior
371 to students enrolling in any new program of higher learning or any
372 existing program subject to a program modification, and (C) not later
373 than July first, and annually thereafter, (i) until June 30, 2024, a list and
374 brief description of any new programs of higher learning introduced by
375 the institution in the preceding academic year and any existing

376 programs of higher learning discontinued by the institution in the
377 preceding academic year, (ii) the institution's current program approval
378 process and all actions of the governing board concerning approval of
379 any new program of higher learning, and (iii) the institution's financial
380 responsibility composite score, as determined by the United States
381 Department of Education, for the most recent fiscal year for which the
382 data necessary for determining the score is available.

383 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than October 1, 2023, the
384 executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall submit
385 recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
386 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
387 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education on
388 program approval and modification required pursuant to the provisions
389 of section 10a-34 of the general statutes.

390 Sec. 11. Section 10a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the
391 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

392 (a) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, as amended
393 by this act, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall have the
394 authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections and the
395 standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder, to (1)
396 review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
397 academic programs for the universities within the Connecticut State
398 University System, the regional community-technical colleges and
399 Charter Oak State College, and (2) until June 30, 2024, report all new
400 programs and program changes to the Office of Higher Education.

401 (b) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, as amended
402 by this act, the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut shall
403 (1) have the authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections
404 and the standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder,
405 to review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
406 academic programs at the university, and (2) until June 30, 2024, report
407 all new programs and program changes to the Office of Higher

408 Education.

409 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes is
410 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
411 *2021*):

412 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
413 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System, the
414 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
415 College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and
416 postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System,
417 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
418 College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3)
419 establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State
420 University System, the regional community-technical college system
421 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the
422 effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional
423 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in
424 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) merge or close
425 institutions within the Connecticut State University System, the regional
426 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College in
427 accordance with criteria established by the board, provided (A) such
428 recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds vote of the
429 board, and (B) notice of such recommended merger or closing shall be
430 sent to the committee having cognizance over matters relating to
431 education and to the General Assembly; (6) review and approve mission
432 statements for the Connecticut State University System, the regional
433 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College and
434 role and scope statements for the individual institutions and campuses
435 of such constituent units; (7) review and approve any recommendations
436 for the establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board
437 by the state universities within the Connecticut State University System,
438 the regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State
439 College, and, in consultation with the affected constituent units, provide
440 for the initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs;
441 (8) develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs at the

442 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical
443 college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B) institutions
444 within the Connecticut State University System and the regional
445 community-technical college system and enforce standards through
446 licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the Governor and
447 General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated
448 operating and capital expenditure budgets for the Connecticut State
449 University System, the regional community-technical college system
450 and Charter Oak State College developed in accordance with the
451 provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and make
452 recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State
453 University System, the regional community-technical college system
454 and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in
455 section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives
456 from public and independent institutions of higher education to study
457 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public institutions
458 of higher education under its jurisdiction with The University of
459 Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to
460 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12) evaluate (A)
461 means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and (B)
462 any recommendations made by the Planning Commission for Higher
463 Education in implementing the strategic master plan pursuant to section
464 10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as
465 external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate programs
466 and services among the Connecticut State University System, the
467 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
468 College; (14) assess opportunities for collaboration with The University
469 of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to
470 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into
471 contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its
472 responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate
473 by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23;
474 (16) be responsible for the care and maintenance of permanent records
475 of institutions of higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969;
476 (17) prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly

477 legislative proposals affecting the Connecticut State University System,
478 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
479 College; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education
480 information system and establish definitions and data requirements for
481 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
482 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) until June
483 30, 2024, report all new programs and program changes at the
484 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical
485 college system and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher
486 Education; and (20) undertake such studies and other activities as will
487 best serve the higher educational interests of the Connecticut State
488 University System, the regional community-technical college system
489 and Charter Oak State College.

490 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than January 1,
491 2023, each private occupational school, as defined in section 10a-22a of
492 the general statutes, regional workforce development board,
493 community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885 of the general
494 statutes, and each provider of an alternate route to certification program
495 approved by the State Board of Education, shall submit, in a form and
496 manner prescribed by the executive director of the Office of Higher
497 Education, any data collected by such school, board, agency or program
498 for each student or trainee enrolled in a program that earns a credential,
499 as defined in section 8 of this act, offered by such school, board, agency
500 or program. Such data shall include, but need not be limited to, gender
501 identity, age, race, ethnicity, course enrollment, course completion,
502 credential completion, fees and tuition charged, federal student loans
503 received, federal student loan balances, and for any student who has a
504 state-assigned student identifier pursuant to section 10-10a of the
505 general statutes, such student identifier. Nothing in this subsection shall
506 be construed to require a student or trainee to provide information
507 about gender identity, age, race or ethnicity if not otherwise required by
508 law.

509 (b) Personally identifiable information provided to the Office of
510 Higher Education pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be

511 confidential, shall not be deemed to be a public record for purposes of
512 the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the
513 general statutes, and shall not be subject to disclosure under the
514 provisions of section 1-210 of the general statutes. The office may share
515 information submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section with
516 another state agency, another state or territory, the federal government
517 or to support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN in accordance
518 with the policies and procedures of CP20 WIN, established pursuant to
519 section 10a-57g of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the
520 purposes of program administration, audit, evaluation or research,
521 provided the recipient of such data agrees to a data use agreement
522 pursuant to section 15 of this act if such recipient is not a state agency,
523 another state or territory or the federal government.

524 Sec. 14. Subsection (j) of section 31-225a of the general statutes is
525 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
526 *2021*):

527 (j) (1) (A) Each employer subject to this chapter shall submit
528 quarterly, on forms supplied by the administrator, a listing of wage
529 information, including the name of each employee receiving wages in
530 employment subject to this chapter, such employee's Social Security
531 account number and the amount of wages paid to such employee during
532 such calendar quarter.

533 (B) Commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2024, unless
534 waived pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection, any employer
535 subject to this chapter, with one hundred or more employees, shall
536 include in the quarterly filing submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)
537 of this subdivision, the following data for each employee receiving
538 wages in employment subject to this chapter: Such employee's gender
539 identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, disability status, highest
540 education completed, home address, address of primary work site,
541 occupational code under the standard occupational classification
542 system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department
543 of Labor, hours worked, days worked, salary or hourly wage,

544 employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable,
545 employment end date. The information required pursuant to this
546 subparagraph shall be included in the quarterly filings of employers
547 subject to this chapter with ninety-nine or fewer employees
548 commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2025, except employers
549 subject to this chapter with forty-nine or fewer employees without an
550 electronic payroll system shall include such information commencing
551 with the third calendar quarter of 2027. Nothing in this subparagraph
552 shall be construed to require an employee to provide information about
553 gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status or disability status if
554 not otherwise required by law. The administrator may issue guidance
555 defining each such data field.

556 (2) [Commencing with the first calendar quarter of 2014, each] Each
557 employer subject to this chapter who reports wages for employees
558 receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter, and each person
559 or organization that, as an agent, reports wages for employees receiving
560 wages in employment subject to this chapter on behalf of one or more
561 employers subject to this chapter shall submit quarterly the information
562 required by subdivision (1) of this subsection [on magnetic tape,
563 diskette, or other similar electronic means which the administrator may
564 prescribe] electronically, in a format and manner prescribed by the
565 administrator, unless such employer or agent receives a waiver
566 pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection.

567 (3) Any employer that fails to submit the information required by
568 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection in a timely
569 manner, as determined by the administrator, shall be liable to the
570 administrator for a late filing fee of twenty-five dollars. Any employer
571 that fails to submit the information required by subparagraph (A) of
572 subdivision (1) of this subsection under a proper state unemployment
573 compensation registration number shall be liable to the administrator
574 for a fee of twenty-five dollars. All fees collected by the administrator
575 under this subdivision shall be deposited in the Employment Security
576 Administration Fund.

577 (4) [Commencing with the first calendar quarter of 2014, each] Each
578 employer subject to this chapter who makes contributions or payments
579 in lieu of contributions for employees receiving wages in employment
580 subject to this chapter, and each person or organization that, as an agent,
581 makes contributions or payments in lieu of contributions for employees
582 receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter on behalf of one
583 or more employers subject to this chapter shall make such contributions
584 or payments in lieu of contributions electronically.

585 (5) Any employer or any person or organization that, as an agent,
586 [submits] is required to submit information pursuant to subdivision (2)
587 of this subsection, [or makes] make contributions or payments in lieu of
588 contributions pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection or submit
589 information pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
590 subsection may request in writing, not later than thirty days prior to the
591 date a submission of information or a contribution or payment in lieu of
592 contribution is due, that the administrator waive [the] such
593 requirement. [that such submission or contribution or payment in lieu
594 of contribution be made electronically.] The administrator shall grant
595 such request if, on the basis of information provided by such employer
596 or person or organization and on a form prescribed by the
597 administrator, the administrator finds that there would be undue
598 hardship for such employer or person or organization. The
599 administrator shall promptly inform such employer or person or
600 organization of the granting or rejection of the requested waiver. The
601 decision of the administrator shall be final and not subject to further
602 review or appeal. Such waiver shall be effective for twelve months from
603 the date such waiver is granted.

604 (6) The name and identifying information of an employer and
605 personal information about an employee provided to the administrator
606 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall
607 be confidential, shall not be deemed to be a public record for purposes
608 of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, and shall
609 not be subject to disclosure under the provisions of section 1-210. The
610 administrator or the department may share information provided

611 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection with
612 another state agency, another state or territory, the federal government
613 or to support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN in accordance
614 with the policies and procedures of CP20 WIN, established pursuant to
615 section 10a-57g, as amended by this act, for the purposes of program
616 administration, audit, evaluation or research, provided the recipient of
617 such data enters into an agreement pursuant to section 15 of this act if
618 such recipient is not a state agency, another state or territory, or the
619 federal government.

620 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Any office, department,
621 board, commission, public institution of higher education or other
622 instrumentality of the state may, when otherwise allowed by state and
623 federal law, enter into a data sharing agreement or a data use agreement
624 with one or more individuals or organizations that allows for the
625 sharing of data held by such state instrumentality. Such agreement shall
626 include, but need not be limited to, the following provisions:

627 (1) Data provided by the state instrumentality shall not be shared
628 with another party unless such party has entered into a data sharing
629 agreement or data use agreement with such instrumentality pursuant to
630 this section and with approval from such instrumentality;

631 (2) Data shall not be copied or held aside by any party from what is
632 approved in the agreement;

633 (3) All data shall be stored and accessed in a secure manner, as
634 prescribed in the data sharing agreement or data use agreement;

635 (4) Any party that has entered into a data sharing agreement or data
636 use agreement shall immediately notify the state instrumentality of any
637 breach of such agreement;

638 (5) The data shall be owned by the state instrumentality;

639 (6) The data provided by the state instrumentality shall not be subject
640 to release under any local, state or federal freedom of information or

641 right-to-know act;

642 (7) The data may only be used for purposes authorized in the data
643 sharing agreement or data use agreement;

644 (8) If any provision of the data sharing agreement or data use
645 agreement or the application of such agreement is held invalid by a
646 court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other
647 provisions or applications of such agreement that can be given effect
648 without the invalid provision or application;

649 (9) A party entering into a data sharing agreement or data use
650 agreement shall not (A) use records or information obtained for such
651 data for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law, or (B) share,
652 disclose, or make accessible in any manner, directly or indirectly, such
653 information or records to any federal or state agency that enforces
654 federal immigration law, or to any officer or agent of such agency;

655 (10) No data sharing agreement or data use agreement shall exceed a
656 term of two years;

657 (11) No algorithm or learning model derived from data provided by
658 a state instrumentality pursuant to a data sharing agreement or data use
659 agreement shall be retained or used by the party who entered into such
660 agreement after the expiration of the term of such agreement; and

661 (12) Any research for which data will be provided pursuant to a data
662 sharing agreement or data use agreement shall first be approved by an
663 institutional review board at an institution of higher education or by an
664 institutional review board at a state instrumentality.

665 (b) No state instrumentality may enter into a data sharing agreement
666 or data use agreement (1) with any party who has been found to have
667 breached an existing or prior agreement with a state instrumentality
668 entered into pursuant to this section for a period of five years following
669 such breach, or (2) for the purpose of selling data, sharing data for resale
670 or for any other commercial purpose.

671 (c) Each state instrumentality shall deidentify the data shared
672 pursuant to a data sharing agreement or data use agreement to the
673 greatest extent possible.

674 (d) Any data sharing agreement or data use agreement entered into
675 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed a public
676 record. Any state instrumentality that enters into such an agreement
677 shall not release any information that may endanger data security or
678 safety.

679 (e) Not later than January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, each state
680 instrumentality shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of
681 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
682 the General Assembly having primary cognizance over such
683 instrumentality, a summary of each data sharing agreement and data
684 use agreement such instrumentality has entered into pursuant to this
685 section and copy of such agreement.

686 Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 12-15 of the general statutes is
687 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
688 *1, 2021*):

689 (b) The commissioner may disclose (1) returns or return information
690 to (A) an authorized representative of another state agency or office,
691 upon written request by the head of such agency or office, when
692 required in the course of duty or when there is reasonable cause to
693 believe that any state law is being violated, or (B) an authorized
694 representative of an agency or office of the United States, upon written
695 request by the head of such agency or office, when required in the course
696 of duty or when there is reasonable cause to believe that any federal law
697 is being violated, provided no such agency or office shall disclose such
698 returns or return information, other than in a judicial or administrative
699 proceeding to which such agency or office is a party pertaining to the
700 enforcement of state or federal law, as the case may be, in a form which
701 can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a
702 particular taxpayer except that the names and addresses of jurors or

703 potential jurors and the fact that the names were derived from the list of
704 taxpayers pursuant to chapter 884 may be disclosed by the Judicial
705 Branch; (2) returns or return information to the Auditors of Public
706 Accounts, when required in the course of duty under chapter 23; (3)
707 returns or return information to tax officers of another state or of a
708 Canadian province or of a political subdivision of such other state or
709 province or of the District of Columbia or to any officer of the United
710 States Treasury Department or the United States Department of Health
711 and Human Services, authorized for such purpose in accordance with
712 an agreement between this state and such other state, province, political
713 subdivision, the District of Columbia or department, respectively, when
714 required in the administration of taxes imposed under the laws of such
715 other state, province, political subdivision, the District of Columbia or
716 the United States, respectively, and when a reciprocal arrangement
717 exists; (4) returns or return information in any action, case or proceeding
718 in any court of competent jurisdiction, when the commissioner or any
719 other state department or agency is a party, and when such information
720 is directly involved in such action, case or proceeding; (5) returns or
721 return information to a taxpayer or its authorized representative, upon
722 written request for a return filed by or return information on such
723 taxpayer; (6) returns or return information to a successor, receiver,
724 trustee, executor, administrator, assignee, guardian or guarantor of a
725 taxpayer, when such person establishes, to the satisfaction of the
726 commissioner, that such person has a material interest which will be
727 affected by information contained in such returns or return information;
728 (7) information to the assessor or an authorized representative of the
729 chief executive officer of a Connecticut municipality, when the
730 information disclosed is limited to (A) a list of real or personal property
731 that is or may be subject to property taxes in such municipality, or (B) a
732 list containing the name of each person who is issued any license, permit
733 or certificate which is required, under the provisions of this title, to be
734 conspicuously displayed and whose address is in such municipality; (8)
735 real estate conveyance tax return information or controlling interest
736 transfer tax return information to the town clerk or an authorized
737 representative of the chief executive officer of a Connecticut

738 municipality to which the information relates; (9) estate tax returns and
739 estate tax return information to the Probate Court Administrator or to
740 the court of probate for the district within which a decedent resided at
741 the date of the decedent's death, or within which the commissioner
742 contends that a decedent resided at the date of the decedent's death or,
743 if a decedent died a nonresident of this state, in the court of probate for
744 the district within which real estate or tangible personal property of the
745 decedent is situated, or within which the commissioner contends that
746 real estate or tangible personal property of the decedent is situated; (10)
747 returns or return information to the (A) Secretary of the Office of Policy
748 and Management for purposes of subsection (b) of section 12-7a, and (B)
749 Office of Fiscal Analysis for purposes of, and subject to the provisions
750 of, subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 12-7b; (11) return
751 information to the Jury Administrator, when the information disclosed
752 is limited to the names, addresses, federal Social Security numbers and
753 dates of birth, if available, of residents of this state, as defined in
754 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-701; (12) returns or return
755 information to any person to the extent necessary in connection with the
756 processing, storage, transmission or reproduction of such returns or
757 return information, and the programming, maintenance, repair, testing
758 or procurement of equipment, or the providing of other services, for
759 purposes of tax administration; (13) without written request and unless
760 the commissioner determines that disclosure would identify a
761 confidential informant or seriously impair a civil or criminal tax
762 investigation, returns and return information which may constitute
763 evidence of a violation of any civil or criminal law of this state or the
764 United States to the extent necessary to apprise the head of such agency
765 or office charged with the responsibility of enforcing such law, in which
766 event the head of such agency or office may disclose such return
767 information to officers and employees of such agency or office to the
768 extent necessary to enforce such law; (14) names and addresses of
769 operators, as defined in section 12-407, to tourism districts, as defined in
770 section 10-397; (15) names of each licensed dealer, as defined in section
771 12-285, and the location of the premises covered by the dealer's license;
772 (16) to a tobacco product manufacturer that places funds into escrow

773 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of section 4-28i, return
774 information of a distributor licensed under the provisions of chapter 214
775 or chapter 214a, provided the information disclosed is limited to
776 information relating to such manufacturer's sales to consumers within
777 this state, whether directly or through a distributor, dealer or similar
778 intermediary or intermediaries, of cigarettes, as defined in section 4-28h,
779 and further provided there is reasonable cause to believe that such
780 manufacturer is not in compliance with section 4-28i; (17) returns, which
781 shall not include a copy of the return filed with the commissioner, or
782 return information for purposes of section 12-217z; (18) returns or return
783 information to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, upon
784 written request by said commission, when necessary to investigate
785 suspected violations of state election laws; [and] (19) returns or return
786 information for purposes of, and subject to the conditions of, subsection
787 (e) of section 5-240; and (20) to the extent allowable under federal law,
788 return information to another state agency or to support a data request
789 submitted through CP20 WIN, established in section 10a-57g, as
790 amended by this act, in accordance with the policies and procedures of
791 CP20 WIN for the purposes of evaluation or research.

792 Sec. 17. Section 10a-223 of the general statutes is repealed and the
793 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

794 In this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the
795 following meanings unless the context indicates another or different
796 meaning or intent:

797 (1) "Authority" means the Connecticut Higher Education
798 Supplemental Loan Authority constituted as a subsidiary of the
799 Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority as provided in
800 section 10a-179a;

801 (2) "Authorized officer" means an employee of the Connecticut
802 Health and Educational Facilities Authority or of the authority who is
803 authorized by the board of directors of the authority to execute and
804 deliver documents and papers and to act in the name of and on behalf

805 of the authority;

806 (3) "Authority loans" means education loans by the authority, or loans
807 by the authority from the proceeds of bonds for the purpose of funding
808 education loans;

809 (4) "Board" means the board of directors of the authority;

810 (5) "Bonds" or "revenue bonds" means revenue bonds or notes of the
811 authority issued under the provisions of this chapter, including revenue
812 refunding bonds or notes;

813 (6) "Bond resolution" means the resolution or resolutions of the
814 authority and the trust agreement, if any, authorizing the issuance of
815 and providing for the terms and conditions applicable to bonds;

816 (7) "Borrower" means (A) an individual who has an outstanding loan
817 from the authority, (B) an individual who attends a Connecticut
818 institution for higher education, enrolls in a Connecticut high-value
819 certificate program or currently resides in the state, and has received or
820 agreed to pay an education loan, or (C) any parent who has received or
821 agreed to pay an education loan on behalf of an individual who attends
822 a Connecticut institution for higher education or currently resides in the
823 state;

824 (8) "Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority" means
825 the quasi-public authority established pursuant to section 10a-179;

826 (9) "Connecticut institution for higher education" means an
827 institution for higher education within the state;

828 (10) "Default insurance" means insurance insuring education loans,
829 authority loans or bonds against default;

830 (11) "Default reserve fund" means a fund established pursuant to a
831 bond resolution for the purpose of securing education loans, authority
832 loans or bonds;

833 (12) "Education loan" means a loan which is made to a student in or
834 from the state or a parent of such student to finance attendance at an
835 institution for higher education or enrollment in a high-value certificate
836 program, or to a borrower to refinance one or more eligible loans;

837 (13) "Loan funding deposit" means moneys or other property
838 deposited by a Connecticut institution for higher education with the
839 authority, a guarantor or a trustee for the purpose of (A) providing
840 security for bonds, (B) funding a default reserve fund, (C) acquiring
841 default insurance, or (D) defraying costs of the authority, such moneys
842 or properties to be in such amounts as deemed necessary by the
843 authority or guarantor as a condition for such institution's participation
844 in the authority's programs;

845 (14) "Institution for higher education" means a degree-granting
846 educational institution within the United States authorized by
847 applicable law to provide a program of education beyond the high
848 school level and (A) described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
849 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal
850 revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, and
851 exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of said code with respect to
852 a trade or business carried on by such institution which is not an
853 unrelated trade or business, determined by applying Section 513(a) of
854 said code to such organization or a foundation established for its benefit,
855 or (B) exempt from taxation under said code as a governmental unit;

856 (15) "Participating institution for higher education" means a
857 Connecticut institution for higher education which, pursuant to the
858 provisions of this chapter, undertakes the financing directly or
859 indirectly of education loans as provided in this chapter;

860 (16) "Parent" means any parent, legal guardian or sponsor of a
861 student at an institution for higher education or enrolled in a high-value
862 certificate program;

863 (17) "Education loan series portfolio" means all education loans made
864 by the authority or by or on behalf of a specific participating institution

865 for higher education which are funded from the proceeds of a related
866 specific bond issue of the authority;

867 (18) "Education assistance program" means a program to assist in
868 financing the costs of education through education loans or education
869 grants, or both;

870 (19) "Education grant" means a grant, scholarship, fellowship or other
871 nonrepayable assistance awarded by the authority to a student currently
872 residing in the state to finance the attendance of the student at a
873 Connecticut institution for higher education or enrollment in a
874 Connecticut high-value certificate program, or a grant, scholarship,
875 fellowship or other nonrepayable assistance awarded by or on behalf of
876 a Connecticut institution for higher education from the proceeds of
877 funds provided by the authority to a student from the state to finance
878 the student's attendance at such institution; [and]

879 (20) "Eligible loan" means any loan that is in repayment that was (A)
880 made by the authority, or (B) made to a borrower by any other private
881 or governmental lender to finance attendance at an institution for higher
882 education [.] or enrollment in a high-value certificate program;

883 (21) "High-value certificate program" means a noncredit sub-
884 baccalaureate certificate program offered by an institution of higher
885 education or a private occupational school that the Department of
886 Economic and Community Development determines to meet the needs
887 of employers in the state; and

888 (22) "Connecticut high-value certificate program" means a high-value
889 certificate program offered by an institution of higher education or a
890 private occupational school in the state.

891 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The Connecticut Higher
892 Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish an account to be
893 known as the Certificate Loan Loss Reserve and Funding account, which
894 shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any
895 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, including, but

896 not limited to, state appropriations or proceeds from the sale of bonds.
 897 Moneys in the account shall be expended by the authority to (1) fund
 898 authority loans issued to a borrower to finance enrollment in a
 899 Connecticut high-value certificate program, as defined in section 10a-
 900 223 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) to cover any losses
 901 incurred by the authority from issuing such authority loans, (3) for
 902 reasonable and necessary expenses for the administration of such
 903 authority loans, and (4) any initial implementation expenses prior to the
 904 origination of such authority loans."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-34(l)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-35a
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-6(a)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	31-225a(j)
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	12-15(b)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	10a-223
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section