



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 255

February Session, 2022

Substitute Senate Bill No. 3

Senate, April 4, 2022

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. SLAP of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the that the substitute bill ought to pass..

AN ACT REQUIRING THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TO DEVELOP SEMINAR PROGRAMS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Small business" means a business located in the state with
4 twenty-five employees or less;

5 (2) "Cybersecurity" means the detection, prevention or response to
6 activity intended to result in unauthorized access to, exfiltration of,
7 manipulation of, or impairment to the integrity, confidentiality or
8 availability of an information technology system or information stored
9 on, or transiting, an information technology system; and

10 (3) "Virtual currency" has the same meaning as provided in section
11 36a-596 of the general statutes.

12 (b) Not later than September 1, 2022, the Board of Regents for Higher
 13 Education shall, within available funds, develop seminar programs to
 14 assist small businesses with adapting to the business environment in the
 15 aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, as defined in section 4-216a of the
 16 general statutes, through courses in subject areas, including, but not
 17 limited to, electronic commerce, social media, cybersecurity and virtual
 18 currency. Said board shall prescribe forms and procedures by which not
 19 more than two employees of any small business may enroll in not more
 20 than five seminar programs or any course within such seminar
 21 programs at the Northwestern Connecticut Community College
 22 Entrepreneurial Center or the Werth Innovation and Entrepreneurial
 23 Center at Housatonic Community College at no cost to such small
 24 business.

25 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023,
 26 and June 30, 2024, the Board of Regents for Higher Education may
 27 expend funds received by the state pursuant to the American Rescue
 28 Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, for the
 29 purpose of developing seminar programs for small businesses pursuant
 30 to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section

HED Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Various - Cost	At least 16,000	At least 16,000

Note: Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires two community college entrepreneurial centers to offer at least four specified seminars free of charge to small business employees, which results in a cost of at least \$16,000 per year in FY 23 and FY 24. The cost may be paid by the Board of Regents or the state American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The cost of the bill depends on the number of times that seminars are offered, at an estimated cost per seminar of \$1,000. It is anticipated that minimally, both entrepreneurial centers will offer each of four seminars twice annually, for a total cost of at least \$16,000 per year. To the extent the seminars are offered more frequently, or additional seminar topics are offered, the costs will increase.

Additionally, the bill allows but does not require the Board of Regents to expend state American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in FY 23 and FY 24 to pay for the seminar costs. If new ARPA funding is provided to the BOR for this purpose, then the bill has no cost to the BOR provided spending on the bill's requirements does not exceed the ARPA allocation. However, if the bill's costs are paid through the FY 23

budgeted ARPA allocation of \$5 million in general support to the BOR institutions, then the bill reduces such funding that is available to BOR for general use.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and whether the courses continue to be offered beyond FY 24.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 3*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TO DEVELOP SEMINAR PROGRAMS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to develop seminar programs to help small businesses (i.e., with 25 or fewer employees) adapt to the business environment after the COVID-19 pandemic through courses in subject areas including electronic commerce, social media, cybersecurity, and virtual currency. It must do so by September 1, 2022, and within available funds.

Under the bill, BOR must prescribe forms and procedures where up to two small business employees, at no cost to the business, may enroll in up to five seminar programs or any courses within seminar programs at the Northwestern Connecticut Community College Entrepreneurial Center or the Werth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Center at Housatonic Community College.

The bill allows BOR, for FYs 23 and 24, to expend funds the state received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) to develop these small business seminar programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

CYBERSECURITY

Under the bill, “cybersecurity” is detecting, preventing, or responding to activity intended to result in unauthorized access to, exfiltration of, manipulation of, or impairment to the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of an information technology system or information stored on, or transiting, an information technology system.

VIRTUAL CURRENCY

By law and under the bill, “virtual currency” means a digital unit (1) used as a medium of exchange or form of digitally stored value or (2) incorporated into payment system technology. It includes digital units of exchange that:

1. have a centralized repository or administrator,
2. are decentralized without a centralized repository or administrator, or
3. may be created or obtained by computing or manufacturing effort.

Virtual currency does not include digital units used (1) solely in online gaming platforms with no other market application or (2) exclusively in a consumer affinity or rewards program that (a) can be used only as payment for purchases with the issuer or another designated merchant and (b) cannot be converted into or redeemed for fiat currency (government-backed currency such as the U.S. dollar) (CGS § 36a-596).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/17/2022)