



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5300

LCO No. 2260



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

**AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER
OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND PROHIBITING THE
CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL
COLLEGES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the 2022 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
5 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System, the
6 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
7 College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and
8 postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System,
9 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
10 College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3)
11 establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State
12 University System, the regional community-technical college system

13 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the
14 effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional
15 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in
16 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) [merge or close]
17 recommend a merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut
18 State University System, the regional community-technical college
19 system and Charter Oak State College in accordance with criteria
20 established by the board, provided (A) such [recommended merger or
21 closing] recommendation shall require a two-thirds vote of the board,
22 [and] (B) notice of such recommended merger or closing shall be sent,
23 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
24 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance [over] of matters
25 relating to higher education, and [to the General Assembly] (C) such
26 recommended merger or closing shall be approved by a majority vote
27 of both houses of the General Assembly or rejected by a majority vote of
28 either house of the General Assembly not later than one year after
29 receiving notice by the board pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this
30 subdivision or the adjournment of the next regular session of the
31 General Assembly, whichever is later, provided, if the General
32 Assembly fails to act, such recommended merger or closing shall be
33 deemed approved; (6) review and approve mission statements for the
34 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical
35 college system and Charter Oak State College and role and scope
36 statements for the individual institutions and campuses of such
37 constituent units; (7) review and approve any recommendations for the
38 establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board by the
39 state universities within the Connecticut State University System, the
40 regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College,
41 and, in consultation with the affected constituent units, provide for the
42 initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs; (8)
43 develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs at the
44 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical
45 college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B) institutions
46 within the Connecticut State University System and the regional
47 community-technical college system and enforce standards through

48 licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the Governor and
49 General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated
50 operating and capital expenditure budgets for the Connecticut State
51 University System, the regional community-technical college system
52 and Charter Oak State College developed in accordance with the
53 provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and make
54 recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State
55 University System, the regional community-technical college system
56 and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in
57 section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives
58 from public and independent institutions of higher education to study
59 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public institutions
60 of higher education under its jurisdiction with The University of
61 Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to
62 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12) evaluate (A)
63 means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and (B)
64 any recommendations made by the Planning Commission for Higher
65 Education in implementing the strategic master plan pursuant to section
66 10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as
67 external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate programs
68 and services among the Connecticut State University System, the
69 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
70 College; (14) assess opportunities for collaboration with The University
71 of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to
72 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into
73 contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its
74 responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate
75 by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23;
76 (16) be responsible for the care and maintenance of permanent records
77 of institutions of higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969;
78 (17) prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly
79 legislative proposals affecting the Connecticut State University System,
80 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
81 College; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education
82 information system and establish definitions and data requirements for

83 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
84 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) until June
85 30, 2024, report all new programs and program changes at the
86 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical
87 college system and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher
88 Education; and (20) undertake such studies and other activities as will
89 best serve the higher educational interests of the Connecticut State
90 University System, the regional community-technical college system
91 and Charter Oak State College.

92 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Board of Regents for Higher
93 Education and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities shall not
94 pursue consolidation of the regional community-technical colleges
95 through any regional accrediting association recognized by the
96 Secretary of the United States Department of Education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-6(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require legislative approval for the merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and prohibiting the consolidation of the regional community-technical colleges.

[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.]