

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-921

AN ACT REQUIRING REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

Title: STUDENTS FIRST PLAN.

Vote Date: 3/14/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/2/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill mandates that the Board of Regents for Higher Education issue a report on the ongoing implementation of the Students First Plan, with the aim of comprehensively assessing the effects of the Connecticut Community College merger on students, faculty, and the wider community.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

S language of the bill gives better detail to the timeliness and systemic procedures of the report that shall be coordinated every 6 months. The report will include information such as graduation rate, program completion, student transfers, ratio of students to counselors or advisors, etc.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut State Colleges & Universities, President, Terrence Cheng](#): comments on this bill and understands and appreciates the opportunity to work with the committee to identify ways to measure the success of the CT Community College Merger. They do however, request that some clarification and technical changes to the data requested in this bill to better align with current data collection practices.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Gateway Community College, Associate Professor, Dr. Colena Sesanker](#): supports the spirit of this bill but believes it is not enough and this crucial moment. They recommended modifying this bill to take advantage of:

- FAC, which provides input to the Board of Regents and the legislature
- Higher Education Consolidation Committee

Using these resources will create better and more substantive reports. They add that the consolidation has proceeded despite the recorded opposition of so many.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 3/24/2023