



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Committee Bill No. 6355**

LCO No. 5032



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENT MEMBERS ON  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) There shall continue to be a Board of Trustees [for] of The  
4 University of Connecticut to consist of [twenty-one] twenty-three  
5 persons, twelve to be appointed by the Governor, who shall reflect the  
6 state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity; two to be elected by the  
7 university alumni; [two] four to be elected by the students enrolled at  
8 the institutions under the jurisdiction of said board; and five [members  
9 ex officio] who shall serve as ex-officio members.

10 (b) On or before July 1, 1983, the Governor shall appoint [members]  
11 trustees to the board as follows: Four [members] trustees for a term of  
12 two years from said date; four [members] trustees for a term of four  
13 years from said date; and four [members] trustees for a term of six years  
14 from said date. Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint trustees of said

15 university to succeed those appointees whose terms expire, and each  
16 trustee so appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the  
17 first day of July in the year of his or her appointment, provided two of  
18 the trustees appointed for terms commencing July 1, 1995, and their  
19 successors shall be alumni of the university, one of the trustees  
20 appointed for a term commencing July 1, 1997, and his or her successors  
21 shall be such alumni and one of the [members] trustees appointed for a  
22 term commencing July 1, 1999, and his or her successors shall be such  
23 alumni.

24 (c) The Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of  
25 Education, the Commissioner of Economic and Community  
26 Development and the chairperson of The University of Connecticut  
27 Health Center Board of Directors shall be, ex officio, members of the  
28 board of trustees. The Governor shall be, ex officio, president of said  
29 board.

30 (d) The graduates of all of the schools and colleges of said university  
31 shall, prior to September first in the odd-numbered years, elect one  
32 trustee, who shall be a graduate of the institution and who shall hold  
33 office for four years from the first day of September succeeding his or  
34 her election. Not less than two or more than four nominations for each  
35 such election shall be made by the alumni association of said university,  
36 provided no person who has served as an alumni trustee for the two full  
37 consecutive terms immediately prior to the term for which such election  
38 is to be held shall be nominated for any such election. Such election shall  
39 be conducted by mail prior to September first under the supervision of  
40 a canvassing board consisting of three members, one appointed by the  
41 board of trustees, one by the board of directors of the alumni association  
42 of the university and one by the president of the university. No ballot in  
43 such election shall be opened until the date by which ballots must be  
44 returned to the canvassing board. In such election, all graduates shall be  
45 entitled to vote by signed ballots which have been circulated to them by  
46 mail and which shall be returned by mail. Vacancies occurring by death  
47 or resignation of either of such alumni trustees shall be filled for the

48 unexpired portion of the term by special election, if such unexpired term  
49 is for more than eighteen months. When the unexpired term is eighteen  
50 months or less, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the board  
51 of directors of said alumni association.

52 (e) On or before November 1, 1975, the students of The University of  
53 Connecticut shall, in such manner as the board of trustees of said  
54 university shall determine, elect two trustees, each of whom shall be  
55 enrolled as a full-time student of said university at the time of his or her  
56 election. One such [member] trustee shall be elected for a term of one  
57 year from November 1, 1975, and one for a term of two years from said  
58 date. Prior to July first, annually, until and including the election held  
59 on or before July 1, 2023, such students shall, in accordance with this  
60 section and in such manner as the board shall determine, elect one  
61 [member of said] trustee of the board, who shall be so enrolled at said  
62 university at the time of his or her election and who shall serve for a  
63 term of two years from July first in the year of his or her election. On or  
64 before July 1, 2024, such students shall, in accordance with this  
65 subsection and in such manner as the board shall determine, elect three  
66 trustees, each of whom shall be enrolled as a full-time student at said  
67 university at the time of his or her election. One such trustee shall be  
68 elected for a term of one year commencing July 1, 2024, and the other  
69 two trustees shall be elected for a term of two years from said date. On  
70 or before July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, in accordance with this  
71 subsection and in such manner as the board shall determine, such  
72 students shall elect two trustees of the board who shall be enrolled as  
73 full-time students at said university at the time of their election and who  
74 shall serve for a term of two years from July first in the year of their  
75 election. The student [member] trustee elected to fill the term expiring  
76 on June 30, 2003, and the student trustee elected to fill the term  
77 commencing on July 1, 2024, and expiring on June 30, 2025, and [such  
78 elected member's] their successors, shall be enrolled as a full-time  
79 undergraduate student at a school or college of the university and shall  
80 be elected by the undergraduate students of the schools and colleges of  
81 the university. The student [member] trustees elected to fill the term

82 expiring on June 30, [2004] 2026, and [such elected member's] their  
83 successors, shall be enrolled as a full-time student in the School of Law,  
84 the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Social  
85 Work, or as a graduate student of a school or college of the university,  
86 and shall be elected by the students of the School of Law, the School of  
87 Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Social Work and the  
88 graduate students of the schools and colleges of the university. Any  
89 student [member] trustee elected after July 1, 2013, shall be enrolled as  
90 a full-time student at the time of his or her election and for the duration  
91 of his or her term of service. Any vacancies in the elected membership  
92 of said board shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, be filled  
93 by special election for the balance of the unexpired term.

94 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10a-1a of the general statutes is  
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
96 *2023*):

97 (a) There shall be a Board of Regents for Higher Education that shall  
98 serve as the governing body for the regional community-technical  
99 college system, the Connecticut State University System and Charter  
100 Oak State College. The board shall consist of [twenty-two] twenty-four  
101 members who shall be distinguished leaders of the community in  
102 Connecticut. The board shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and  
103 ethnic diversity. The voting members shall not be employed by or be a  
104 member of a board of trustees for any independent institution of higher  
105 education in this state or the Board of Trustees for The University of  
106 Connecticut nor shall they be public officials or state employees, as such  
107 terms are defined in section 1-79, during their term of membership on  
108 the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The Governor shall appoint  
109 nine members to the board as follows: Three members for a term of two  
110 years; three members for a term of four years; and three members for a  
111 term of six years. Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint members of the  
112 board to succeed such appointees whose terms expire and each member  
113 so appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the first day  
114 of July in the year of his or her appointment. Four members of the board

115 shall be appointed as follows: One appointment by the president pro  
116 tempore of the Senate, who shall be an alumnus of the regional  
117 community-technical college system, for a term of four years; one  
118 appointment by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a  
119 specialist in the education of children in grades kindergarten to twelve,  
120 inclusive, for a term of three years; one appointment by the speaker of  
121 the House of Representatives, who shall be an alumnus of the  
122 Connecticut State University System, for a term of four years; and one  
123 appointment by the minority leader of the House of Representatives,  
124 who shall be an alumnus of Charter Oak State College, for a term of  
125 three years. Thereafter, such members of the General Assembly shall  
126 appoint members of the board to succeed such appointees whose terms  
127 expire and each member so appointed shall hold office for a period of  
128 four years from the first day of July in the year of his or her appointment.  
129 The [chairperson and vice-chairperson] following members of the  
130 student advisory committee created under section 10a-3 shall serve as  
131 members of the board: (1) The chairperson, (2) the vice-chairperson, and  
132 (3) two members elected by a majority vote of the members of the  
133 student advisory committee, one of whom shall be a student of the  
134 Connecticut State University System and one of whom shall be a student  
135 of the regional community-technical colleges. The chairperson and vice-  
136 chairperson of the faculty advisory committee created under section  
137 10a-3a shall serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the board for a  
138 term of two years and, in their respective roles as chairperson and vice-  
139 chairperson, may be invited to any executive session, as defined in  
140 section 1-200, of the board by the chairperson of the board. The  
141 Commissioners of Education, Economic and Community Development  
142 and Public Health, the Labor Commissioner and the Chief Workforce  
143 Officer shall serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	10a-103
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	10a-1a(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To add two additional student members to the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher Education.

*[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. HADDAD, 54th Dist.; SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.

H.B. 6355