



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6771

LCO No. 4580



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
CONNECTICUT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATING
COUNCIL.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-44d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Open educational resource" means a [college level resource made
5 available on an Internet web site to be used by students, faculty and
6 members of the public on an unlimited basis at a cost lower than the
7 market value of the printed textbook or other educational resource,
8 including full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming
9 videos, tests, software and other similar teaching, learning and research
10 resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under
11 a creative commons attribution license that permits the free use and
12 repurposing of such resources] teaching, learning or research resource
13 that is (A) offered freely to users in at least one form, and (B) either (i) in

14 the public domain, or (ii) released under a creative commons attribution
15 license or other open copyright license;

16 (2) "Creative commons attribution license" means a copyright
17 [crediting the author of a digital work product] license that allows for
18 the free use, reuse, modification and distribution of [such] a work
19 product, provided the original author is credited; [and]

20 (3) "Open copyright license" means any copyright license that is not
21 a creative commons attribution license, but allows for the free use, reuse,
22 modification and distribution of a work product, provided the original
23 author is credited;

24 [(3)] (4) "High-impact course" means a course of instruction for which
25 open educational resources would make a significant positive financial
26 impact on the students taking the course due to the number of students
27 taking the course or the market value of the printed textbook or other
28 educational resources required for such course; and

29 (5) "Course utilizing open educational resources" means a course in
30 which all required learning materials are an open educational resource.

31 (b) There is established the Connecticut Open Educational Resource
32 Coordinating Council, which shall be part of the Executive Department.
33 The executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall appoint
34 the members of the council which shall consist of the following: (1) A
35 state-wide coordinator, who shall collaborate with all institutions of
36 higher education to promote open educational resources and administer
37 grants; (2) one faculty member, one administrator and one staff member
38 from The University of Connecticut; (3) one faculty member, one
39 administrator and one staff member from the regional community-
40 technical college system; (4) one faculty member, one administrator and
41 one staff member from Charter Oak State College; (5) one faculty
42 member, one administrator and one staff member from the Connecticut
43 State University System; (6) one faculty member, one administrator and
44 one staff member from the independent institutions of higher education;
45 and (7) one student from any public or independent institution of higher

46 education in the state. All initial appointments to the council shall be
47 made not later than September 1, 2019, and shall expire on August 30,
48 2022, regardless of when the initial appointment was made. Any
49 member of the council may serve more than one term.

50 (c) The state-wide coordinator appointed by the executive director of
51 the Office of Higher Education shall serve as the chairperson of the
52 council. The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the council,
53 which shall be held not later than October 1, 2019. The administrative
54 staff of the Office of Higher Education shall serve as administrative staff
55 of the council. The state-wide coordinator may employ a part-time staff
56 person as necessary to assist and support the Connecticut Open
57 Educational Resource Coordinating Council.

58 (d) Appointed members of the council shall serve for three-year terms
59 which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as provided
60 in subsection (b) of this section. Members shall continue to serve until
61 their successors are appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the
62 executive director of the Office of Higher Education. Any vacancy
63 occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance
64 of the unexpired term. A majority of the council shall constitute a
65 quorum for the transaction of any business. The members of the council
66 shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the limits of
67 available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the
68 performance of their duties.

69 (e) The council shall perform the following functions:

70 (1) Identify high-impact courses for which open educational
71 resources will be developed, converted or adopted;

72 (2) Establish a program of competitive grants for faculty members of
73 institutions of higher education in the state for the development,
74 conversion or adoption of open educational resources for high-impact
75 courses with any funds identified by the council and within available
76 appropriations;

77 (3) Accept, review and approve competitive grant applications,
78 provided any faculty member who is approved for a competitive grant
79 shall license such open educational resources through a creative
80 commons attribution license or other open copyright license;

81 (4) Administer a standardized review and approval process for the
82 development, conversion or adoption of open educational resources;
83 [and]

84 (5) Promote strategies for the production, use and access of open
85 educational resources; and

86 (6) Develop a model policy for adoption by institutions of higher
87 education that establishes (A) definitions for the usage of terms related
88 to open educational resources, (B) methods for data collection
89 concerning the use and availability of open educational resources, and
90 (C) ways to present online course catalogs to students to clearly identify
91 each course utilizing open educational resources.

92 (f) The council shall meet quarterly, or as often as deemed necessary
93 by a majority of the council.

94 (g) Not later than February 1, [2022] 2024, and [annually] biennially
95 thereafter, the council shall submit a report, in accordance with the
96 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
97 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
98 education regarding (1) the number and percentage of [high-impact
99 courses for which open educational resources have been developed]
100 courses utilizing open educational resources, (2) the degree to which
101 institutions of higher education promote the use and access to open
102 educational resources, (3) the amount of grants awarded by the council
103 and the number of open educational resources developed by grant
104 recipients, and (4) its recommendations for any amendments to the
105 general statutes necessary to develop open educational resources.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10a-44d

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) redefine "open educational resource", (2) require the development of a model policy to adopt common definitions and data collection methods, (3) require a biennial, rather than annual, report concerning use of open educational resources, and (4) add a part-time staff position.

[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.]