

MEMO

TO: Dr. Gregory Gray, President, Board of Regents for Higher Education
Members of the Board of Regents for Higher Education
ConnSCU Presidents
ConnSCU Legislative Liaisons
Executive Staff Members, Board of Regents for Higher Education

FROM: Kyle Thomas, Legislative Program Manager

DATE: July 3, 2013

SUBJECT: Summary of the 2013 Legislative Session

The 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly adjourned on June 5, 2013. The following is a summary of bills that passed during the 2013 session and that impact the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (ConnSCU), Board of Regents (BOR) for Higher Education or may be of interest to us. This is only a small portion of the legislation that was tracked during the course of the legislative session. These bill summaries were taken from reports prepared by the Offices of Legislative Research and Fiscal Analysis. I encourage you to distribute this summary to affected parties and contact me with any questions you may have.

BOR/ConnSCU INITIATIVES

House Bill 6648 (Public Act 13-4) – An Act Concerning the Board of Regents for Higher Education. This act requires that the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education be appointed by the Board, eliminating (1) the governor's responsibility to appoint the president upon the Board's recommendation and (2) legislative confirmation of the appointee. It requires the BOR to establish the president's terms and conditions of employment, prescribe his or her duties, and fix his or her compensation.

Effective: Immediately

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00004-R00HB-06648-PA.pdf>

NOTE: This item is cross-listed under GOVERNANCE.

AUDIT

House Bill 6624 (Public Act 13-122) – An Act Concerning Minor Revisions To The Education Statutes. The act specifies that interdistrict magnet school operators, rather than the schools themselves, must annually give the education commissioner financial audits. Additionally, the act requires operators to report two types of audits, rather than just one. The first type of audit is for each individual magnet school, as required under current law, by its operator. The second type is an aggregate audit combining all magnet schools run by the operator.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00122-R00HB-06624-PA.pdf>

BUDGET

House Bill 6704 (Public Act 13-184, as amended by P.A. 13-247) – An Act Concerning Expenditures And Revenue For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2015.

The Act appropriates the following sums for FY 14 and FY 15:

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION		
	FY 14	FY 15
Charter Oak State College	\$ 2,377,493	\$ 2,475,851
Community Tech College System	\$ 148,745,337	\$ 155,900,920
Connecticut State University	\$ 148,631,924	\$ 155,542,999
Board of Regents	\$ 663,017*	\$ 668,841*
Nonfunctional - Change to Accruals	\$ 447,623	\$ 979,321
TOTAL	\$ 300,865,394*	\$ 315,567,932*
Governor's Scholarship Program	\$ 42,011,398	\$ 43,623,498

*As amended by P.A. 13-247

Further, the Act specifies that up to \$150,000 within the Board of Regents for Higher Education in FY 14 and FY 15 shall be made available for the Institute of Municipal and Regional Policy for purposes of assisting in the development of the Connecticut specific model within the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative.

Legislative intent requires that additional appropriations received in the biennium be used for various purposes, including additional full-time faculty for the CSU system, developmental education support in the community college system, academic counseling, and for vacant faculty positions previously slated to be filled with consolidation-related savings prior to gubernatorial rescissions. The act restores the 5% rescission previously issued to the CSUs and community colleges. Funding and positions associated with Connecticut Charts-a-Course are transferred to the newly established Office of Early Childhood.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00184-R00HB-06704-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 842 (Public Act 13-239) – An Act Authorizing And Adjusting Bonds Of The State For Capital Improvements, Transportation, Elimination Of The Accumulated GAAP Deficit And Other Purposes. The act authorizes, but does not allocate, bond funding for the following purposes. The State Bond Commission, controlled by the Governor, must ultimately approve the allocation of these funds. In addition to funds listed in the following table, which will be awarded to the BOR, the Office of Policy and Management has been awarded \$5 million in each fiscal year to fully integrate BOR with CORE-CT.

	FY 14	FY 15
All community colleges: New and replacement instruction, research, or laboratory equipment	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
All community colleges: System technology initiative	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
All community colleges: Alterations, and improvements to facilities, including fire, safety, energy conservation, code compliance and acquisition of property	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Quinebaug Community College: Parking and site improvements	\$ 2,189,622	0
Quinebaug Community College: Heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system improvements	\$ 1,750,000	0
Tunxis Community College: Feasibility study for acquiring of property to create a premanufacturing workspace and relocate continuing education operations	\$ 250,000	0
Middlesex Community College: New academic building planning, design, and construction	\$ 4,800,000	\$39,200,000
Housatonic Community College: Parking garage improvements	0	\$ 3,907,258
Housatonic Community College: Implementation of phase III of the master plan for renovations and additions to Lafayette Hall	0	\$40,467,047
TOTAL	\$24,989,622	\$98,574,305

Effective: FY 14 Authorizations – July 1, 2013. FY 15 Authorizations – July 1, 2014

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00239-R00SB-00842-PA.pdf>

NOTE: This item is cross-listed under CONSTRUCTION.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Senate Bill 1160 (Public Act 13-3, as amended by PA 13-247) – An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children’s Safety. The act requires (Sec. 92) all state colleges to do the following:

1. by October 1, 2013, give an up-to-date security protocol plan to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), which by law must outline how faculty and staff should identify and respond to students at risk for harm to themselves or others; and
2. by July 1, 2015, and every two years afterward, review and revise its security protocol plan with chiefs of police or campus security and submit revisions to DESPP by August 1 of the effected year.

The act also requires all of the above colleges to establish trained threat assessment teams on each campus by January 1, 2014.

The institution president must choose team membership in consultation with the campus chief of police or head of security. A membership model must include at least one member from its special police force or campus security personnel, administration, faculty, and senior and mid-level staff.

The chief of police or head of security for each campus must ensure that each member is capable of (1) executing the security protocol plan, and (2) receiving training in identifying at-risk people and safety threats.

Sec. 93 of the Act allows for greater latitude within the BOR to determine the qualifications of its officers. **(REPEALED IN P.A. 13-247 Sec. 63)**

The act requires (Sec. 94) the BOR, in consultation with DESPP, to evaluate whether the establishment of a special police force for each regional and technical community college would be effective. By January 1, 2014, the BOR president must deliver the results to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

The act requires (Sec. 95) all armed campus security personnel to be certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council.

Effective: Immediately

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00003-R00SB-01160-PA.pdf>

House Bill 6007 (Public Act 13-24) – An Act Concerning “Blue Alerts.” This act requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to establish an emergency alert system to help law enforcement agencies (1) apprehend anyone suspected of killing or seriously injuring a peace officer or (2) locate a missing peace officer.

DESPP must develop and implement policies and procedures for operating and administering the system. This includes procedures governing requests by law enforcement agencies to activate the system and guidelines to ensure that the dissemination of information does not (1) compromise the investigation of the offense or disappearance or (2) violate the privacy of the peace officer who is the subject of the alert or of the officer's next-of-kin.

The act specifies when DESPP may activate the system.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/TOB/h/pdf/2013HB-06007-R03-HB.pdf>

House Bill 6641 (Public Act 13-47) – An Act Concerning The Sexual Assault Of A Person Who Is Physically Helpless Or Whose Ability To Consent Is Otherwise Impaired. Under existing law, it is 2nd degree sexual assault to have sexual intercourse, or 4th degree sexual assault to have intentional sexual contact, with someone who is physically helpless. The act expands the definition of “physically helpless” for these purposes to include someone who is physically unable to resist an act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00047-R00HB-06641-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 1143 (Public Act 13-75) – An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information. This act extends to campus police departments the requirements to (1) collect and report certain traffic stop information and (2) adopt and follow a profiling policy.

The act requires departments collecting data using the current form and after beginning to use OPM's new method to (1) report traffic stop data to OPM in a monthly, rather than summary, report when submitting data annually and (2) submit the data electronically beginning January 1, 2015 and earlier if practicable.

The act excuses an officer from using the form or providing the person stopped with notice or instructions about filing a complaint if the officer is required to leave the location to respond to an emergency or due to other exigent circumstance within the scope of the officer's duties.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00075-R00SB-01143-PA.pdf>

House Bill 6394 (Public Act 13-195) – An Act Concerning The Indemnification Of University Police. This act modifies the indemnification protections for public university police officers by providing them the protections possessed by the state police, rather than those possessed by the general state employee population.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00195-R00HB-06394-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 1149 (Public Act 13-311) – An Act Limiting The Disclosure Of Certain Records Of Law Enforcement Agencies And Establishing A Task Force Concerning Victim Privacy Under The Freedom Of Information Act. Adds the “identity of minor witnesses” to a list of items potentially contained in records of law enforcement agencies that are exempt from disclosure under the state Freedom of Information Act.

Effective: Immediately, and applicable to all requests filed after June 5, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00311-R00SB-01149-PA.pdf>

CONSTRUCTION

Senate Bill 977 (Public Act 13-51) – An Act Concerning The Membership Of Construction Service Panels. This act reduces the size of several construction services panels established within the Department of Construction Services (DCS). It reduces the size of the construction services selection panels, which recommend consultants, from five members to three for (1) projects valued at less than \$5 million and (2) “on-call” contracts. It also reduces from six members to five, the size of the construction services award panels. The award panels recommend firms for (1) projects that use the design-build approach and (2) certain “fast-track” projects.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00051-R00SB-00977-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 842 (Public Act 13-239) – An Act Authorizing And Adjusting Bonds Of The State For Capital Improvements, Transportation, Elimination Of The Accumulated GAAP Deficit And Other Purposes. The act authorizes, but does not allocate, bond funding for the following purposes. The State Bond Commission, controlled by the Governor, must ultimately approve the allocation of these funds. In addition to funds listed in the following table, which will be awarded to the BOR, the Office of Policy and Management has been awarded \$5 million in each fiscal year to fully integrate BOR with CORE-CT.

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<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00239-R00SB-00842-PA.pdf>

NOTE: This item is cross-listed under BUDGET.

CONTRACTING

House Bill 5602 (Public Act 13-68) – An Act Exempting Institutions Of Higher Education That Offer Free Courses To Inmates From State Contracting Requirements. This act specifies that a higher education institution that enters into an agreement with the Department of Correction (DOC) for the institution's employees or agents to teach for-credit courses to inmates at no charge to DOC or the inmates is not considered a state contractor for the purposes of the agreement.

This means that, with respect to the agreement, the institution does not have to, among other things, (1) file a representation and documentation that it complies with state anti-discrimination laws; (2) permit the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) access to pertinent books, records, and accounts on its employment practices and procedures; or (3) file compliance and employment reports with CHRO.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00068-R00HB-05602-PA.pdf>

House Bill 5358 (Public Act 13-162) – An Act Prohibiting State Contracts With Entities Making Certain Investments In Iran. This act prohibits state and quasi-public agencies from entering into, renewing, or amending a large state contract with any “entity” that (1) fails to certify that it has not directly invested \$20 million or more in Iran's energy sector or (2) certifies that it has made, renewed, or increased such an investment. The prohibition applies to investments made on and after October 1, 2013 and to prior investments increased or renewed on and after that date.

Under the act, an “entity” is any corporation, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, joint venture, nonprofit organization, or other business organization whose principal place of business is outside the U. S., except U. S. subsidiaries of foreign corporations. A large state contract is one valued at more than \$500,000 in a calendar or fiscal year for building construction, procurement, or service contracts; leases; or licensing agreements.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00162-R00HB-05358-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 889 (Public Act 13-177) – An Act Concerning The University Of Connecticut And Competitive Bidding For Agricultural Purchases By The Constituent Units Of Higher Education. By law, most goods and services purchases of more than \$10,000 by public higher education institutions must be made through competitive bidding. The act exempts purchases of \$50,000 or less of certain agricultural products from this requirement. The exemption applies to dairy products, poultry, farm-raised seafood, beef, pork, lamb, eggs, fruits, vegetables, or other farm products.

The act additionally requires public higher education institutions to give preference to dairy products, poultry, farm-raised seafood, beef, pork, lamb, eggs, fruits, vegetables, or other farm products grown or produced in Connecticut when their cost is comparable to those grown or produced outside the state. The law already requires DAS to give a similar preference.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00177-R00SB-00889-PA.pdf>

EDUCATION REFORM

House Bill 6562 (Public Act 13-121) – An Act Concerning Adult Education And Transition To College. This act allows adult education programs to offer college preparatory classes for adults who (1) have either a high school diploma or its equivalent and (2) require post-high school developmental education, in order to help them directly enroll at a higher education institution after completing the program. The local or regional board of education offering these classes may charge participants a fee.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00121-R00HB-06562-PA.pdf>

FACILITIES

Senate Bill 1160 (Public Act 13-3) – An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children’s Safety. The act requires (Sec. 96) the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), by December 1, 2014, to perform or require an audit of all state colleges in CSUS and all regional community-technical colleges to determine their safety and security

characteristics. The act also requires DESPP to base any recommendations for campus security upgrades on the audit's findings and align them with the campus's security protocol plan. DESPP must report the audit results to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2015.

Effective: Immediately

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00003-R00SB-01160-PA.pdf>

House Bill 6457 (Public Act 13-44) – An Act Concerning The Display Of The State Or National Flag At Half-Staff And The Placement Of Flags On Cemetery Graves Prior To Memorial Day.

This act conforms state law to federal law by authorizing the governor to issue a proclamation ordering the national flag to be flown at half-staff following the death of (1) a present or former principal figure of state government or (2) an armed forces member, from Connecticut, who dies in the line of duty. When the governor issues such a proclamation, the state flag must also be flown at half-staff.

The act also authorizes the governor to issue a proclamation ordering that the state flag alone be flown at half-staff following the death of a state official or prominent citizen.

After the governor issues either type of proclamation, the act requires all state government buildings and offices, public schools, and military bases to fly the national and state flags in accordance with the order.

Effective: Immediately

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00044-R00HB-06457-PA.pdf>

House Bill 5423 (Public Act 13-261) – An Act Concerning Revisions To The Higher Education Statutes. Sec. 9 grants immunity from civil liability to any person who donates tangible property to a regional community-technical college if such property causes damage or injury, unless it was caused by the donor's reckless, willful, or wanton misconduct.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00261-R00HB-05423-PA.pdf>

FINANCIAL AID

House Bill 5500 (Public Act 13-95) – An Act Requiring Institutions Of Higher Education To Provide Students With Uniform Financial Aid Information. This act requires public and private higher education institutions to provide uniform financial aid information to each admitted prospective student. The institutions must provide the information (1) before their enrollment deadline to allow students to make an informed enrollment decision and (2) using the financial aid shopping sheet developed by the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and U. S. Department of Education under the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

Effective: July 1, 2014

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00095-R00HB-05500-PA.pdf>

House Bill 6706 (Public Act 13-247) – An Act Implementing Provisions Of The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2015 Concerning General Government. Sections 174-185 and Sec. 387 establish the Governor's Scholarship Program.

The program:

- Replaces the state's existing undergraduate student aid programs: Connecticut Aid to Public College Students (CAPCS), Connecticut Independent College Student Grant (CICSG), the Capitol Scholarship, and Connecticut Aid to Charter Oak.
- Limits eligibility for the Governor's Scholarship to Connecticut residents enrolled in at least six semester credit hours and pursuing their first associate or bachelor degree.
- Establishes four award categories: a (1) need and merit-based award, (2) need-based award, (3) performance incentive pool, and (4) Charter Oak Grant.
- Specifies how the appropriation for the program must be allocated across these categories and establishes reporting and audit requirements for the program.
- Charges the Office of Higher Education with implementation of the program.
- Requires institutions to submit annual independent compliance audits.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00247-R00HB-06706-PA.pdf>

GOVERNANCE

House Bill 6648 (Public Act 13-4) – An Act Concerning the Board of Regents for Higher Education. This act requires that the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education be appointed by the Board, eliminating (1) the governor's responsibility to appoint the president upon the Board's recommendation and (2) legislative confirmation of the appointee. It requires the BOR to establish the president's terms and conditions of employment, prescribe his or her duties, and fix his or her compensation.

Effective: Immediately

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00004-R00HB-06648-PA.pdf>

NOTE: This item is cross-listed under BOR/ConnSCU INITIATIVES.

Senate Bill 867 (Public Act 13-62) – An Act Concerning Faculty Representation On The Board Of Regents For Higher Education. This act requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education's Faculty Advisory Committee chairperson to serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting BOR member for a two-year term but excludes the chairperson from BOR executive sessions.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00062-R00SB-00867-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 1139 (Public Act 13-118) – An Act Concerning Changes To Program Approval For Institutions Of Higher Education. The act eliminates a requirement that the Board of Regents approve UConn's new and modified degree programs, thus making the UConn Board of Trustees the final approving authority for these programs. The act requires both UConn and BOR to notify the Office of Higher Education (OHE) of their new and modified degree programs (§§ 4-6).

Under current law, the State Board of Education (SBE) must give final approval to OHE's decisions concerning licensure and accreditation of independent higher education institutions and programs. The act instead requires OHE to make the final decisions.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00118-R00SB-01139-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 878 (Public Act 13-40) – An Act Making Clarifying Changes To The Higher Education Statutes In Accordance With The Reorganization Of The Higher Education System.

Under prior law, BOR had to require public and independent higher education institutions receiving state funding to track unique identifiers or state-assigned student identifiers for all in-state students enrolled at the institution until the student graduated or was no longer enrolled. The act eliminates BOR's responsibility and instead directly requires institutions to do this.

The act transfers to the Office of Higher Education (OHE) a requirement to cooperate with the State Department of Education (SDE) in establishing, within available appropriations, (1) an accelerated cross endorsement process for subject shortage areas and (2) a program for formerly certified teachers to regain certification. Under prior law, SDE performed these functions in cooperation with BOR.

The Planning Commission for Higher Education must develop and ensure the implementation of a strategic master plan for higher education. The act extends several of the commission's reporting deadlines. It requires the commission to submit (1) a preliminary report on the development of the strategic master plan by June 1, 2014 and (2) the plan by September 1, 2014 (rather than by January 1, 2012 and October 1, 2012, respectively). Under prior law, the plan had to include specific goals and benchmarks for the years ending 2015 and 2020. The act instead requires goals and benchmarks for the years ending 2020 and 2025.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00240-R00SB-00878-PA.pdf>

HUMAN RESOURCES

Senate Bill 835 (Public Act 13-49) – An Act Concerning Military Leave From Employment. This act (1) extends employment protections currently afforded to employees who are U. S. armed forces reservists or National Guard members to all members of the state armed forces who take time from their employment to perform ordered military duty and (2) expands the type of protected duty from meetings and drills to all ordered military duty. Workplace protections include (1) being permitted a leave of absence when the member is ordered to military duty, including meetings and drills, during regular working hours, and (2) protection from loss of vacation or holiday privileges, or prejudice in promotions, continuances, or reappointments of employment due to absences.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00049-R00SB-00835-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 273 (Public Act 13-124) – An Act Concerning Foster Children And Internship Opportunities. This act requires state agencies, when hiring individuals for, or placing them in, internship programs they offer, to give preference to young adults who (1) are between the ages of 18 and 24 and (2) were in Department of Children and Families foster care on their 18th birthday. Preference is defined as priority over similarly qualified applicants.

The act provides that nothing in it (1) requires a new employee or applicant to request foster child status or disclose his or her status as a former foster child and (2) can be construed to give a new employee or applicant the right to sue for a violation of its provisions.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00124-R00SB-00273-PA.pdf>

House Bill 5425 (Public Act 13-126) – An Act Allowing Adjunct Faculty Members Of Charter Oak State College To Waive Membership In A State Retirement Plan. This act allows adjunct faculty members of Charter Oak State College to irrevocably waive participation in a state employee retirement plan within 60 days after beginning employment.

The waiver remains irrevocable if the adjunct faculty member accepts subsequent part-time employment with any public higher education institution in Connecticut. (If the faculty member becomes a full-time employee, he or she can join a state retirement plan at that time.)

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00126-R00HB-05425-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 761 (Public Act 13-227) – An Act Making The Janitorial Work Pilot Program For Persons With A Disability Or A Disadvantage Permanent. Under the janitorial work pilot program, the DAS commissioner awarded contracts to qualified partnerships, which are commercial janitorial contractors and community rehabilitation programs, designated by the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA), that meet certain criteria. The act makes this program permanent and allows BOR and the Judicial Branch to participate. It extends to the chief court administrator and BOR president a prohibition, previously applicable to the DAS commissioner only, on delegating program-related responsibilities to an outside vendor.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00227-R00SB-00761-PA.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS

SB 111 (Public Act 13-91) – An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Program Review And Investigations Committee Concerning The Implementation Of E-Government. This act modifies the membership of the information and telecommunication systems executive steering committee. It removes the comptroller, treasurer, and the chairpersons of the UConn Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents for Higher Education.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00091-R00SB-00111-PA.pdf>

REPORTING

House Bill 6364 (Public Act 13-137) – An Act Concerning The Receipt Of Quarterly Reports By The Office Of Higher Education. Existing law requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education with respect to the Regional Community Technical-Colleges and Connecticut State University System operating funds, to submit quarterly reports on the funds' actual expenditures. The reports must be submitted to the Appropriations Committee and the Office of Policy and Management.

This act requires that these reports also be submitted to the Office of Higher Education.

Additionally, it requires BOR to prepare and submit, to the above recipients, a quarterly report on the actual expenditures of Charter Oak State College

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00137-R00HB-06364-PA.pdf>

House Bill 6497 (Public Act 13-143) – An Act Requiring A Report From The Board Of Regents For Higher Education And The Board of Trustees For The University Of Connecticut Regarding Administrators. This act requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education to complete studies every two years, beginning January 1, 2014, that compare their administrators' salaries and staffing ratios to those of peer public institutions in other states. In preparing these studies, the boards must compare full-time employees holding a payroll position classified as a management occupation under the U. S. Department of Labor's occupational classification system. The studies must include any employee who meets such criteria on every other November 1, and every two years thereafter, starting in 2013.

BOR must compare:

1. Salaries of Connecticut State University System (CSUS) and regional community-technical college administrators to salaries of similar positions at public peer institutions in other states;
2. Ratios of CSUS and community-technical college administrators to students, as well as administrators to faculty, to such ratios at the peer institutions; and
3. Salaries of BOR central office administrators to those in similar positions within peer state university systems in other states.

BOR must report the results of these comparisons to the Higher Education and Appropriations committees upon completion.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00143-R00HB-06491-PA.pdf>

House Bill 6706 (Public Act 13-247) – An Act Implementing Provisions Of The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2015 Concerning General Government. Sections 83 and 84 require BOR to report to the Appropriations and Higher Education committees, by November 1, 2013, on the status of the: (1) development and implementation of remedial support offered by the regional community technical colleges and (2) status of the employment of academic counselors by the Connecticut State University System. These are two separate reports.

Section 186 reconstitutes the Higher Education Consolidation committee for the purpose of having BOR and UConn participate in a committee presentation on program approval processes.

Effective: Immediately

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00247-R00HB-06706-PA.pdf>

Senate Bill 868 (Special Act 13-17) – An Act Concerning Nondegree Certificate Programs And Technical Training Courses Provided By The Regional Community-Technical Colleges And A Report On The Budget, Expenditures And Revenues Of The Constituent Unit. Section 1 requires the Office of Higher Education (OHE), in consultation with BOR, to develop a list of nondegree certificate programs and technical training courses offered by the regional community-technical colleges that directly correlate with workforce shortage areas in this state, including, but not limited to, health care, manufacturing, transportation and energy. OHE shall report such list, the number and types of such programs and courses offered by each regional community-technical college and how such offerings correspond with such workforce shortage areas to the Higher Education Committee by January 1, 2014.

Section 2 requires BOR and UConn to participate in a mid-year budget briefing with the Higher Education and Appropriations Committees prior to mid-February in each of the next two fiscal years. BOR shall report regarding the operating budget for the current fiscal year, the actual expenditures and revenues and status of budgetary reserves to date for the current fiscal year, and the estimated expenditures and revenues through the end of the current fiscal year of each state university within the Connecticut State University System, each regional community-technical college, and Charter Oak State College.

Effective: Sec. 1 – Immediately. Sec. 2 – July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/sa/pdf/2013SA-00017-R00SB-00868-SA.pdf>

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Senate Bill 70 (Public Act 13-48) – An Act Restoring Benefits to Veterans Discharged Under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” This act makes veterans eligible for state benefits if:

1. They were denied or would be denied such benefits because they were ineligible for federal benefits,
2. They were denied federal benefits based solely on their orientation under a federal policy prohibiting homosexuals from serving in the armed forces, and
3. Their eligibility for federal benefits has been reinstated.

These include programs pertaining to reemployment, education, vocational training, rehabilitation services, and the provision of veterans' benefits.

Effective: October 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00048-R00SB-00070-PA.pdf>

House Bill 6486 (Public Act 13-290) – An Act Concerning Changes Of Addresses For Electors. This act requires electors who move within the same municipality and want to transfer their registration to their new address to submit to the registrars of voters a new voter registration application. Currently, they must submit a signed request that includes their new and old addresses and the date they moved.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00290-R00HB-06486-PA.pdf>

TEACHER PREPARATION

House Bill 6292 (Public Act 13-133) – An Act Concerning Teacher Education Programs. The act requires teacher candidates to complete training in children's social and emotional learning and development. This training must provide instruction about (1) a comprehensive, coordinated social and emotional assessment of, and early intervention for, children whose behavior indicates social or emotional problems; (2) the availability of treatment services for these children; and (3) referrals for assessment, intervention, or treatment services. \$30,000 has been provided in the budget for this purpose.

Effective: July, 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00133-R00HB-06292-PA.pdf>

House Bill 5423 (Public Act 13-261) – An Act Concerning Revisions To The Higher Education Statutes. Sec. 10 requires candidates in teaching preparation programs that lead to professional certification to complete training in the awareness and identification of the unique learning style of gifted and talented children

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00261-R00HB-05423-PA.pdf>

WORKFORCE

Senate Bill 619 (Public Act 13-19) – An Act Concerning The Commission On Connecticut’s Future. The act reactivates the Connecticut Commission on Business Opportunity, Defense Diversification and Industrial Policy and renames it the Commission on Connecticut's Future. The Act lists the Commissioner of Higher Education (or a designee) as a member and requires the first meeting to be held no later than October 1, 2013. (NOTE: The reference to Commissioner of Higher Education is an invalid statutory reference. Legislative intent is to have the president of the Board of Regents, or a designee, sit on the commission.)

The act requires the Commission to prepare a report that lays out a strategy for restoring the manufacturing sector and stimulating its growth, with the goal of increasing the number of manufacturing jobs within five years after the commission completes the report. It must also propose strategies for retaining or expanding the state's economic base and coordinate its economic development policies with public and private sector capital investment. But it requires the Commission to include strategies for:

1. aligning the state's educational institutions with the state's manufacturing base and
2. diversifying or converting defense-related industries to other nonmilitary products, emphasizing environmentally sustainable and civilian product manufacturing.

The commission must submit the report to the governor and Commerce Committee by December 1, 2014.

Effective: Immediately

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00019-R00SB-00619-PA.pdf>

House Bill 5423 (Public Act 13-261) – An Act Concerning Revisions To The Higher Education Statutes. Section 1 replaces the higher education commissioner's position on the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board with the Board of Regents for Higher Education president or a designee.

Effective: July 1, 2013

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00261-R00HB-05423-PA.pdf>

House Bill 5387 (Special Act 13-5) – An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study The Use Of Military Occupational Specialty Training As A Substitute For State Licensing Requirements. Establishes such a task force, names the president of the Board of Regents or his designee as a member, requires the first meeting to occur before the end of July, and requires a report by January 1, 2014.

Effective: Immediately

<http://cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/sa/pdf/2013SA-00005-R00HB-05387-SA.pdf>