



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol Vol. 3, Issue 3 | January 29, 2013

Bills: Week of 1/21

"I support or oppose one of these bills; what should I do?"

1. Write to your legislators! Find them [here](#).
2. Track the bill so you know when public hearings are scheduled.

The following list of bills have been identified by our lobbying firm, Betty Gallo & Co, as having a potential impact on our members if passed. CSU-AAUP and our lobbying firm will follow the progress of the bills throughout the session and alert our members if action is needed.

Please remember that these are simply proposals. Thousands of bills are filed in a legislative session but only a few hundred make it to the Governor for consideration.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Proposed H.B. No. 5913: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED FACULTY BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Statement of Purpose: To save state funds by clarifying certain faculty employed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education as independent contractors.

Proposed H.B. No. 5914: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Statement of Purpose: To establish a job training and assessment program that aligns the state's intellectual capital with the needs of the business community.

Proposed H.B. No. 5499: AN ACT ENCOURAGING STUDENTS IN TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS TO TUTOR CHILDREN FROM POORLY PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Statement of Purpose: To encourage potential educators to help those students most in need.

Proposed H.B. No. 5465: AN ACT CONCERNING AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT PREPARES STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND THE WORKFORCE

Statement of Purpose: To create a cohesive education system in the state that prepares students for college and the workforce.

Bills: Continued

Proposed H.B. No. 5915: AN ACT CREATING INCENTIVES FOR GRADUATES OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Statement of Purpose: To provide tax credits to recent graduates who remain in the state, and to businesses that hire or retain recent graduates of Connecticut colleges, universities or technical high schools.

Proposed H.B. No. 6064: AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION FEE WAIVERS FOR VETERANS TAKING SUMMER AND INTERSESSION CLASSES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Statement of Purpose: To include coverage of tuition fees for summer and intersession classes in veterans' tuition waivers.

Proposed H.B. No. 5500: AN ACT REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH UNIFORM FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Statement of Purpose: To require institutions of higher education to provide financial aid information in a uniform way to ensure that students understand their true higher education costs.

Proposed H.B. No. 5617: AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Statement of Purpose: To ensure undergraduate and graduate student representation on the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut.

Proposed S.B. No. 330: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS SUCCESS CENTER AT SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Statement of Purpose: To create space for Southern Connecticut State University's new School of Business.

Proposed S.B. No. 331: AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Statement of Purpose: To create greater equity and fairness and encourage each regional community-technical college to operate in the most effective and efficient manner by rewarding those colleges that operate effectively and efficiently.

Bills: Continued

Proposed S.B. No. 333: AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND DROP OUT RATES IN RELATION TO FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENTS AT THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Statement of Purpose: To study the correlation between student attendance and drop out rates in relation to student financial aid disbursements by the regional community-technical colleges.

Proposed S.B. No. 441: AN ACT REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO REPORT INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE

Statement of Purpose: To require institutions of higher education to report child abuse.

Proposed S.B. No. 475: AN ACT PROMOTING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR IN-STATE STUDENTS

Statement of Purpose: To promote access to higher education for students in Connecticut.

Proposed S.B. No. 476: AN ACT REQUIRING INPUT FROM LOCAL MANUFACTURERS IN DEVELOPING MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS AT THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Statement of Purpose: To facilitate targeted workforce development.

Proposed S.B. No. 332: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACADEMICALLY GIFTED ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Statement of Purpose: To advance academically-gifted students to higher education in accordance with their abilities.

LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Proposed H.B. No. 5559: AN ACT REPLACING THE DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN FOR STATE EMPLOYEES WITH A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT PLAN

Statement of Purpose: To replace state employee pensions with a defined contribution plan.

Proposed H.B. No. 5563: AN ACT EXCLUDING OVERTIME PAYMENTS FROM THE CALCULATION OF STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME

Statement of Purpose: To prevent state pensions from being artificially inflated by the overuse and abuse of overtime.

Bills: Continued

Proposed H.B. No. 5689: AN ACT CONCERNING UNION RECERTIFICATION

Statement of Purpose: To allow workers an opportunity to choose the union they want representing them and to protect the sanctity of the secret ballot.

Proposed H.B. No. 5690: AN ACT PROHIBITING EMPLOYERS FROM REQUESTING ACCESS TO THEIR EMPLOYEES' PERSONAL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Statement of Purpose: To protect employee privacy by barring employers or potential employers from requiring employees to provide passwords to their personal accounts as a condition of employment.

Proposed H.B. No. 5703: AN ACT ELIMINATING LONGEVITY PAYMENTS FOR ALL STATE EMPLOYEES

Statement of Purpose: To ensure that all similarly situated employees are treated equally by eliminating longevity payments for all state employees.

Proposed H.B. No. 5704: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SYSTEM

Statement of Purpose: To create a task force to study whether Connecticut's unemployment benefits should be adjusted to be more in line with other states.

Proposed H.B. No. 5710: AN ACT CONCERNING NEWLY HIRED STATE EMPLOYEES AND PENSION OPTIONS

Statement of Purpose: To create parity between state and private pension plans.

Proposed H.B. No. 5769: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND AND THE STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND

Statement of Purpose: To prevent transferring funds from the Teachers' Retirement Fund to the State Employees Retirement Fund.

Proposed H.B. No. 6146: AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AND VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

Statement of Purpose: To require the Department of Administrative Services to report the number of complaints of abusive conduct in the workplace between state employees to the General Assembly.

Bills: Continued

Proposed S.B. No. 687: AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY LABOR ISSUES IN CONNECTICUT

Statement of Purpose: To create a task force to study labor issues in the state.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. 2012 OLR Major Issues
2. Penalties for Serving Alcohol to Intoxicated Persons
3. Basic Questions on Firearms in Connecticut
4. Unemployment Insurance Questions
5. Laws Addressing Student Cyberbullying of Teachers