



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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Bill to Allow the BOR - not the Governor - to Appoint Its President

On March 19, the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee heard testimony on HB 6448, *An Act Concerning the Board of Regents for Higher Education*. If approved, the bill would permit the Board of Regents for Higher Education to appoint its own president, who shall serve at the pleasure of the board.

Currently, the president's term is coterminous with that of the governor. BOR Interim President, Philip Austin, attended the hearing and offered support of the change in statute. He argued that "the leader of the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities, much like the leader of the University of Connecticut, should have his or her term set by the recommending authority, in this case, the Board of Regents for Higher Education." Further, he stated that, "if the language concerning the term of the President of the Board of Regents is changed to make the appointment less political, I believe the long-term stability, strength and growth of the system will be greatly enhanced." (Read Dr. Austin's testimony [here](#)).

Answering legislators' questions, Dr. Austin shared that all the candidates during the ongoing presidential search asked about this statutory language, and he cannot tell if it effected the number of applications for the position of BOR President.

Technical Changes to the Governor's Bill Implementing the Higher Ed Budget

In a Higher Education Committee meeting, a number of technical changes were recommended for Governor's Bill 844, *An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Higher Education*. The technical changes can be reviewed [here](#).

Campus Security & Safety

On March 19, the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee heard testimony on HB 6655, *An Act Concerning Campus Safety and Security*. Dr. Jane Fried, Professor and Director of the Student Development in Higher Education, Masters in Counseling program at CCSU attended the hearing to offer testimony on this bill. Read Dr. Fried's testimony [here](#).

In addition to Dr. Fried, the Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety at UConn and the Director of Public Safety and Risk Management at the University of St. Joseph offered testimony on the bill. Links to their testimony can be found [here](#).

Bills and Files: Week of 3/18

"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.

H.B. No. 5602 (COMM): *AN ACT EXEMPTING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER FREE COURSES TO INMATES FROM STATE CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS*

Statement of Purpose: To exempt institutions of higher education that arrange for professors to teach free for-credit courses to inmates from state contracting requirements.

Files

Please note that once a bill becomes a file it possibly could go to the House or Senate floor within two days to be voted on.

File 37: ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF LABOR HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM***. The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. TERCYAK of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

File 89: ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS AND THE STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION***.

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. TERCYAK of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. New School District Security Measures
2. PURA's Comments on the Comprehensive Energy Strategy
3. State Water Use Plans