



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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Transform CSCU 2020 Funding Passes Committee on Bipartisan Vote

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The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) today applauds the bipartisan Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee passage of SB 30 – An Act Concerning the Board of Regents for Higher Education Infrastructure Act. This investment in the BOR’s 17 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) will provide the infrastructure needed to prepare Connecticut’s present and future workforce and have a positive impact on the state’s economic development efforts.

The bill calls for \$83.5 million in new funding for infrastructure improvements throughout the CSCU system, and is part of the statutory framework for Transform CSCU 2020, a comprehensive plan for delivering affordable and accessible higher education to Connecticut’s students. The funding is for the construction of enhanced technology-smart classrooms, academic and system-wide facilities master planning, student-centered IT upgrades, and the expansion of Asnuntuck Community College’s Advanced Manufacturing Center in Enfield.

“My thanks to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Co-Chairs Senator John Fonfara and Representative Patricia Widlitz, as well as Bonding Subcommittee Chairs Representative Betty Boukus, Senator Andrea Stillman and the legislators who worked so hard to get this bill passed,” said BOR President Gregory Gray. “In doing so, this investment will allow the BOR to make real progress in technology upgrades leading to a better student experience and higher completion rates.”

Senate Bill 30 includes funding for improving and increasing smart classroom technology across the 17 CSCU institutions; the initial funding to overhaul, update and construct one unified IT system; funding for system-wide academic and facilities master planning that highlights areas of academic growth at the community colleges, strengthens signature university programs, and offers needed programs throughout the system. SB 30, together with \$65 million in proposed new operating funding, make up the first phase of Transform CSCU 2020.

Postponed: Higher Ed Forum on BOR and UConn Appropriations

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee and the Appropriations Committee have postponed a presentation by the Board of Regents Trustees and the University of Connecticut Trustees that had been scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2014.

Achievement Gap Taskforce

The legislature established the Achievement Gap Task Force to address the academic achievement gaps in Connecticut by considering effective approaches to closing the achievement gaps in elementary, middle and high schools. The legislature assigned the task force with the creation of a master plan to eliminate the academic achievement gaps by January 1, 2020.

While this taskforce does not deal directly with higher education, there are a number of policy recommendations concerning Schools of Education that train Connecticut's teachers and administrators. Read [here](#) for the draft report.

Higher Education Committee

The Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee met on Monday, April 7 to review two bills that came out of the Program Review and Investigations Committee. One of the bills on the agenda was Substitute for H.B. No. 5376, *AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS AS THEY RELATE TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.*

Files: Week of 3/24

"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.

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.

EDUCATION & HIGHER EDUCATION

File 283: *AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF REGENTS.*

File 262: *AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION AND REMEDIAL SUPPORT.*

File 241: *AN ACT IMPROVING COLLEGE COMPLETIONS*

File 212: *AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE*

Files: Week of 3/24

CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TUITION PLEDGE PROGRAM AND A FINANCIAL AID PLEDGE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

File 213: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING A REPORT ON FINANCIAL AID AWARDS AND TRACKING TRANSFER CREDITS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

File 242: AN ACT CONCERNING COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING

File 249: AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS.

File 251: AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

File 260: AN ACT REQUIRING A STATE-WIDE PLAN TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT IN EMERGING INDUSTRIES.

File 261: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED CERTIFICATES PROGRAM.

File 263: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING AN I-BEST PROGRAM ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

File 311: AN ACT CONCERNING A UNIFORM REGIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR.

File 340: AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF A PAY-IT-FORWARD COLLEGE PAYMENT PLAN

File 350: AN ACT REQUIRING A TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE COOPERATIVE.

File 354: AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

File 272: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEE.

File 310: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. Accredited Police Departments in Connecticut
2. Summary of Federal Railroad Administration Safety Assessment of Metro North
3. Juvenile Sentencing Laws and Court Decisions after Miller v. Alabama
4. Planning and Development Committee Bills Referred to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
5. 2014 Commerce Committee Bills Referred to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee