

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7095

AN ACT REQUIRING AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AN ASSOCIATION OF

Title: RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES.

Vote Date: 3/11/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The Association of American Universities (AAU) is an organization composed of 71 research universities that earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for research. To join the AAU a higher education institution must be invited to apply. While the University of Connecticut (UConn) is qualified, it has not yet been invited, and the purpose of this bill would be to assist them in receiving an invite. There are other states passing similar legislation to aide in their higher education institutions receiving an invite. If UConn were to become a member of the AAU, it would receive more funding, and draw more researchers and students to the institution, which could in turn bring prestige and funding to the university and boost the state's economy.

SUSBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language clarifies that the bill would specifically develop an action plan to increase the likelihood of receiving an invitation to become a member of an association of research universities, rather than just develop a plan to become a member.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[University of Connecticut, President, Radenka Maric](#): President Maric states that UConn, while capable, has not been able to receive an invitation to the AAU and this bill would help reach that goal. She believes that to achieve this, the state will need to invest in UConn especially through recruitment of research scientists. According to President Maric, UConn is committed to invest in its infrastructure as needed upon growth of their research. They

suggested to change "become a member of an association of research universities", to "increase likelihood of a request to become a member of an association of research universities", along with other grammatic edits.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Megan Villanova

Date: 3/21/25