

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1250

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

**Title:** FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

**Vote Date:** 2/27/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/20/2025

**File No.:**

**Disclaimer:** *The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee  
Governor Ned Lamont

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would create a more seamless way of reporting for higher education institutions and workforce programs to ensure transparency and accountability by requiring constituent units to work with the office of Policy Management, Department of Administration Services and comptroller to use CORE-CT for human resource purposes. The bill also introduces "P20 WIN," a longitudinal state data system that compiles data from state agencies and higher education institutions to inform education policy, again to enforce transparency and accountability are being upheld.

### SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language for this bill clarifies that constituent units are required to work with the agencies stated above, instead of use their "best efforts to work with". It also would require the constituent units to submit a quarterly report on their budget and expenses which would be listed on the comptroller's website under the statewide fiscal transparency database.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[State of Connecticut Office of the State Comptroller, Comptroller, Sean Scanlon](#) : Appreciates the intent of the bill, however, he encourages the committee to "eliminate any requirement that all units fully utilize Core-CT in order to avoid unnecessary costs" his office estimates to be tens of millions of dollars. Comptroller Scanlon recognizes the bill's goal of implementing Core-CT to "enhance state transparency and accountability" has an unnecessary cost and

can be avoided with less costly solutions. He recommends the usage of OpenConnecticut to receive the data, a process the OSC uses to receive annual data feeds.

[Office of Policy and Management, Secretary, Jeffrey Beckham](#): Supports this proposition, in his testimony he states that SB 1250 has the potential to “improve reporting, transparency and the ability to measure outcomes for higher education and workforce programs.” Mr. Beckham also notes that the OPM supports the bill.

[Office of Policy and Management, Chief Data Officer, Scott Gaul](#): Supports this testimony, especially the implementation of the P20 WIN program. Mr. Gaul highlights that P20WIN analysis is able to provide insight on “disconnected youth, career pathways, postsecondary and employment outcomes and the outcomes for state financial aid and special education programs” and is helpful to answer critical policy questions related to these communities. Finally, he praises P20 WIN’s compliance with state and federal laws and regulations in order to offer a safe and secure way to transfer constituents’ data to state “agencies and institutions of higher education.”

[Office of Policy and Management, Undersecretary of Criminal Justice Policy & Planning, Daniel Karpowitz](#): Supports this testimony, specifically its inclusion of Section 5, which would help "enable the division to enhance higher education opportunities for individuals in correctional facilities." Mr. Karpowitz explains that the organizational benefits from SB 1250 will "maximize the utilization" of Pell restoration and offer an easier way for justice impacted people to pursue higher education, leading to "reduced recidivism to increased job-market attachment and economic independence."

[Office of Higher Education, Commissioner, Timothy D. Larson](#): On behalf of the Office of Higher Education, Mr. Larson offers his support on the bill and indicates that his agency will provide full cooperation with the OPM, the Comptroller's Office and the National Center for Education Statistics (IPEDS).

[Office of Workforce Strategy Chief Workforce Officer, Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres](#): Supports the bill, stressing the need to streamline the "collection and evaluation of workforce data" to better "assess outcomes on a regular basis." These new processes for collecting and analyzing data will offer important insight on program outcomes that can be used to improve "on-the-ground programming, and ... equitable policies" across Connecticut universities and colleges.

[Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, Chancellor, Terrence Cheng](#): Opposes the bill, citing Core-CT's lack of "the student administration functionality essential to college operations" compared to the methods currently in place. Chancellor Cheng states that CSCU is against the implementation of Core-CT due to the financial undertaking, however, indicates they are "committed to working with State officials to refine reporting without disrupting essential student administration" and collaborating to find an alternative solution.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[University of Connecticut, Chief Financial Officer, Jeff Geoghegan](#): Opposes the bill due to the university's reliance on an alternative financial reporting measure and its integration across multiple campus systems. The shift from UConn's current financial processes to the ones laid out in the bill "would set the University back technologically and would be a huge undertaking over multiple years," causing a ripple effect that results in downgrades across every area of the university. Mr. Geoghegan estimates that the changes laid out in Section 1 of the bill would cost the university more than \$60 million, "funds the University does not have."

**Reported by: Sydney Hanlon**

**Date: March 18, 2025**