

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1412

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE NORWALK CONSERVATORY OF THE ARTS TO

**Title:** CONFER DEGREES.

**Vote Date:** 3/11/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/4/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

Raised Bill SB-1412 intends to bestow upon the Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts the right to confer valid degrees upon their students.

The Norwalk Conservatory for the Arts has, been allowed by the Office of Higher Education, to bestow associate degrees upon their students, but without the assent of the General Assembly, how they were allowed to do so were incongruent with how traditional institutions of higher education (i.e., colleges and universities) bestow such degrees. This legislation would remedy this issue by certifying the Office of Higher Education's ruling on the Conservatory's ability to bestow associate degrees, and thus, allow the Conservatory to fall in line with other institutions of higher education and provide adequate recognition for those who study and teach at this institution with degrees formatted to befit their efforts.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Office of Higher Education, Division Director, Sean Seepersad](#): Supports this bill because, pursuant to Section (c) of the Connecticut General Statutes 10a-34(c), the Office of Higher Education has ruled that the Norwalk Conservatory for the Arts and the International Institute of Astronautical Sciences shall henceforth be able to confer associate degrees. With this legislation dually passed, the agency believes that it would help foster a beneficial initiative which could encourage other such places of education to petition for such abilities, pursuant to the decision of the Office of Higher Education. In effect, this initiative would benefit our state's educational prowess and bolster the economic health.

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

[Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts, President, Daniel George](#): Supports this bill because the legislation would certify and complete the initiative previously endorsed by the Office of Higher Education to bestow associate degrees.

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

None expressed.

**Reported by: Tom Atwood**

**Date: 3/19/2025**