

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7100

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **5502**

Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by: (HED)

AN ACT REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN INFORMATION TO VICTIMS IN TITLE IX PROCEEDINGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10a-55m of the general statutes is
 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2025):

(b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt and disclose in
such institution's annual uniform campus crime report one or more
policies regarding sexual assault, stalking and intimate partner violence.
Such policy or policies shall include provisions for:

8 (1) Informing students and employees that, in the context of an 9 alleged violation of the policy or policies regarding sexual assault and 10 intimate partner violence, (A) affirmative consent is the standard used 11 in determining whether consent to engage in sexual activity was given 12 by all persons who engaged in the sexual activity, (B) affirmative 13 consent may be revoked at any time during the sexual activity by any

14 person engaged in the sexual activity, (C) it is the responsibility of each 15 person to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of all persons 16 engaged in the sexual activity to engage in the sexual activity and that 17 the affirmative consent is sustained throughout the sexual activity, (D) 18 it shall not be a valid excuse to an alleged lack of affirmative consent 19 that the student or employee responding to the alleged violation 20 believed that the student or employee reporting or disclosing the 21 alleged violation consented to the sexual activity (i) because the 22 responding student or employee was intoxicated or reckless or failed to 23 take reasonable steps to ascertain whether the student or employee 24 reporting or disclosing the alleged violation affirmatively consented, or 25 (ii) if the responding student or employee knew or should have known 26 that the student or employee reporting or disclosing the alleged 27 violation was unable to consent because such student or employee was 28 unconscious, asleep, unable to communicate due to a mental or physical 29 condition, or incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol or 30 medication, and (E) the existence of a past or current dating or sexual 31 relationship between the student or employee reporting or disclosing 32 the alleged violation and the responding student or employee, in and of 33 itself, shall not be determinative of a finding of affirmative consent;

(2) Detailing the procedures that students and employees of the
institution who report or disclose being the victim of sexual assault,
stalking or intimate partner violence may follow after the commission
of such assault, stalking or violence, regardless of where such incidences
occurred, including persons or agencies to contact and information
regarding the importance of preserving physical evidence of such
assault, stalking or violence;

(3) Providing students and employees of the institution who report or disclose being the victim of sexual assault, stalking or intimate partner violence both concise, written contact information for and, if requested, professional assistance in accessing and utilizing campus, local advocacy, counseling, health and mental health services, and concise information, written in plain language, concerning the rights of 47 such students and employees to (A) notify law enforcement of such 48 assault, stalking or violence and receive assistance from campus 49 authorities in making any such notification, and (B) obtain a protective 50 order, apply for a temporary restraining order or seek enforcement of 51 an existing protective or restraining order, including, but not limited to, 52 orders issued pursuant to section 46b-15, 46b-38c, 53a-40e, 54-1k, 54-82q 53 or 54-82r, against the perpetrator of such assault, stalking or violence;

- (4) Notifying such students and employees of any reasonably
 available options for and available assistance from such institution in
 changing academic, living, campus transportation or working situations
 in response to sexual assault, stalking or intimate partner violence;
- (5) Honoring any lawful protective or temporary restraining orders,
 including, but not limited to, orders issued pursuant to section 46b-15,
 46b-38c, 53a-40e, 54-1k, 54-82q or 54-82r;

61 (6) Disclosing a summary of such institution's student investigation 62 and disciplinary procedures, including clear statements advising that 63 (A) a student or employee who reports or discloses being a victim of 64 sexual assault, stalking or intimate partner violence shall have the 65 opportunity to request that an investigation begin promptly, (B) the 66 investigation and any disciplinary proceedings shall be conducted by 67 an official trained annually in issues relating to sexual assault, stalking 68 and intimate partner violence and shall use the preponderance of the 69 evidence standard in making a determination concerning the alleged 70 assault, stalking or violence, (C) both the student or employee who 71 reports or discloses the alleged assault, stalking or violence and the 72 student responding to such report or disclosure (i) are entitled to be 73 accompanied to any meeting or proceeding relating to the allegation of 74 such assault, stalking or violence by an advisor or support person of 75 their choice, provided the involvement of such advisor or support 76 person does not result in the postponement or delay of such meeting as 77 scheduled, and (ii) shall have the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses on their behalf during any disciplinary proceeding, (D) both 78

79 the student or employee reporting or disclosing the alleged assault, 80 stalking or violence or a victim reporting or disclosing the alleged assault, stalking or violence pursuant to subdivision (9) of this 81 82 subsection and such responding student are entitled to be informed in 83 writing of the results of any disciplinary proceeding not later than one 84 business day after the conclusion of such proceeding in a manner that 85 complies with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and 86 Privacy Act, 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time, (E) the institution of higher education shall not disclose the identity of any 87 88 party to an investigation or disciplinary proceeding, except as necessary 89 to carry out the investigation or disciplinary proceeding or as permitted 90 under state or federal law, (F) a standard of affirmative consent is used 91 in determining whether consent to engage in sexual activity was given 92 by all persons who engaged in the sexual activity, and (G) a student or 93 employee who reports or discloses the alleged assault, stalking or 94 violence shall not be subject to disciplinary action by the institution of 95 higher education for violation of a policy of such institution concerning 96 the use of drugs or alcohol if (i) the report or disclosure was made in 97 good faith, and (ii) the violation of such policy did not place the health 98 or safety of another person at risk;

99 (7) Disclosing a summary of such institution's employee investigation
100 and disciplinary procedures, including clear statements advising that a
101 standard of affirmative consent is used in determining whether consent
102 to engage in sexual activity was given by all persons who engaged in
103 the sexual activity; [and]

(8) Disclosing the range of sanctions that may be imposed following
the implementation of such institution's student and employee
disciplinary procedures in response to such assault, stalking or violence;
and

(9) Establishing a process by which a victim who (A) is not a student
 or employee of such institution, and (B) alleges sexual assault, stalking
 or intimate partner violence by a student or employee of such

LCO No. 5502

- 111 <u>institution, may report such sexual assault, stalking or intimate partner</u>
- 112 violence to such institution and detailing the procedures such victim
- 113 may follow to initiate or participate in such institution's investigation
- 114 and disciplinary proceeding.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | July 1, 2025 | 10a-55m(b) |
|-----------|--------------|------------|

Statement of Purpose:

To require institutions of higher education to disclose the final results of a Title IX disciplinary proceeding to the alleged victim who reports sexual assault, stalking or intimate partner violence, whether such victim is a student or employee of such institution or not.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]