

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 1413

January Session, 2025

Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by: (HED)

AN ACT CONCERNING INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AT THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2025) (a) The Board of Regents for 2 Higher Education shall, in consultation with the Departments of 3 Developmental Services, Social Services and Education, develop a plan 4 to provide inclusive educational programs at the state universities 5 within the Connecticut State University System for students with 6 intellectual or developmental disabilities who are eighteen years of age 7 or older. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the (1) 8 specification of the admission process for such students, which shall not 9 include taking any standardized college entrance aptitude test, 10 graduating from high school or meeting a minimum grade point 11 average, (2) identification of one or more of the following types of 12 academic programs or courses offered by such state university in which 13 such students may enroll based on each student's individualized 14 education program, if any, or other assessment-based educational or

15 career plan for the student, provided each such program or course is 16 offered through an inclusive learning environment open to all students 17 and not limited to students with intellectual or developmental 18 disabilities: (A) A degree or certificate program, (B) a program through 19 which such a student may earn an occupational credential, or (C) a 20 credit-bearing or noncredit course, (3) availability of inclusive academic 21 enrichment experiences, extracurricular activities and employment and 22 socialization opportunities, (4) provision of individualized supports 23 and services for the unique academic, social, housing and life-skills 24 needs, as applicable, of such students, including, but not limited to, peer 25 mentors, assistive technology or an on-campus resource center, (5) 26 provision of information or training for staff, faculty and peers in 27 educating and supporting such students, as applicable, and (6) funding 28 required to provide such inclusive educational programs and related 29 supports and services and whether any funding is available through 30 financial aid, federal programs, nonprofit organizations or any other 31 resources.

32 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Board of Regents for Higher 33 Education shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-34 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General 35 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education 36 and employment advancement the plan developed pursuant to 37 subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to develop a plan to provide inclusive educational programs for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities at the state universities within the Connecticut State University System. [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.]