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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 1297

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes numerous minor and technical changes to reflect the merger of the community-technical colleges into the Connecticut State Community College in 2023, including replacing references to the former Board of Trustees for the Community-Technical Colleges with the Board of Regents of Higher Education as the board that oversees the Connecticut State Community College. It makes other changes to reflect that this board also oversees the Connecticut State University System. Correspondingly, it repeals obsolete statutes governing the Board of Trustees for Community-Technical Colleges and Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System (§ 115).

It also replaces one member of the Building Code Training Council and two members of the Fire Marshal Training Council whose appointments are currently made by the former Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges, with appointments of representatives of Connecticut State Community College by the Board of Regents (these councils provide advice on certification and training related to the building and fire codes) (§§ 106 & 107).

The bill provides that in any 2025 public acts:

1. “Board of Regents for Higher Education” must be substituted any time that “board of trustees,” “Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System,” or “Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges” is used to mean the “Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System” or the “Board of Trustees of the Community Technical College System”;

2. “Connecticut State Community College” must be substituted for “regional community-technical colleges” or “regional community-technical college system”; and
3. the Legislative Commissioner’s Office can make technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes to carry out these provisions in the 2025 public acts (§ 113).

The bill also expands the requirement to submit security protocol plans to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to all independent institutions of higher education. These security protocols must address how to recognize students and others who may be at risk of harm to themselves or others, be reviewed biennially, and be submitted to DESPP if there are revisions. The institutions must also establish trained threat assessment teams for each campus. It is unclear when this expanded group of institutions is required to comply with these provisions.

These provisions currently apply only to nonprofit institutions established in the state that have degree-granting authority, their main campus in Connecticut, and a primary function other than preparing students for religious vocation (§ 97).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on 2025 public acts, the repeal of obsolete statutes, and a technical change are effective July 1, 2025.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18    Nay 0    (03/13/2025)