



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 269

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5426

House of Representatives, March 31, 2026

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ADVISOR DURING DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than August 1, 2026,
2 each institution of higher education in the state shall adopt a policy
3 allowing each student to designate an advisor or support person of such
4 student's choice to assist and support such student during a disciplinary
5 proceeding that may result in such student being suspended from such
6 institution, placed on probation, expelled from such institution or
7 prohibited from participating in an intercollegiate athletic program at
8 such institution. Such advisor or support person shall receive copies of
9 any communication relating to such disciplinary proceeding and
10 accompany such student to any meeting relating to such disciplinary
11 proceeding, provided (1) the involvement of such advisor or support
12 person does not result in the postponement or delay of such meeting as
13 scheduled, and (2) for disciplinary proceedings concerning sexual

14 assault, stalking and intimate partner violence, the policies adopted
 15 pursuant to the provisions of section 10a-55m of the general statutes
 16 concerning a student's entitlement to be accompanied by an advisor or
 17 support person shall take precedence over the implementation of the
 18 policy adopted under this section to the extent such policies differ. Each
 19 institution shall notify every student at the commencement of each
 20 academic year and prior to the commencement of such disciplinary
 21 proceeding of such policy and the manner in which such student may
 22 designate or redesignate such student's choice of advisor or support
 23 person. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an
 24 institution to provide an advisor or support person to a student.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. It requires public and private institutions of higher education to allow a student to designate a support person during certain disciplinary proceedings. This is not expected to increase the cost to the constituent units of higher education of such proceedings.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5426*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ADVISOR DURING DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires higher education institutions to adopt a policy by August 1, 2026, allowing students to designate an advisor or support person to assist and support them in disciplinary proceedings that may result in suspension, probation, expulsion, or a ban from participating in intercollegiate athletics. The bill requires the advisor or support person to (1) receive copies of communications about the disciplinary proceedings and (2) attend any related meetings. This cannot result in any postponement or delay of a meeting.

The bill requires higher education institutions to notify students about this policy and how to designate or redesignate a person (1) at the start of each academic year and (2) before the start of a relevant disciplinary proceeding. The bill specifies that it does not require an institution to provide an advisor or support person.

The law already requires institutions to have policies entitling a student to have an advisor or support person accompany them at a disciplinary meeting or proceeding involving an allegation of sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence, as long as it does not cause any postponement or delay (CGS § 10a-55m(b)(6)(C)(i)). Under the bill, these existing policies supersede the bill's new policy to the extent they differ.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)