



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5479

LCO No. 2643



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT'S
PLAN TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH
UNIVERSITIES.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, "top-tier
2 research faculty" means faculty with strong research portfolios and
3 internationally recognized scholarly reputations, as documented
4 through recognition such as receipt of prestigious awards and honors,
5 book publications and citations, research funding or any other means as
6 determined by the president of The University of Connecticut.

7 (b) The University of Connecticut shall implement a plan to hire not
8 fewer than ten new top-tier research faculty on or before June 30, 2029.
9 Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) improving
10 infrastructure, such as laboratory space and equipment, to support such
11 research faculty, (2) developing an effective recruitment strategy, and
12 (3) supporting graduate students working for such research faculty.

13 (c) Not later than July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter until and

14 including July 1, 2029, the president of The University of Connecticut
15 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
16 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
17 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
18 and employment advancement. Such report shall include the status of
19 implementing the plan to hire new top-tier research faculty pursuant to
20 subsection (b) of this section.

21 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For the purposes described in
22 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the
23 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state
24 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the
25 aggregate twenty million dollars.

26 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
27 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by The University
28 of Connecticut for the purpose of improving infrastructure, such as
29 laboratory space and equipment, to recruit new top-tier research faculty
30 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

31 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
32 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
33 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
34 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
35 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
36 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
37 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
38 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
39 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
40 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
41 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
42 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
43 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
44 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
45 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its

46 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
47 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
48 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
49 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
50 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
51 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
52 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
53 such principal and interest as the same become due.

54 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The sum of thirty-five million dollars is
55 appropriated to The University of Connecticut from the General Fund,
56 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for personnel costs, including,
57 but not limited to, salary and fringe benefits, to recruit new top-tier
58 research faculty pursuant to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require The University of Connecticut to hire not fewer than ten top-tier research faculty within the next three years.

[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.]