



Substitute Senate Bill No. 150

Public Act No. 26-4

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

Section 1. Subsection (h) of section 10a-157a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(h) For the fall semester of 2025 and spring semester of 2026, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall continue to offer each transitional college readiness program, embedded remedial support program and intensive remedial support program that said board offered at each public institution of higher education during the fall semester of 2024 and spring semester of 2025, respectively.

Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10a-80 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(b) As used in this section, "community service programs" means educational, cultural, recreational and community directed services that the Connecticut State Community College may provide in addition to its regular academic program. Such community service programs may

Substitute Senate Bill No. 150

include, but shall not be limited to, (1) activities designed to enrich the intellectual, cultural and social life of the community, (2) educational services designed to promote the development of skills for the effective use of leisure time, (3) activities and programs designed to assist in the identification and solution of community problems, and (4) utilization of college facilities and services by community groups to the extent such usage does not conflict with the regular schedule of the college.

Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10a-72 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall:

(1) Make rules for the governance of the Connecticut State Community College, determine the general policies of said college, including such policies concerning the admission of students, and direct the expenditure of said college's funds within the amounts available;

(2) Develop mission statements for the Connecticut State Community College: The mission statement for the Connecticut State Community College shall include, but need not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational needs of and constituencies served by said college, [;] (B) the degrees offered by said college, and (C) the role and scope of each campus of said college, which shall include each campus's particular strengths and specialties;

(3) Establish policies for the Connecticut State Community College;

(4) Establish policies that protect academic freedom and the content of courses and degree programs;

(5) Establish new academic programs;

(6) Make institutional mergers or closures;

Substitute Senate Bill No. 150

(7) Coordinate the programs and services of the campuses of the Connecticut State Community College;

(8) Promote fund-raising by the campuses of the Connecticut State Community College to assist such campuses, provided the board shall not directly engage in fund-raising except for purposes of providing funding for (A) scholarships or other direct student financial aid, and (B) programs, services or activities at one or more of such campuses and report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education not later than January first, biennially, on all such fund-raising; and

(9) Charge the direct costs for a building project under its jurisdiction to the bond fund account for such project; provided, (A) such costs are charged in accordance with a procedure approved by the Treasurer, and (B) nothing in this subdivision shall permit the charging of working capital costs, as defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, or costs originally paid from sources other than the bond fund account.

Sec. 4. Section 10-155 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

The Board of Regents for Higher Education, on behalf of the Connecticut State University System, may maintain an emergency training program to prepare graduates of approved four-year colleges and universities to teach in the elementary schools of the state. In carrying out such program, the board may (1) establish regulations governing the admission of students to the program, [;] (2) fix tuition rates to be paid by such students, and (3) enter into such contracts and agreements as it finds necessary to secure the necessary facilities.

Substitute Senate Bill No. 150

Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10a-173 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 263 of public act 25-168, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(b) The Office of Higher Education shall establish the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program to annually make need-based financial aid available for eligible educational costs to eligible students enrolled at Connecticut's public and independent institutions of higher education. Within available funds, the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program shall include a need and merit-based grant and a need-based grant. The need and merit-based grant shall be funded at not less than twenty per cent but not more than thirty per cent of available funds or ten million dollars, whichever is greater. The need-based grant shall be funded at up to eighty per cent of available funds. [The Charter Oak grant shall be not less than one hundred thousand dollars of available funds.] There shall be an administrative allowance based on one-quarter of one per cent of the available funds, but not less than one hundred thousand dollars annually.

Governor's Action:

Approved May 4, 2026