
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)