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CCIC Legislative Update April 6, 2017

This update summarizes legislation that has been introduced in the 2017 legislative session that impacts CCIC member institutions as of April 6, 2017. Links to the most recent language of the bill are embedded in the bill's title.

Governor's Scholarship Program

The Governor's [proposed budget](#) cuts the Governor's Scholarship Program (a.k.a. the Roberta Willis Scholarship Program) \$2.2 million (6%) in FY 18 and \$4.4 (12%) in FY 19. The Appropriations Committee will release its budget sometime in April. No programmatic changes have been proposed at this point.

Proposal to Move OHE into SDE

HB 7035 : AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION SB 969: AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the Governor's budget proposal, he sought to move the currently freestanding Office of Higher Education (OHE) into the State Department of Education. However, this proposal is currently dead. It may be revived in some form through the Appropriations Committee budget but legislators are very skeptical of the value of this proposal at this time.

Under the proposal, the membership of the Planning Commission for Higher Education would have been revised to include leaders from both public and private colleges in this state. The Commission was to be charged with making a recommendation for the appointment of a director, working with OHE to implement [the Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education](#) (developed by the Commission in 2015) and to work together to find opportunities for collaboration among public and private colleges.

CCIC is supportive of this proposal but raised concerns about the conflict of interest presented if the Planning Commission, composed primarily of public college leaders, has an oversight role over OHE while OHE still has the authority to approve the programs of CCIC Member Institutions beginning again in July 2018.

Testimony submitted on this proposal is available [here](#).

Higher Education Committee

SB 971: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

This bill requires the Office of Higher Education to establish the CONNect Four program. The CONNect Four program shall promote existing transfer and articulation agreements developed between the regional community-technical colleges and four-year public and independent institutions of higher education through a state-wide marketing campaign and the creation of the CONNect Four Internet web site. The CONNect Four Internet web site shall include the terms of the transfer and articulation agreements and allow for users to compare said agreements. Each public institution of higher education shall include a direct link on its Internet web page to the CONNect Four Internet web page.

HB 7235: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES TASK FORCE

This bill requires OHE to establish the Connecticut Open Educational Resource Coordinating Council which shall perform the following functions: (1) Identify high-impact courses for which open educational resources will be developed, converted or adopted; (2) Establish a program of competitive grants for faculty members of in-state institutions of higher education for the development, conversion or adoption of open educational resources for high-impact courses with funds identified by the committee and within available appropriations; (3) Accept, review and approve competitive grant applications. Faculty members shall license such open educational resources through creative commons attribution licenses; (4) Administer a standardized review and approval process for the development, conversion or adoption of open educational resources; (5) Establish a state-sponsored digital clearinghouse that shall function as a publically accessible database for the collection, storage and purchase of open educational resources; and (6) Promote strategies for the production, use and access of open educational resources.

HB 5116: AN ACT CONCERNING A HIGHER EDUCATION DATA COLLECTION AND TRACKING SYSTEM

This bill requires the constituent units of higher education (the public colleges) and the Labor Department, to create an Internet web site that includes completion data as well as salary data for students that completed degrees at those institutions.

HB 6162: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DEBT-FREE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

This bill requires the Office of Higher Education to conduct a study on the feasibility of implementing a debt-free higher education program for all in-state students attending a public institution of higher education.

SB 948: AN ACT CONCERNING DIGITAL DISCOUNTS TO REDUCE THE COST OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

This bill suggests that the Office of Higher Education may assist the Board of Regents for Higher Education and The University of Connecticut to establish guidelines to encourage public and independent institutions of higher education to implement programs that reduce the cost of textbooks and other educational resources for students.

HB 7119: AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION RELATING TO TEACH-OUT PLANS AND ON-SITE REVIEW OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

This bill authorizes the executive director of the Office of Higher Education to require (1) a teach-out for students enrolled in a program at an institution of higher education that is in danger of closing, and (2) evidence that a program application in a field requiring a license to practice meets state or federal licensing requirements for such license.

HB 6587: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STANDARDIZATION OF FINANCIAL AID LETTERS FOR THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

This bill requires the public and independent institutions of higher education to collaborate to create a standardized financial aid letter to be provided to students enrolled at any institution of higher education in this state.

HB 7234: AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS IN CRISIS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The bill requires that not later than October 1, 2017, The University of Connecticut, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges shall each submit a report to the Office of Higher Education and joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement on students in crisis, as defined in the bill.

SB 341: AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COST SAVINGS FOR STUDENTS

This bill requires the Commissioner of Social Services to apply for a waiver that would allow state Medicaid to pay for the cost of premiums for student health insurance for eligible students enrolled at the state's public institutions of higher education.

View testimony on this bill [here](#).

Education Committee

HB 7254: AN ACT REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS TO COMPLETE A PROGRAM OF STUDY IN EVIDENCE-BASED STRUCTURED LITERACY INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

This bill requires teachers applying for professional certification with a comprehensive special education or integrated early childhood and special education endorsement to complete a program of study in the diagnosis and remediation of reading and language arts that includes supervised practicum hours and instruction in the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia

HB 7253: AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES

This bill extends the cut-off date from July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2018 for the new requirement that to obtain a professional teacher educator certificate, one must hold a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as determined by the State Board of Education, related to such person's certification endorsement area.

Public Health Committee

SB 903: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

This bill makes updates to the licensure requirement for a professional counselor and requires that, on and after January 1, 2019, an applicant for licensure either have 1) earned a graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling as part of a program of higher learning accredited by CACREP or 2) earned a graduate degree in counseling as part of a program of higher learning that meets specific standards outlined in the proposed language.

SB 250: AN ACT CONCERNING CLINICAL PLACEMENTS FOR IN-STATE MEDICAL STUDENTS

This bill requires that each hospital that provides clinical clerkship programs for medical students shall work in good faith with each school of medicine of an institution of higher education located in the state to provide such clinical clerkship programs to students enrolled in such schools. Not later than September 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, each hospital that in any academic year provides more than fifty per cent of its clinical clerkships to students enrolled in a school of medicine of an institution of higher education located outside the state shall report regarding (1) the number and nature of each clinical clerkship program at the hospital during the previous academic year, and (2) the name of each school of medicine of each student participating in each clinical clerkship program during such academic year.

See testimony on this bill [here](#).

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Proposed H.B. 5586 AN ACT MAKING CONNECTICUT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES

This bill offers an income tax credit to individuals who are employed in this state, and (A) receive, on or after January 1, 2018, an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education in this or another state, and (B)(i) reside in this state, or (ii) move to this state within two years after receiving such degree; (2) provide that such tax credit may be claimed for five successive years.

Commerce Committee

SB 959: AN ACT CONCERNING AN INVENTORY OF THE STATE'S BIOSCIENCE EDUCATION PIPELINE

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development, in collaboration with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Department of Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the University of Connecticut and a private institution of higher education to conduct an inventory of the educational resources available in the state to prepare students for careers in the bioscience field.

SB 963: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO MANUFACTURING

This bill allows for an individual with 5 years of work experience in a vocational field to receive an initial educator certificate for that area from the State Department of Education. In addition, it requires the Board of Regents to develop a plan to increase course offerings in certain areas required for faculty of manufacturing as well as to develop a course in the field of mechatronics.

SB 968: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE

This bill requires the chairpersons of the Commission on Economic Competitiveness to appoint and convene a health data collaborative working group to examine and make recommendations regarding: (1) Initiatives to support research and development for precision medicine and personalized health; (2) Economic growth initiatives for businesses working in bioscience, biopharma, biotech, genomics, clinomics, epigenomics, pharmacogenomics, the microbiome field and related fields in the state; (3) Health data access, privacy and security initiatives; and (4) Advancements in health data and population health to promote efficient and innovative platforms for collecting health data in order to understand the interplay between genetic, behavioral and environmental factors in the incidence of disease or illness.

SB 731: AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND HEALTH CARE TRAINING PROGRAMS IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT

This bill provides \$1 million in funding for the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board's Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative.

Judiciary Committee

SB 1021: AN ACT REVISING THE UNIFORM FRAUDULENT TRANSFER ACT

This bill seeks to ensure that undergraduate tuition payments made to institutions of higher education are not construed as fraudulent transfers under the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act to prevent Bankruptcy trustees from requiring colleges and universities to pay back to a bankrupt estate tuition paid for their child's education.

See testimony submitted on this bill, [here](#).

SB 979: AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF RESTRAINING ORDERS, CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS AND STANDING CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS AFFECTING STUDENTS

This bill allows a person who is afforded protections under a restraining order, civil protection order or standing criminal protective order to request that the clerk of the court provide a copy of such order, or the information contained in such order, to a school or institution of higher education which he or she attends.

Government, Administration and Elections Committee

HB 6576: AN ACT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL POLLING PLACES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING STATE ELECTION

This bill requires that (1) any municipality containing an institution of higher education establish a separate voting district at such institution reports a twelve-month, full-time equivalent enrollment in excess of three thousand at any campus of such institution to the U.S. Department of Education, and (2) the registrars of voters or the legislative body of such municipality, as the case may be, provide a suitable polling place at such institution for which a separate voting district is established.

Labor and Public Employees Committee

HB 5590: AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

This bill creates a task force to study the effectiveness, impact and cohesiveness of workforce development programs and initiatives in the state, including programs offered by private colleges.

HB 5210: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS PAY EQUITY AND FAIRNESS MATTERS

This bill prohibits employers from asking about a prospective employee's wage and salary history before negotiating his or her job offer and compensation, unless the prospective employee has already voluntarily disclosed the history. It also makes several changes to the defenses available to employers in a gender wage discrimination lawsuit. It: 1) prohibits an employer from using an employee's prior wage and salary history as a defense in the suit; 2) prohibits an employer from using a seniority system to defend its pay differentials if the employer reduces an employee's seniority for time spent on leave due to a pregnancy-related condition or protected family and medical leave; and 3) provides an employer with an affirmative defense if, during the three years prior to the suit, the employer (a) completed a self-evaluation of its pay practices in good faith and (b) can demonstrate that it has made reasonable progress to eliminate gender-based wage differentials for equal work.

SB 1: AN ACT CONCERNING EARNED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

This bill creates the Family and Medical Leave Compensation (FMLC) program to provide wage replacement benefits to certain employees taking leave under the state's Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or the family violence leave law, as amended by the bill. It provides them with up to 12 weeks of FMLC benefits over a 12-month period in an amount equal to the employee's average weekly net earnings during their highest earning quarter within the five most recently completed calendar quarters, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per week (or an inflation adjusted equivalent). The program is funded by employee contributions.

For a detailed summary, click [here](#).

HB 6914: AN ACT CONCERNING A MINIMUM WORKWEEK FOR PERSONS PERFORMING JANITORIAL OR BUILDING MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Beginning January 1, 2018, this bill requires certain employers, including educational institutions, to provide a 30-hour minimum workweek for any employee who performs building care or maintenance work in certain locations, including work customarily performed by cleaners, porters, janitors, handypersons, and security guards (“covered employees”).

For a detailed summary, click [here](#).