



2017 Legislative Update

This update summarizes legislation passed that impacts CCIC member institutions during the 2017 regular legislative session as well the 2017 budget special session. The regular legislative session ended on June 7, 2017 and the budget was adopted on October 26, 2017.

Budget Overview

After months of negotiations and back-and-forth, a \$41.3 billion, two-year budget was finally adopted by both chambers on October 26, 2017 with a veto proof majority, to close a multi-billion dollar deficit over the next biennium.

The budget closes the deficit without raising income or sales tax rates, imposes modest cuts on local aid, and provides emergency assistance to keep Hartford out of bankruptcy. Funding for the two budget items of biggest concern for the independent college sector remained largely intact.

The Roberta Willis Scholarship Program received a cut in both budget years but the program, which was phased out entirely in one proposal, will continue and low-income Connecticut students attending both public and independent colleges in Connecticut remain eligible to receive the grants.

Funding for the payment in lieu of taxes program for non-profit colleges and hospitals (PILOT C&H), which goes to municipalities that host these institutions, was cut more than \$14 million in FY 18 and just shy of \$10 million in FY 19. Some municipalities, however, received additional state funding through a new “Municipal Stabilization Grant” line item so that the total reduction in state aid for most municipalities averaged around 5%. Additionally, no changes in eligibility for the program was made – “Tier 3” towns, such as Fairfield and North Haven, will continue to receive this state aid.

Some specific budget line items of note are below. Click [here](#) to view the complete summary of the budget. Town-by-town municipal aid appropriations, including PILOT C&H, can be found [here](#).

PROGRAM	FY 17 Actual	FY 18 Budgeted	FY 19 Budgeted
Roberta Willis Scholarship Program	\$36 million	\$35,345,804	\$33,388,637
Minority Advancement Program	\$1,845,041	\$1,789,690	\$1,789,690
Reimbursement for Private Tax-Exempt Property (PILOT)	\$114,950,767	\$100,900,058	\$105,889,432

Impacting Connecticut Independent Colleges and Universities

PA 17-229: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION PROGRAMS IN THE STATE AND THE MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

This act requires all institutions (public and private) that receive federal funds to provide a link to its most recent National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) IPEDS profile on its website.

In addition, this act:

- Requires the Office of Higher Education (OHE) and public higher education institutions to publish information regarding transfer and articulation programs on their respective Internet websites;
- Requires the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) to provide information on transfer and articulation programs to all students admitted to any community college;
- Reconstitutes and expands the membership of the [Planning Commission for Higher Education](#). Changes include:
 - Establishing two standing subcommittees: one for data, metrics, and accountability and one for implementing the [Strategic Master Plan](#);
 - Requiring OHE to staff the Planning Commission;
 - Authorizing CCIC to make two appointments to the Commission: 1) President, vice president, or chair of the board of a large independent institution of higher education and 2) President, vice president, or chair of the board of a small independent institution of higher education. CCIC's President also sits on the Commission as a nonvoting member..

Impacting Higher Education Generally

SB 1052: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2019, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET

Beyond the appropriations for the Scholarship Program and PILOT C&H, the budget bill has a few items of note impacting higher education generally:

- Beginning with the 2019 tax year, establishes [a refundable personal income tax credit for STEM college graduates](#) who
 - are employed in the state;
 - receive, on or after January 1, 2019, a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in a science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) field;
 - live in Connecticut or move here within two years after graduating;
 - Credit is \$500 and may be claimed in each of the five years after graduation; and
 - Requires graduates who claim the credit to provide any documentation required by the DRS commissioner. ([§ 648](#))

- Changes the designation of **CTNext's Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee's** members from “public officials” to “members of an advisory board” under the state Code of Ethics, thus relieving them from having to comply with the requirements applicable to public officials. By law, the committee advises CTNext, a subsidiary of the quasi-public Connecticut Innovations, Inc., on applications for entrepreneurial grants submitted by higher education institutions. (§ 134)
- Requires **behavior analysts** to be licensed by DPH, outlines the standards that must be met for licensure and requires individuals that provide applied behavior analysis as part of special education services for students with autism spectrum disorder to be licensed by DPH. (§§ 187-199)

PA 17-50: AN ACT REVISING THE UNIFORM FRAUDULENT TRANSFER ACT

This act revises Connecticut’s fraudulent transfer law to make clear that payments made by a parent or guardian to a college or university in furtherance of an adult child’s college education are not voidable.

PA 17-63: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Among other things, this act reassigns the following duties from the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to OHE:

- Administering various grant and loan forgiveness programs
- Publishing information about public technical high school and higher education academic programs related to green jobs; and
- Researching and developing new programs and methods for academic fields relating to public education.

See a complete summary [here](#).

PA 17-130: AN ACT AUTHORIZING GUIDELINES FOR PROGRAMS TO REDUCE STUDENT COSTS AND EXEMPTING CONSTITUENT UNIT QUALIFIED, REVENUE AND NONMONETARY CONTRACTS FROM CERTAIN STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Among other things, this act authorizes the Office of Higher Education and the public institutions of higher education to establish guidelines that encourage institutions of higher education to implement programs that reduce the cost of textbooks and other educational resources for students. See a complete summary [here](#).

PA 17-139: AN ACT CONCERNING POSTSECONDARY CAREER SCHOOLS

This act makes a variety of changes to the laws governing private occupational schools including:

- Modifies student records maintenance requirements for private occupational schools and allows the Office of Higher Education (OHE) executive director to enforce them through assessment of administrative penalties; and
- Establishes a deadline by which students may apply to OHE for a tuition refund after their private occupational school becomes insolvent or closes and requires the OHE director to issue a full, rather than full or partial, refund.

PA 17-156: AN ACT CONCERNING A HIGHER EDUCATION DATA COLLECTION AND TRACKING SYSTEM

This act requires the public institutions of higher education and the Labor Department to create an Internet web site to publish existing data that is required to be collected as part of the Higher Education Coordinating Council. Such data includes job retention and earnings of students enrolled in academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs, both prior to enrollment and after completion of such courses and programs, who leave the constituent units upon graduation or otherwise.

PA 17-163: AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF RESTRAINING ORDERS, CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS AND STANDING CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS AFFECTING STUDENTS

Effective January 1, 2018, this act makes three changes regarding **court notification to educational institutions** when the court issues certain protection orders:

- Under prior law, a court, at the victim's request, was required to notify the victim's school or higher education institution when it issued a civil restraining order, civil protection order, family violence protective order, or criminal protective order. The act instead requires the notification only if the applicant provides the court with the school's or institution's name and address.
- For civil restraining orders, the act additionally requires the court to provide the notice, under the conditions described above, to the school or institution in which the victim's minor child protected by the order is enrolled.
- The act also expands the court's duty to notify schools or higher education institutions by requiring the court to provide notification, under the conditions described above, when it issues standing criminal protection orders and orders prohibiting harassment of a witness in a criminal case. Prior law did not require notices in these cases.

PA 17-191: 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 act authorizes the executive director of the Office of Higher Education to require:

1. A teach-out plan for students enrolled in a program at an institution of higher education that is not regionally accredited and in danger of closing, and
2. Evidence that a program application in a field requiring a license to practice meets state and federal licensing requirements for such license.

PA 17-207: AN ACT CONCERNING THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

This act:

- Creates a Workforce Training Authority and a related Workforce Training Authority Fund to (1) develop and implement job training programs for businesses relocating to Connecticut and (2) train or retrain workers in Connecticut to achieve workforce development goals set by the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC).
- Codifies the existence of [Connecticut's Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network \(CP20 WIN\)](#) as the state data system for the purpose of matching and linking longitudinally data of state agencies and other organizations for the purpose of conducting audits and evaluations of federal and state education programs. CCIC is a member of the Executive Committee of CP20 WIN.

- Codifies the CT Early College Opportunity Program (CT-ECO) program, which currently operates in several school districts, including Danbury, New London, Norwalk, and Windham and requires the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) to include CT-ECO in its statewide plan to implement, expand, and improve career certificate programs, middle college programs, and early college high school programs.

See a complete summary [here](#).

PA 17-242: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO MANUFACTURING

This act:

- Decreases the number of years of employment experience an applicant seeking teacher certification for a position at a technical high school shall complete from eight years to five years;
- Requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education to develop plan to offer online courses in the field of mechatronics at Central Connecticut State University and the regional community-technical college system; and
- Establishes a task force to develop a program to train inmates for jobs in the manufacturing field.

Impacting Teacher Preparation Programs (Public and Private)

PA 17-14: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Among other things, this act changes the requirements that applicants must meet in order to qualify for the entry-level initial educator certificate. It allows an individual with a bachelor's degree in any subject area from a BOR- or OHE-accredited or regionally accredited institution to be eligible for an initial certificate, as long as he or she has completed either of the following:

1. an SBE-approved educator preparation program or a program approved by the appropriate governing body in the state where his or her higher education institution is located; or
2. an ARC program approved either by SBE or the appropriate out-of-state governing body, and also satisfies either the state's temporary certificate or resident teacher certificate requirements.

To review a complete summary of the act, click [here](#).

PA 17-3: AN ACT REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS TO COMPLETE A PROGRAM OF STUDY IN EVIDENCE-BASED STRUCTURED LITERACY INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

This act 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

PA 17-173: AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES

Sections 2 & 3 of this act extend 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.

For a complete summary of all the changes made in this act, click [here](#).

PA 17-41: AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

This act (1) delays the implementation of the two scheduled phases of higher level education requirements for school readiness staff and (2) makes it easier for staff to meet these requirements, primarily by accepting degrees from more out-of-state higher education institutions.

See complete summary [here](#).

Impacting Economic Development

SA 17-16: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO FOSTER THE MICROBIOME SECTOR IN THE STATE

- This special act establishes a working group to study and develop legislative and programmatic initiatives and a roadmap to foster the microbiome sector in the state as well as to establish the state as a leader in the development of new microbiome-based diagnostics and treatments.
- The independent college sector has three appointments by the Governor to the working group:
 1. One representative of an independent institution of higher education in the state;
 2. One representative of an independent medical school in the state;
 3. One representative from Yale University or Yale University School of Medicine.
- [Section 132 of SB 1052](#) (the state budget act) makes changes to this Working Group and requires it to examine, among other things:
 1. The talent pool and skills necessary to establish the state as a leader in the microbiome industry, (B) the educational curricula and training levels required to fill such needs and the level at which public and independent institutions of higher education in the state are meeting such requirements, (C) the ability of the state to attract out-of-state individuals with such talent and skills, and (D) a determination of how to develop such talent and skills to the levels required to meet the goals and requirements of this subsection, in terms of the skills required, the needed number of skilled workers in the state and specific academic and practical training recommended to be strengthened at such institutions; and
 2. The strength and amount of academic expertise in the microbiome field at public and independent institutions of higher education in the state, including how aligned such expertise is with the working group's roadmap, considering such institutions' plans to grow and deepen such expertise and technology commercialization efforts by faculty at such institutions.

SA 17-20: AN ACT CONCERNING AN INVENTORY OF THE STATE'S BIOSCIENCE EDUCATION PIPELINE

This act requires stakeholders, including a representative from 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.

PA 17-18: AN ACT CONCERNING A WORKING GROUP ON A PUBLIC-PRIVATE MARKETING PARTNERSHIP TO RECRUIT BUSINESSES TO CONNECTICUT

This act creates a working group to explore public-private marketing partnerships to recruit businesses to the state. Public and independent colleges shall have representatives on the working group.

PA 17-85: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE

This act 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.

PA 17-110: AN ACT EXPANDING INVESTMENT ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE ANGEL INVESTOR TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

This act (1) opens the angel investor tax credit program to Connecticut businesses in any industry, instead of just those in emerging technology industries, and (2) generally limits the amount of credits that may be awarded for investments in businesses in emerging technology industries. To read more, click [here](#).

PA 17-164: AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGING ECONOMIC TRENDS

This act requires the CTNext board of directors to issue a request for proposals to enter into an agreement with a private research organization to advise, guide and assist the state in short-term and long-term strategic economic planning. For details, click [here](#).

PA 17- 244: AN ACT CONCERNING CTNEXT PLANNING GRANTS-IN-AID AND INNOVATION PLACE DESIGNATION APPLICATIONS AND INVEST CT FUND TAX CREDIT TRANSFERABILITY

- This act authorizes CTNext to accept additional rounds of innovation place applications and planning grant applications.
- It also allows insurance companies who hold Invest CT tax credits to sell or otherwise transfer these credits to any taxpayer, rather than just to their affiliates.

Other Bills of Interest

PA 17-28: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF ENTERTAINMENT EVENT TICKETS ON THE SECONDARY MARKET

- This act places conditions on the sale of tickets to certain entertainment events, including generally prohibiting the sale of nontransferable tickets except through a paperless ticketing

system that gives purchasers the chance to buy transferable tickets (e.g., paper tickets or e-tickets) at no additional cost.

- The restrictions apply to tickets for sporting events, concerts, and theatrical or operatic performances, but not for:
 1. movies;
 2. tickets sold or offered for sale to students of a public higher education institution for entertainment events held by, or on behalf of, the institution; or
 3. concert or theater venues with seating capacities of less than 3,500 people, provided a duly authorized venue representative notifies the consumer protection commissioner in writing of the venue's intent to not comply with the act.
- See UConn's testimony on this issue [here](#).

PA 17-44: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCREDITATION OF DENTAL ASSISTANT PROGRAMS

This act expands the list of qualifying education programs for dental assistants. It allows someone to qualify as a dental assistant if he or she completed a dental assistant education program accredited or recognized by any national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, rather than only programs accredited or recognized by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

PA 17-94: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

This act establishes new qualifications for professional counselor licensure, starting in 2019. It:

- Requires applicants to have a graduate degree from a (1) program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or (2) regionally accredited program and meet other requirements similar to existing CACREP standards (e.g., a practicum and a clinical internship of specified hours).
- Requires that (1) an applicant's postgraduate degree experience occur over at least a two-year period, rather than at least one year as under existing requirements, and (2) the supervisor of that experience be licensed in Connecticut.
- Allows applicants who were enrolled in a graduate program on or before July 1, 2017 to apply for licensure under the existing requirements when the new requirements take effect in 2019.
- Requires professional counselors' continuing education to include three contact hours in professional ethics annually, starting in 2018. For a complete summary, click [here](#).

PA 17-195: AN ACT CONCERNING ATHLETIC TRAINERS

This act expands and updates the scope of practice for athletic trainers by adding to the definition of "athletic training" in the athletic trainer licensing statutes. It:

- changes the term for athletic trainers' clients, from "athletes" to "physically active individuals," and generally includes in the definition members of sports teams or other individuals who regularly participate in sports or recreational activities and are deemed healthy by a health care provider;
- expands requirements for standing orders between athletic trainers and licensed health care providers to provide care and treatment to physically active individuals;
- adds to the license renewal requirements for athletic trainers who work somewhere other than at a professional, amateur, school, or other sports organization;
- modifies the licensure exemption requirements for athletic training students;

- requires athletic trainers to maintain specified amounts of professional liability insurance, unless their employer maintains such insurance; and
- requires certain athletic trainers to make their client records available, at their employer's request, for quarterly review.

PA 17-128: AN ACT CONCERNING PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS

This act makes various changes to the law that allows psychology technicians with specified qualifications to provide psychological testing services under a psychologist's supervision. The act:

- establishes certain requirements for the supervising psychologist, such as verifying the technician's credentials and remaining on-site while the technician is providing services;
- specifically adds psychometrics to the qualifying fields for a technician's college degree;
- modifies exemptions from this law, such as exempting psychology doctoral students under certain conditions; and
- makes minor and technical changes, including clarifying that the scope of a technician's allowable activities include obtaining and documenting a patient's test responses according to predetermined and manualized administrative procedures (§ 1(b)).

PA 17-206: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

This act requires public service employers that have more than 10 full-time employees to provide (1) informational material about certain federal student loan forgiveness programs to new hires two weeks after their start date and (2) certain loan forgiveness certification forms to current employees upon request. The Office of Higher Education (OHE) must create or copy informational material, make it available online, and distribute it to public service employers. To learn more, click [here](#).

Key Legislation that Died

HB 6933: AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL USER FEES ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

This bill sought to allow municipalities to charge colleges and universities a user-fee for each student that resides on campus, up to \$400 per student, DIED in Committee on Friday, March 23rd.

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

Proposed H.B. 6469 AN ACT ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES TO DETERMINE THE PROPERTY TAX TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES

This bill sought to allow municipalities to determine by vote of its legislative body whether property that becomes tax exempt due to a change in ownership or use of such property on or after the effective date of this act will be exempt from taxation.

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

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

These bills, which sought to merge the Office of Higher Education into the State Department of Education, did not pass. Further, this proposal was not included in the final budget. The Office of Higher Education remains a stand-alone agency separate from the State Department of Education.

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](#).

SB 845: AN ACT CONCERNING SECURITY AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

This bill required Police Officer Standards and Training Council and the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges to develop a model training policy for armed security personnel at institutions of higher education and private occupational schools, and to require constituent units and institutions of higher education to consider any safety and security audits when reviewing security protocol plans.