Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 5613 PA 154 1992

House 1803-1804, 3262-3270 (11)

SENATE 2821-2822, 2849-2850 (4)

EDUCATION 989, 996, 1028, 1031-1032, 1036, 1114-1116 (9)

24p

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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
1992

VOL. 35
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1744-2123

the Committee on Finance.

SPEAKER BALDUCCI:

The question is on referral. Is there objection?

CLERK:

Calendar 309, Substitute for House Bill 5710, AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN CONNECTICUT. Favorable Report of the Committee on Education.

REP. COHEN: (15th)

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BALDUCCI:

Representative Cohen.

REP. COHEN: (15th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move this item be referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SPEAKER BALDUCCI:

The question is on referral. Is there objection? Seeing none, it is so ordered.

CLERK:

Page 9, Calendar 312, Substitute for House Bill 5613, AN ACT CONCERNING FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Favorable Report of the Committee on Education.

REP. COHEN: (15th)

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BALDUCCI:

Representative Cohen.

REP. COHEN: (15th)

I move, Mr. Speaker, that this item be referred to the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER BALDUCCI:

The question is on referral. Is there objection? Seeing none, it is so ordered.

CLERK:

Calendar 313, Substitute for House Bill 5869, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT OF NOISE POLLUTION LAWS. Favorable Report of the Committee on Environment.

SPEAKER BALDUCCI:

Representative Cohen.

REP. COHEN: (15th)

Mr. Speaker, may this item be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

SPEAKER BALDUCCI:

The question is on referral. Is there objection? Seeing none, it is so ordered.

CLERK:

Calendar 314, House Bill 5871, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE STUDYING ELECTRIC AND

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Bill 5613, AN ACT CONCERNING FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Favorable Report of the Committee on Appropriations.

REP. PELTO: (54th)

Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative Pelto.

REP. PELTO: (54th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Will you remark, sir?

REP. PELTO: (54th)

Yes, Madam Speaker. This is the third year we've been dealing with the issue of flexibility and accountability in higher education. The Chamber may remember a discussion that Representative Krawiecki and I had where we agreed that we should be working on these issues more and that's what this bill does. It upgrades last year's legislation, and in particular,

gives flexibility to institutions of higher education in issues of leasing and small construction projects when they're using non-General Funds on the leasing.

There is a cleanup amendment that takes care of a couple of technical errors. The Clerk has LCO3826. If the Clerk could please call and I have leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 3826, which shall be designated House Amendment "A".

CLERK:

LCO3826, House Amendment Schedule "A", offered by Representative Pelto, et al.

REP. PELTO: (54th)

Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

The gentleman asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none, please proceed, sir.

REP. PELTO: (54th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. What the amendment does is it clarifies the offset provisions of the bill. It makes minor modifications to a couple of other sections including the section where there is the election of alumni members of the Board of Trustees of the

University of Connecticut and clarifies the section on the moratorium on the closing of institutions by clarifying that it does require a two-thirds vote of the Board of Governors.

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

The question is on adoption of House "A". Will you remark?

REP. WARD: (86th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, through you, one question to Representative Pelto.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Please frame your question, sir.

REP. WARD: (86th)

Representative Pelto, on the first section which you indicate clarifies the offset provisions, I guess I was just -- I'm trying to be clear as to why they would offset as to university funds, but not, for example, research funds or other funds, just put on the record the reason for that change, through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative Pelto.

REP. PELTO: (54th)

Through you, Madam Speaker, yes, that's a fair

question to ask. Last year the legislature passed a bill requiring offset for General Funds. It was unclear whether that offset applied to operational funds. It's the students money. It's, for example, the auxiliary service or tuition funds. The decision was that that offset should exist for any state dollars, for example, an offset to a vendor who has not paid their taxes. The offset would not exist, though, to those funds that are not state funds and this amendment is to clarify that provision, through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. That explanation seems sensible.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

It's Monday morning. I would expect that hardly any of you have awakened after the weekend, but that, obviously, is not true. Please take your conversations out into the lobby. We cannot hear from up here. Please proceed, Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker, I'm not sure it's all that worth having it quiet for. I simply wanted to

indicate that the explanation made sense and I support the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Will you remark further on this amendment? Will you remark further? If not, let us try your minds. All those in favor please indicate by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Opposed nay.

The ayes have it.

The amendment is adopted and ruled technical.

Will you remark further on this bill as amended? Will you remark further on this bill as amended? Representative Belden.

REP. BELDEN: (113th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A couple of inquiries to the gentleman bringing out the bill, if I might, madam.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Certainly, sir.

REP. BELDEN: (113th)

Representative Pelto, in the file, Page 33 of the file, it indicates there are other legislation floating around dealing with the same subject. Through you, Madam Speaker, to Representative Pelto, do you see any

possible conflicts there with the other legislation that's still alive, through you, Madam Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative Pelto.

REP. PELTO: (54th)

Through you, Madam Speaker, the other two bills are presently in the Senate so I'm not sure how to answer whether or not they're alive or not in that they are likely to stay there for quite some time, however, if they would come down, we would have to make changes to both Senate Bill 367 and/or Senate Bill 258, through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative Belden.

REP. BELDEN: (113th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The file before us, as I understand it, allows the university to do a lot more in the area of real estate leases, etc., on their own. Through you, Madam Speaker, to Representative Pelto, when we allow them this additional freedom, is there any way that this information is going to be tied into Public Works or is Public Works going to be excluded entirely from the activity?

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative Pelto.

REP. PELTO: (54th)

Through you, Madam Speaker, Public Works would continue to play their present role with all General Fund state dollar expenditures in the area of leasing, both leasing property or leasing out property. The only change would be made for non-General Funds, for example, the research foundation where they got a research grant, did not have the place to actually do the research and therefore lease laboratory space, for example, so it would only apply to non-General Fund dollars and it would be included in their quarterly reports to the Board of Governors and to the legislature so that we could continue to track any leasing by institutions of higher education with non-General Fund dollars, through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative Belden.

REP. BELDEN: (113th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to bring that up because it has been extremely difficult over the years for the State of Connecticut to come up with a central agency that understands what is owned by the State of Connecticut, what our liabilities are in terms of maintaining it, etc., long term, either owned or leased and I just wanted to make sure that we're still

going to be able to have some access to this information because I think it's very imperative in the long run that we really begin to manage our properties in a much more efficient manner. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Will you remark further on this bill as amended? Will you remark further? If not, will all members please take their seats. Staff and guests to the well of the House. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber please. The House of Representatives is taking its first roll call vote of the day. Members kindly report to the Chamber. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Have all members voted and is your vote properly recorded? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Representative Ruwet. Representative Ruwet, I'm sorry, we couldn't hear you.

REP. RUWET: (64th)

In the affirmative.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative Ruwet in the affirmative.

Representative LeBeau.

REP. LEBEAU: (11th)

Madam Speaker, in the affirmative please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Representative LeBeau in the affirmative.

The Clerk please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5613, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A".

Total Number Voting	122
Necessary for Passage	62
Those voting Yea	122
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not Voting	29

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

The bill as amended is passed.

Are there any announcements or Points of Personal Privilege? Representative Munns.

REP. MUNNS: (9th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. For the purpose of an announcement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER POLINSKY:

Please proceed.

REP. MUNNS: (9th)

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Is there objection to moving Senate Calendar No. 428, Substitute for House Bill 5878 and Senate Calendar No. 429, House Bill No. 5111 to the Consent Calendar? Is there any objection to either one or both of those being placed on the Consent Calendar? Hearing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Page 13, Calendar No. 432 is marked Go. And two items for the Consent Calendar, Calendar No. 433, House Bill 5493 and Calendar 435, Substitute for House Bill No. 5789.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection in placing Senate Calendar No. 433, House Bill No. 5493 and Senate Calendar No. 435, Substitute for House Bill 5789 on the Consent Calendar? Is there objection to either one or both of those being placed on the Consent Calendar? Hearing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Page 14, I would like to move all items on this page to the Consent Calendar. They are Calendar 436, Substitute for House Bill 5872; Calendar 437, Substitute for House Bill 5613; Calendar 438, Substitute for House Bill 5858; Calendar 439, Substitute for House Bill 5082, Calendar 440, House

MONDAY
May 4, 1992

Bill No. 5563.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection in placing Senate Calendar No. 436, Substitute for House Bill 5872 and Senate Calendar No. 437, Substitute for House Bill 5613 and Calendar No. 438, Substitute for House Bill 5858 and Senate Calendar No. 439, Substitute for House Bill 5082 and Senate Calendar No. 440, House Bill No. 5563, on the Consent Calendar? Is there any objection to any one or all of those being placed on the Consent Calendar? Any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Calendar Page 15, Calendar 441, House Bill No. 5871, I move to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there objection in placing Senate Calendar No. 441, House Bill No. 5871 on the Consent Calendar? Is there any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Calendar 443, Substitute for House Bill No. 5728, I move to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection to moving Senate Calendar No. 443, Substitute for House Bill No. 5728, I move to the Consent Calendar.

Calendar #397, HB5016, Calendar #398, Substitute HB5779, Calendar #399, Substitute HB5404.

Calendar Page 10, Calendar #414, Substitute HB5879, Calendar #418, Substitute HB5197. Calendar Page 11, Calendar #421, HB5670, Calendar #422, Substitute HB5898. Calendar Page 12, Calendar #428, Substitute HB5878, Calendar #429, HB5111. Calendar Page 13, Calendar #433, HB5493, Calendar #435, Substitute HB5789.

Calendar Page 14, Calendar #436, Substitute HB5872, Calendar #437, Substitute HB5613, Calendar #439, Substitute HB5082, Calendar #440, HB5563. Calendar Page 15, Calendar #441, HB5871, Calendar #443, Substitute HB5728. Calendar Page 30, Calendar #174, Substitute SB415, Calendar #192, Substitute SB326.

Calendar Page 31, Calendar #266, Substitute SB284, Calendar 267, Substitute SB11. Calendar Page 32, Calendar #313, Substitute SB259.

Madam President, that completes the First Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. You heard the items that have been placed on Consent Calendar #1 for today. The machine is on. You may record your vote.

Senator Scarpetti. Senator Scarpetti?

Have all the Senators voted that wish to vote? I'm assuming that Senator Morton is again not here today. Is that correct? Yes. Have all Senators then voted that wish to vote? Have all Senators voted that wish to vote? The machine is closed.

The result of the vote:

35 Yea

0 Nay

1 Absent

The Consent Calendar is adopted.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agendas #1 and #2 for Monday, May 4, 1992, copies of which have been distributed.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. The Chair would recognize Senator O'Leary.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Thank you, Madam President. I move that all items on Senate Agendas #1 and #2 dated Monday, May 4, 1992 be acted upon as indicated and that the agendas be incorporated in the Senate Journal and the Senate Transcript.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. You have Senator O'Leary's

JOINT
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY - TECHNICAL COLLEGES

61 Woodland Street - Hartford, Connecticut 06105-2392 - Telephone: (203) 566-8760

March 16, 1992

TO: THE HONORABLE KEVIN SULLIVAN, SENATE CHAIR
THE HONORABLE NANCY WYMAN, HOUSE CHAIR
MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

FROM: ANDREW C. MCKIRDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJ: S.B. 258 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND OTHER PENDING LEGISLATION

(SB160, SB222, HB5613)

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges, I urge support for S.B. 258, An Act Establishing Comprehensive Community-Technical Colleges. The stated purpose of the bill is to merge the community and technical colleges in the geographic areas where they are jointly located in accordance with the plan developed by the Board of Trustees.

Before summarizing that plan and its objectives, I would call attention to three particular provisions of the bill which do not reflect the proposal made by the Board and request modification of the bill in that regard:

- Section One changes the name of the Board from that of "Community-Technical Colleges" to "Community Colleges". We urge that the name of the Board remain the same. Technical education will remain an extremely important element of the mission of the system. Indeed, one of the advantages of comprehensive colleges is that the opportunities to draw more students into technical education can be enhanced. Accordingly, the system's responsibilities for technical education should continue to be reflected in the name of the Board and the agency.

- Section Two of the bill identifies the five institutions which would result from the proposed mergers as "comprehensive community colleges." It is the intent of the Board's proposal that these institutions be identified as "community-technical colleges" for reasons comparable to those cited above. Technical education will represent a major component of the educational programs of these institutions, and that circumstance should be made apparent by being reflected in the name of the institutions.

without an additional legislative mandate. Specifically, comprehensive five-year institutional assessment plans calling for identification of measurable outcomes and biennial reports to the Board of Governors were completed by community and technical colleges and submitted to the Board of Governors in January 1991; status reports are due in June 1992, and biennial reports in June 1993. In September 1991, the Board of Governors accepted and adopted a Department of Higher Education report calling for institutions to focus on measurable student outcomes, and efforts are underway in this regard building upon existing efforts and resources and sharing resources and expertise. We suggest that the objectives of the proposed legislation are already being advanced by current Board of Governors policy.

H.B. 5613 AN ACT CONCERNING FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges has had the opportunity in recent weeks to report to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education on the implementation of the provisions included in PA 91-256. The "flexibility bill" passed last year has been extremely beneficial to the colleges especially during this period of enormous fiscal constraints. We are very grateful to the committee for its support of this initiative.

The provisions included in H.B. 5613 broaden the operational responsibilities and increase accountability at the public institutions of higher education, further enhancing the committee's initiative adopted last year. We are very supportive of those provisions included in H.B. 5613 which are applicable to community and technical colleges, as they will be beneficial in continuing the system's efforts to improve the operational efficiencies and effectiveness of our institutions.

AMK:101

Connecticut State University
Central • Eastern • Southern • Western

001028

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P.O. Box 2008, New Britain, Connecticut 06050
Phone: (203) 827-7700
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Public Hearing
March 16, 1992

Dallas K. Beal

(SB160, SB222, HB5613)

Senator Sullivan, Representative Wyman, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system -- a constituent unit comprised of Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities -- and our Board of Trustees, I offer the CSU position on the Hull/Harper Commission's recommendations for the reorganization of higher education, and on other higher education bills being considered by the Education Committee today.

SB 367, AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE COMMISSION TO EFFECT GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION.

While there are elements of SB 367 that we can support, CSU joins our sister constituent units in opposition to this reorganization bill -- the merger of the two largest higher education systems with dissimilar missions into one super unit, the Connecticut State University and College System (CSUCS). We do so not because we oppose change, but rather because we believe any change at a critical juncture in the history of public higher education must be done on educational, not solely economic grounds.

There are a couple of elements of the bill we can support:

- Creation of a coordinating council, comprised of the chief executives and board members of the public systems of higher education for the purpose of implementing further administrative efficiencies in public higher education (Section 3).

- Establishment of an integrated higher education management information system (Section 4) without centralizing computer purchasing nor otherwise reversing the recent flexibility we have been given by Public Act 91-256.

The proposal suggested by Commissioner Andrew DeRocco in consultation with each of the constituent units, and the merger proposal offered by the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges (Senate Bill 258) preserves the best elements of this bill while eliminating undesirable features.

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001031

The Commissioner's role is critical to higher education and consequently should be one that is insulated as much as is humanly possible from politics. Just as there exist governing lay boards of trustees to insulate the constituent unit efforts from partisanship, the Board of Governors also should serve to insulate the Commissioner from such politics. Additionally, the role of the Commissioner is one that should provide continuity beyond the potential limitation of a four-year gubernatorial appointment.

HB 5613, AN ACT CONCERNING FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Connecticut State University has implemented significant efficiencies and realized some cost savings in the short period of time that the original flexibility legislation (Public Act 91-256) has been in effect. It is the most important higher education legislation to have been enacted in recent history. HB 5613 extends this flexibility and accountability further. It enables us to lease real estate, exempts us from the statutes pertaining to surplus property, and it gives us the sole authority to initiate minor capital projects of $50,000 or less.

We support this bill enthusiastically.

In summary, this is not the time to add new administrative burdens nor disrupt an already sorely stressed system by imposing either mandates or reorganization. Let us concentrate our efforts on reducing expenses as required by the budget. In this difficult year, that is quite enough.

Thank you for your attention to the CSU concerns on these very significant bills.

Ed. 3/16

001032 tape 1A page 2 line 6

Testimony

by

Andrew G. De Rocco
Commissioner of Higher Education

before the

Education Committee
March 16, 1992

SB258, SB257, SB160, SB222

Senator Sullivan, Representative Wyman, ladies and gentlemen of the HB5601, HB5613 Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on (HB5105) what appears to be "Higher Education Day" at the Legislative Office Building. Joining me is Dr. Harry Hartley of the University of Connecticut, Dr. Dallas Beal of Connecticut State University, Mr. Andrew McKirdy of the Community-Technical College System, and Dr. Merle Harris of Charter Oak State College. I have submitted copies of my testimony and will briefly summarize the major points. In addition, Mr. William Bevacqua, Chairman of the Board of Governors for Higher Education and other members of the Board are in attendance, testimony to the Board's deep interest in these matters.

SB 367 "AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE COMMISSION TO EFFECT GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION"

I am here this morning to offer you some observations concerning the reorganization of higher education and some recommendations for change within the system in order to achieve the administrative efficiencies and cost savings that we all desire and which must come without detracting from quality.

As the Commission's Task Force on Education and Higher Education conducted it's review, the system of higher education offered an alternate proposal to the two restructuring options that were being considered. The proposal was representative of the collective views of myself, the Board of Governors, and the chief executive officers of the constituent units with the endorsement of their respective Board chairs. The proposal contains a number of the elements embodied in SB 367. This alternate proposal was subsequently sent to all members of the General Assembly and I have attached a copy to my statement.

I will not take the time today to reiterate what is in the attachment, but will highlight those areas we support in an effort to build a system that is both accountable and cost effective.

We would also like to indicate our support for **HB 5601 "AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPUS SAFETY** and **HB 5613 "AN ACT CONCERNING FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION."**

SB 258 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES."

It is important for you to know that the Board of Governors at its meeting tomorrow will receive a report and recommendations from me on such a merger. The impetus both for the piece of legislation before us and for the Board's current merger review in helping with its established criteria is the recommendation made to you and to us by the Board of Trustees for Community and Technical Colleges for a consolidation immediately of the administrative structures of ten institutions into five.

As we all know well, consideration of merger of the five community and five technical colleges jointly located in communities across the state is not new. As short a time ago as 1989, the Board recommended the full merger of these institutions in order to increase responsiveness to state and citizen needs, to achieve a stronger student-centered focus and array of support systems, and to address the need for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the use of state resources. A first and important step toward these goals was the legislative establishment of one Board of Trustees to oversee both community and technical colleges, and to develop system-wide a strategic plan for preserving and enhancing technical education.

Based on the information assembled in our merger review and on the recommendations which I shall make to my Board tomorrow, I support the concept of this legislation. I believe, however, that the Board's deliberations on how to safeguard the interests of technical education, on the one hand, and to implement such a merger on the other, are just as important to relay to you as you consider this legislation as they are to the Board itself before it takes any merger action. I have copies of my report for you, and of course will share with you promptly the results of such Board deliberations.

Did not speak on

001114

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

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Testimony on:

HOUSE BILL 5613 - An Act Concerning Flexibility and Accountability at Public Institutions of Higher Education

SENATE BILL 257 - An Act Concerning Higher Education

HOUSE BILL 5601 - An Act Concerning Campus Safety

Testimony submitted by
Scott Brohinsky
Director, Governmental Relations
University of Connecticut

Before the Education Committee
March 16, 1992

HOUSE BILL 5613 - An Act Concerning Flexibility and Accountability at Public Institutions of Higher Education

The University of Connecticut **supports House Bill 5613.** Its provisions are consistent with the expanded operational responsibility provided by the General Assembly to the public higher education constituent units and institutions last year with the enactment of the "Flexibility Act," Public Act 91-256. UConn would like to highlight some of this bill's provisions and the reasons for supporting them.

Leasing Authority (Section 1): P.A. 91-256 enabled the University of Connecticut Health Center to secure real estate leases for housing offices or equipment with other than general funds. This bill extends such leasing authority to all constituent units without limiting the source of funds. This change is consistent with the creation of constituent unit operating funds which merged general funds and non-general fund sources.

Construction, Repairs or Alterations to Higher Education Facilities (Section 3): This provision grants to constituent units the authority to contract for construction, repairs and alterations which exceed $50,000 without the approval of the Department of Public Works. This authority currently exists for the Office of the Chief Court Administrator and is consistent with the expanded authority for facility improvements granted to the constituent units in Public Act 91-256 and Public Act 91-230.

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Repeal of Duplicative Provision (Section 4): Subsection (d) of Section 10a-42 provides the constituent units with the authority to purchase public safety and emergency vehicles and equipment. Public Act 91-256 provided the constituent units with broad purchasing authority which encompassed the purchase of such vehicles and equipment, thereby making the more limited authority of subsection (d) unnecessary.

Direct Purchasing Authority (Section 6): This provision specifies that the approval of the Comptroller is not required for a constituent unit to exercise the purchasing authority established in Public Act 91-256. Without the amendment, the Comptroller will still be required to sign and send all purchase orders for the constituent units to each unit's vendors. Such action by the Comptroller is unnecessary as a result of the purchasing authority granted to the units pursuant to Public Act 91-256.

Health Center Finance Corporation (Sections 7 through 11): These provisions rename the John Dempsey Hospital Finance Corporation, the University of Connecticut Health Center Finance Corporation and enable Uncas-on-Thames Hospital to access the benefits which the Dempsey Hospital receives under the Finance Corporation's authority. The Health Center is providing a more detailed statement of support.

SENATE BILL 257 - An Act Concerning Higher Education

The University of Connecticut supports the provision included in Section 15 of Senate Bill 257 which eliminates duplicative accreditation processes. The amended language (lines 564-568) requires the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to accept regional or national accreditation in lieu of the Department's own accreditation. DHE accreditation would be limited to those cases where the Department had a reasonable basis not to rely on the regional or national accreditation. The University of Connecticut supports the elimination of duplicative accreditations, particularly during this period of limited resources.

HOUSE BILL 5601 - An Act Concerning Campus Safety

This bill requires each institution of higher education to include a policy statement regarding sexual harassment as part of its security policies and procedures, as required by Section 10a-55c of the General Statutes. The University of Connecticut already complies with the provisions of the bill. The "President's Policy On Harassment" contains provisions specific to sexual harassment, including defining the term, providing examples and establishing procedures for the receipt of sexual harassment complaints. The policy also includes a provision for reporting alleged crimes to the University of Connecticut Police Department.

001116 didn't speak

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER

March 16, 1992

OFFICE OF
THE VICE PRESIDENT &
PROVOST FOR
HEALTH AFFAIRS &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tel: (203) 679-1111

TO: Members of the Education Committee

FROM: Leslie S. Cutler
Interim Vice President and Provost for Health Affairs and Executive Director

RE: Raised Bill #5613

Senator Sullivan, Representative Wyman and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment briefly in support of this bill.

The most important portion of this bill in terms of the economic health of the Health Center is contained in sections 7-11. These sections would change the name of the John Dempsey Hospital Finance Corporation to the University of Connecticut Health Center Finance Corporation and include Uncas on Thames Hospital in the new entity. The flexibilities, efficiencies and cost reductions afforded to the Dempsey by the Finance Corporation in areas such as purchasing, contracting and leasing have saved millions of dollars since 1987. These benefits are well documented and have allowed the Dempsey to be more competitive in the difficult health care environment. We now wish, through this legislation, to extend those flexibility benefits to Uncas. Almost all the methods and procedures of operation would remain unchanged as well as the complete accountability for its actions that exists now. Since the new finance corporation would include more than the Dempsey, the name change is appropriate.

For your information, there is a companion effort going on simultaneously. Section 10A-257 permits the existing Finance Corporation to include related outpatient practices (i.e., University Physicians and University Dentists) with the permission of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. This request has been made, and we are optimistic that permission will be granted soon. If this legislation is passed and the Secretary's permission is granted, all of the Health Center's clinical entities will be under a single finance corporation and in a dramatically improved competitive position.

In addition, Section 3 makes an important revision to an impractical existing statute. Currently, the Department of Public Works' permission is needed for any State agency to make any repairs, alteration or addition, regardless of cost. Full compliance would inundate DPW with hundreds (if not thousands) of requests from all State agencies each month. This legislation allows the constituent units of Higher Education to enter into contracts for construction, repairs and alterations on their own, without DPW permission, up to a limit of $50,000, a very practical amount in the current environment.

If you have any questions or wish additional documentation, I will be happy to provide anything you need.

Thank you.