

PA13-137

HB6364

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT
PART 1
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**2013
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Office of Higher Education

Testimony
by
Jane A. Ciarleglio
Executive Director
before the
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
1:30 p.m. – LOB Room 1E
February 14, 2013

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 200 - AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION. We appreciate your support of this legislation with the addition of the substitute language, which we understand you have copies of from LCO, and your willingness to fast-track this legislation on behalf of the students.

SB 200 allows the Office of Higher Education to issue certificates to the students who were affected by the unauthorized closings of the Butler Business School in Bridgeport and the Sawyer Schools in Hamden and Hartford. These certificates will be given to students in the following categories:

1. Students who finished both their didactic and externship portions of the program and were simply waiting for the graduation ceremony to pick up their certificates.
2. Students who have successfully completed their didactic course of study at the school and are currently in the (180 hour) externship phase of the program.
3. Students that are very close to the end of their externship (40 hours or less). The Office of Higher Education may supervise these students in order for them to complete their externship.

HB 6365SB 850HB 5423HB 6364

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the following bills:

Senate Bill 850 - AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT AID TO PUBLIC

COLLEGE STUDENTS makes a technical change to Section 10a-164a for the Connecticut Aid to Public College Students (CAPCS) program. When the Board of Regents was created in 2011, this section was changed to replace references to the Board of Governors with the Board of Regents. This change allows the Office of Higher Education to request funding for CAPCS, which is in its budget. In addition, it allows the Office to develop and implement the allocation formula for CAPCS. The latter change is requested to eliminate any conflict of interest.

House Bill 5423 - AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE

HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES In Section 4, it repeals obsolete language in Section 10a-10 of the general statutes by making the technical change to the Office of Higher Education where it currently resides after the reorganization of higher education.

House Bill 6364 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF QUARTERLY

REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION changes all statutory references to the receipt of quarterly reports from the constituent units of higher education to include the Office of Higher Education as a recipient as well as the Appropriations Committee and the Office of Policy and Management. The Office of Higher Education uses this financial information in the calculation of student financial aid and in various reports, including the System Trends Report. This request clarifies and formalizes the distribution.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

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Is there objection? Is there objection?

Hearing none, the bills are referred to the committees, as indicated.

REP. CANDELARIA (95th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 54.

THE CLERK:

On Page 6, Calendar Number 54, Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, House Bill 6364, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Madam Speaker, nice to see you again; it's been a long time.

I move for acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Representative Willis, you have the floor.

mhr/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 10, 2013

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you, madam.

This bill adds the Office of Higher Education in the quarterly financial reporting process of actual list expenditures of our colleges. The reports must be submitted to the Office of Higher Education, from the constituent units of Higher Ed, which includes UConn, formerly the University of Connecticut; the UConn Health Center; and the Board of Regents, which covers our state universities and our community colleges and Charter Oak College. Presently, the reports are only submitted to the Office of Policy and Management, and the Appropriations Committee. I urge passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on this bill? Will you remark further on this bill?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Will the members please take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

House of Representatives is voting by roll. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will the members return to the Chamber, immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to see that their votes are properly cast?

Are we good? If all the members are voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, Bill Number 6364.

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill passes.

(DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER IN THE CHAIR.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Will the Clerk please call -- will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 50.

THE CLERK:

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**CONNECTICUT
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Will you remark, Senator Witkos?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

You know, I -- I do have a question. Through you, Madam President, to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS:

I was a few years ago when I was elected to the Senate, I had the opportunity to represent one of my district towns who had a technical high school in it. It was the Oliver Wolcott Technical High School up in Torrington.

And I visited the school and saw one of the programs there, and one of the programs they have, which it was the beauty program, where the young ladies come in to learn about beauty school, I guess, if you will, and work towards a beautician license. And, you know, that school in particular has a waiting list of kids to get into it, and that's the type of things I would really hope that we could promote and I'm hoping that this bill goes in line with that.

But so my question through you, Madam President, to Senator Gerratana is is there any relationship between what we're attempting to do through the feasibility study here and what is being conducted at the technical high schools, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

I'd like to respond in this way, Senator Witkos. I know that this bill has been before us or variations of it for at least two years that I'm aware of. And there were so many challenges, and those questions were asked actually to us in the committee, and there seemed to be opinions all over the place, if you will, which is one of the reasons why we decided to go in this way.

One of the challenges, as I understood it, from the testimony that was given, is that in -- I think it was in 2010 we changed our licensure with barbers to make them master barbers, and that is a little more rigid and arduous course, if you will.

So my understanding is that now it takes somewhere around two years or so to go for that master barber once you have, you know, gone through the program and have to go to your school, similar to the hairdressing school and so forth. There are a number that both technical schools as well as what I recall commercial or private industry schools.

So because of that there was a request from a number of individuals saying, well, why couldn't we have, for instance, a work study so that this would cut down a little bit on the time and also provide, if you will, some way to make some money, to earn some money while you're going to school.

Because of the changes that were made in licensure laws, I understand it, back in that day, that many people came before us, as I said, gave testimony, and we decided this was the first step to look at. And if you look at the criteria establishing a barber shop apprentice program, we haven't even gotten to the point of establishing it, but to discuss it.

And then the time period needed to establish such a program, as well as the educational and professional

experience requirements for apprentices. These were identified as some of the challenges in the testimony that was given, so we thought in the Public Health Committee that this would be a very appropriate way to approach it.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator Gerratana, for that answer.

And I applaud the Public Health Committee for bringing the bill forward, and you know, anything we can do to open up more doors for opportunities for our young folks to not only earn a little income to pay for their schooling, but open up a whole nother career field for them is the way to go.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you a question to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you to Senator Gerratana, the House A removes the executive director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. A, why is that? And B, because wasn't it brought to us by the Latino community to begin with because this was an issue in some of the -- the urban areas that -- that have this problem, if you will, through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you. Senator Kane, I think there was some discussion along with the director of the Puerto Rican and Latino Commission and that there was agreement that this would be the first step to be taken. It's not just for, if you will, Latinos in our community, but for anyone who would like to eventually go on and become a barber, I guess, through whatever program may or may not be established through the legislation in this bill.

So I think the discussion in the house, and I think the reason why one particular person or participation was removed was because there was agreement that it was far more general.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Is it really though? Is it really far more general? I -- my understanding is the issue came out of, I believe, Waterbury, where there were local barber shops that were going to be shut down because they

didn't have the proper licensing, and this was a way to get those barber shops licensed through the process. They were -- they were going to be shut down immediately or entirely, and this was a way to get them to be regulated, and through the process.

So if I remember correctly, the whole idea came from that community, and from the issue they were having, so I'm curious. I do believe, and you can correct me if I'm wrong, but the discussion in committee was in relation to that specific community. So when did it become more general, I guess, is the question. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Through you, Madam President.

Yes, you're absolutely right, Senator Kane. I do recall the gentleman who testified from our committee -- in front of our committee from Waterbury. And that is absolutely right, and they just happen to be people that are Latino.

But I believe and I don't want to speak for the House, my co chair, who made this decision, but I believe the reason why the establishment of this feasibility study was left to the individuals, or I should say, the agencies that are in here, because we we needed to start somewhere, if you will, and it seemed very appropriate to make it general, first of all, and then also to have those agencies that would be involved make their recommendation. This is not the be all end all, this is the first step, if you will.

Madam President

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

The -- well, let me take a step back. Madam President, is it a study, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Through you, Madam President.

It says on line 4 study the feasibility of establishing a barber shop apprentice program.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you.

I just wanted to clarify that. And the study will be done by whom? Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

The language says that it would be under the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council, in consultation with the Public Health and also within -- to establish this program within the Labor Department.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so there -- on this apprenticeship panel, is there anyone from the Puerto Rican or Latino community serving on this, or we'll have participation in it.

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Through you, Madam President.

That I do not know who is on that council.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Okay. You know, I do support the underlying bill, and I do support the concept. What I question is the necessity of the House, I guess, to make it more generalized. Because my understanding it was -- it was not. And I don't want to see this community not be serviced or not be represented in this legislation, because that's where the issue came from.

It came from a situation in Waterbury where there were members of the Latino community who were going to be shut down, entrepreneurs that opened their own businesses and for lack of whether it be understanding of the terminology or understanding of the process or what have you, were being shut out.

And I guess through you to Senator Gerratana, maybe just for legislative intent, if you could help me in that regard and ease my mind that that will not be the case, that we won't just paint this program with one

single brush, yet we will look at this situation still because I think it's very important. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President, through you.

This is applicable to everyone, but I know that -- I believe that -- let's put it that way, that by everyone that would mean all the different concerns of the groups of people and individuals who would like to become barbers through perhaps a barber shop apprenticeship program would be able to do so.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I will support the bill, and I thank Senator Gerratana for her answers. But I am a little concerned that the Latino and Puerto Rico Affairs Commission from the legislation.

Through you, thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Linares.

Good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR LINARES:

Good afternoon, Madam President.

I stand in strong support of this bill, and would like to take a moment to congratulate the advocates of this bill. I know that this was a very important policy for the Black and Latino caucus, of which I am a member, and I think that the bill is a win-win, not only for businesses, but also for young people in the State of Connecticut who we are having a difficulty in retaining.

We want young people to live here. We want young people to have opportunities here, and I think this bill does just that. I am in support. I ask -- urge my colleagues to support this bill as well. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

If there is no objection, I ask this item be placed on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 5, Calendar 341, House Bill Number 6364, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Good afternoon, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on passage -- as acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

This is a technical change. Some of the changes we're making since consolidation to get all the reporting requirements in place. This bill simply says that the Office of Higher Education will receive the annual reports about operating funds from the community colleges, the state universities, Charter Oak and the University of Connecticut.

Thank you, Madam President.

I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I rise to support the bill. It does exactly what was just stated by the Chair of the

Higher Education Committee, and I urge passage as well. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Madam President, if there's no objection, I ask that this item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Also on page 5, Calendar 343, House Bill Number 5425, AN ACT ALLOWING ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBERS OF CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE TO WAIVE MEMBERSHIP AND A STATE RETIREMENT PLAN. Favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Well, thank you, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

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Calendar page 29, Calendar 653, substitute for House Bill Number 6699. And, finally, Madam President, on Calendar page 31, Calendar 664, substitute for House Bill Number 6689.

I would like to add those items to our Consent Calendar and, and now call for a, I would ask the Clerk to list all of the items on the Consent Calendar and then proceed to a vote on that first Consent Calendar.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Today's first Consent Calendar, on page 5, Calendar 341, House Bill 6364; Calendar 343, House Bill 5425; Calendar 346, House Bill 6322; Calendar 347, House Bill 6547; and on page 6, Calendar 349, House Bill 5513; page 9, Calendar 450, Senate Bill 921; on page 13, Calendar 506, House Bill 6491; Calendar 515, House Bill 6235.

On page 14, Calendar 524, House Bill 6380; on page 16, Calendar 559, House Bill 6508; page 17, Calendar 563, House Bill 5617; Calendar 569, House Bill 6485; and on page 19, Calendar 588, House Bill 6549; on page 23, Calendar 614, House Bill 6587; Calendar 616, House Bill 6678; page 25, Calendar 629, House Bill 6662; on page 26, Calendar 633, House Bill 6576; and on page 27, Calendar 640, House Bill 6550; on page 28, Calendar 650, House Bill 6659.

And on Page 29, Calendar 653, House Bill 6699; Calendar 655, House Bill 6339; page 31, Calendar 664, House Bill 6689; Calendar 665, House Bill 6355; page 34, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 911; and on page 40, Calendar 514, House Bill 5725.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the first Consent Calendar. And the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call in the Senate on the first Consent Calendar of the day.

THE CHAIR:

Yeah, thank you. Good. There we go.

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the first Consent Calendar,

Total Number Voting 34

Necessary for Adoption 18

Those voting Yea 34

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.