

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

## PA 16-155

SB26

Senate 1243, 1362-1363 3

Higher Education & Employment 234-236 3

House Transcripts have not been received. They are available on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House Clerk for assistance (860) 240-0400 6

**Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings**

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2016**

**VOL. 59  
PART 4  
1033 - 1367**

On calendar page 4, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 120,  
I'd like to mark that item go and place that item on  
our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 33,  
Calendar 90, Senate Bill 101, I'd like to place that  
item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 33,  
Calendar 116, Senate Bill 26, I'd like to mark that  
item go and place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 11,  
Calendar 354, Senate Bill 214, I'd like to mark that  
item go and place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, will the clerk please call the items on our Consent Calendar for a vote, immediately following?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. We'll give you a moment. Get the bills in order.

THE CLERK:

On page 1, Calendar 459, House Joint Resolution Number 173, page 2, Calendar 460, House Joint Resolution Number 174. Also on page 2, Calendar 461, House Joint Resolution Number 175; and House Joint Resolution 176. Page 4, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 120. Page 6, Calendar 266, Senate Bill 343. On page 9, Calendar 329, Senate Bill 417. Page 10, Calendar 347, Senate Bill 342. Page 11, Calendar 354, Senate Bill 214 and Senate Bill 255. Page 22, Calendar 446, House Bill 5428. On page 33, Calendar 90, Senate Bill 101, Page 33, Calendar 116, Senate Bill 26. Page 33, Calendar 88, Senate Bill 115 and also on page 33, Calendar 115, Senate Bill 25. Page 39, Calendar 282, Senate Bill 305. Page 40, Calendar 291, Senate Bill 348, and on page 41, Calendar 348, Senate Bill 295.

THE CHAIR:

This time, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

cf  
SENATE

276  
April 27, 2016

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate  
on today's Consent Calendar. Immediate Roll Call  
has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kennedy.

All members have voted, all members have voted. The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Gerratana for any personal announcements or privileges.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

For purposes of an announcement, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND  
EMPLOYMENT  
ADVANCEMENT  
PART 1  
1 - 503**

**2016  
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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Office of Higher Education

Testimony

by

Jane A. Ciarleglio

Executive Director, Office of Higher Education

before the

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

February 25, 2016

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis, Senator Flexer, Representative Lopes, Senator Witkos, Representative Betts, and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding S.B. No. 26 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS. Last year, a nearly-identical bill unanimously passed the House but did not make it to the floor of the Senate.

As you are aware, one of the responsibilities of the Office of Higher Education is the regulatory oversight of private occupational schools and the protection of students enrolled in those schools in accordance with the statutes enacted by you. Through our day-to-day interaction with school officials, we are constantly seeking to improve our role, both as a consumer protection agency for students and as a facilitator of compliance for Connecticut's private occupational school community.

This bill seeks to improve those protections. Included in this bill are small logistical and efficiency changes to the way schools are approved, including provisions allowing the Office of Higher Education to (1) verify rent or mortgage payments are current to ensure school fiscal stability, (2) offer a small stipend to curriculum specialists to assist the Office with program reviews, as we currently rely on volunteers that must take time off from work and do not get paid, and (3) clarify timeframes regarding the assembly of review teams, schools' responses to

evaluation visit findings, and notification of changes such as the opening of a new branch campus. Further, in the event a school closes without following Connecticut law, this bill allows the Office to facilitate a teach-out of students utilizing the letter of credit provided by the school when it first opened to arrange for program completion and the issuance of certificates of completion, allowing graduates to enter the workforce with minimal disruption.

In addition, the bill changes the nomenclature used in the law when referring to these schools. "Postsecondary career school" is now the mandated language used by the Code of Federal Regulations, and including this new term in Connecticut law will ensure that those schools that participate in federal financial aid programs may continue to do so without interruption.

The sole addition to the 2015 version of this bill appears in Section 1. Among the types of training overseen by the Office of Higher Education are schools based at Connecticut hospitals. These schools' program offerings are subject to the review and approval of an authorized accreditor in much the same way that accredited occupational schools are. Current law allows the Office to accept this accreditation for occupational schools in lieu of a lengthy review by my staff, and this new provision allows the Office to accept programmatic accreditation for hospital based-programs in a similar fashion, at the discretion of the Office.

Before I conclude my comments, I would like to make a suggestion regarding the language of this bill. As you will recall, the Office of Higher Education gained oversight of hairdressing and barbering schools in 2013 pursuant to a statutory change. Many of these schools are very small, and enroll only a few students per year. The law currently requires that all schools submit, on an annual basis, reviewed or audited financial statements to our office for analysis of fiscal stability. However, in the case of hairdressing and barbering schools without



accreditation and fewer than ten (10) students enrolled per year, submitting compiled statements instead would save these schools an expense while still providing the information necessary to ensure that the school is appropriately funded and the school is protected. No distinction currently exists.

Thank you.