

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 16-15

SB273

Senate	582, 649-650	3
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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		9

**Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public
Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

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SENATE

000582

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April 19, 2016

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar page 3, Calendar 113, Senate Bill 189, I'd like to mark that item as Go and also place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 3, Calendar 117, Senate Bill 273, I'd like to mark that item as Go and place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar page 4, Calendar 121, Senate Bill 147, I'd like to mark that as Go.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no, okay sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

THE CLERK:

On page 1, Calendar 395, House Joint Resolution number 169.

Page 1 Calendar 396, House Joint Resolution number 170.

Page 2, Calendar 67, Senate Bill 181.

Page 3, Calendar 89, Senate Bill 135.

Also on page 3, Calendar 113, Senate Bill 189.

Page 3, Calendar 117, Senate Bill 273.

Also on page 3, Calendar 84, Senate Bill 185.

Page 6, Calendar 159, Senate Bill number 309.

Page 7, Calendar 166, Senate Bill 218.

On page 9, Calendar 206, Senate Bill 220.

Page 13, Calendar 273, Senate Bill 219.

On page 18, Calendar 321, Senate Bill 87.

Page 22, Calendar 366, Senate Bill 334.

Page 34, Calendar 93, Senate Bill 211.

On page 35, Calendar 142, Senate Bill 127.

Page 38, Calendar 241, Senate Bill number 249.

THE CHAIR:

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SENATE

April 19, 2016

The Consent Calendar is before the Chamber. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call on the first Consent Calendar for today has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Members please check the board to see that your vote has been properly recorded. If all members have voted and all votes have been properly recorded, the machine will be locked. Would the Clerk please take a tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's, the first Consent Calendar for today,

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar is passed. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. If we could just stand at ease for a moment.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

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

**2016
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people that on the Higher Education Committee we do give preference to students so for those of you who are not a student you could be bumped for a student. Be forewarned. With that, the first person up is President Mark Ojakian.

MARK OJAKIAN: Good morning Representative Willis and Senator Bartolomeo and I would always be happy to be bumped by a student so put that on the record. What they have to say usually is much more important than what I have to say. (Laughter). I gave you an opening Representative. You can have driven a truck through that one.

SB147
SB213

Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, for the record my name is Mark Ojakian and I am the President of the Connecticut state colleges and universities. I am here to testify briefly on 3 bills before you this morning. The first is House Bill 5376 - AN ACT CONFIRMING AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT.

I am here this morning to strongly urge the committee to support this bill which brings a standard definition of affirmative consent to all of our state's institutions of higher education. Nearly 22 million women and 1.6 million men report having been sexually assaulted in their lives. A 2014 White House report highlighted the prevalence of sexual assault on our college campuses with one in five female students assaulted while only one in eight reported. This has a devastating impact on the lives of students who are survivors of these assaults. We are united at the CSCU system to improve the prevention, education, response and support services available. Further still, we are committed to not just providing a safe campus but in

appropriations. While the cost of this program to the state maybe hard to bear at this time, the human cost of this lack of access is even greater. I urge you once again to support this important piece of legislation.

We have been meeting with groups representing undocumented students to try to work together to resolve this critical issue. Educating residents is part of our core services in making sure it is accessible to all residents is our philosophy. We welcome the opportunity to continue this discussion with these groups and the legislature to find the best way forward on this issue. Furthermore, allowing more students access to our schools also has the potential to increase our enrollment which as you know has not been increasing in recent years and I'm a big believer in you set the goal and you figure out a way to get there. This is good public policy and together I think we can figure out the best way to achieve that policy.

The final bill is a technical bill, Senate Bill 273 - AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES and what this basically does is make technical changes to our enabling statutes to reflect current practices and policies at the CSCU system. The provision enables us to clearly distinguish the collective system of 17 institutions which are the Connecticut state colleges and universities from its governing board, the Board of Regions for Higher Education.

Over the years, there has been some confusion about the Board of Regions' title and how it specifically applies to our system. For example, currently under the statutes, I'm the President of Board of Regions

when I should be the President of the Connecticut State Colleges and University System and this basically just looks to make those changes in our enabling statutes.

So thank you very much for this opportunity to appear before you this morning and as always I'm happy to entertain any questions you might have.

REP. WILLIS (64TH): Thank you very much President Ojakian. I agree with you on 273. I think it is confusing your title and I think that by separating out the Board of Regions from the CSCU in designating, you know, in title would really help people I think more clearly see, see the difference between your position and that of the Chairman of the Board --

MARK OJAKIAN: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS (64TH): -- Board of Regions. The one question, obviously this is Senate Bill 147 dealing with students without legal immigration status. I'm interested in the part of your testimony which is, is new for us in that the example you cite of Texas having to come up with their own alternative FAFSA form. When you say there isn't the funding, the funding is that for the Board of Regions or is that the funding for the Office of Higher Ed because they would have to, would they be the ones establishing the form?

MARK OJAKIAN: I think, I think we would work probably through the, through the Board to establish the form but it's not just establishing the form. It's also then implementing it on each, on each campus so it would be a separate form that would

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT
PART 2
504 - 851**

2016



Testimony of Mark E. Ojakian
President
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
Before the Higher Education and
Employment Advancement Committee
March 1, 2016

SB 147
SB 273

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis, Senator Witkos, Representative Betts and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of three bills of significance to the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system. For the record, my name is Mark Ojakian, and I am the President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system.

HB 5376 AN ACT CONCERNING AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT:

I strongly urge the Committee to support this bill, which brings a standard definition of affirmative consent to all of our state's institutions of higher education.

Nearly 22 million women and 1.6 million men report having been assaulted in their lives. A 2014 White House Report highlighted the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses, with one in five female students assaulted, while only one in eight report it. This has a devastating impact on the lives of students who are survivors of these assaults. We are united as a CSCU system to improve prevention, education, response, and support services. Further still, we are committed to not just providing a safe campus, but in fostering a campus culture that actively acknowledges and confronts the realities of rape, sexual assault and intimate partner violence on our campuses and in our communities.

In September of last year, we were notified by the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women that we received the largest grant to date funded by this office to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus. The SAFE grant, which is approximately \$800,000 dollars, will allow us to continue our efforts in establishing a system-wide infrastructure to maintain an accurate inventory of resources, policies and procedures, and training opportunities. In addition, it will enable us to collect and implement best and promising practices that will build capacity at the CSCU institutions to effectively implement initiatives that reduce sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on campuses. The project will allow a scaling up of our current efforts for prevention and awareness, and promote consistent messaging, including through social media. These resources allow us to adopt a uniform approach on all of our campuses with an emphasis on prevention, training and reporting.

The true injustice of this is because a portion of all tuition that students pay is dedicated towards institutional aid; undocumented students are paying into a fund to which they have no access. These students are not asking for a hand out, they are asking to access a service for which they are currently paying. Because they do not have access to federal financial aid like Pell Grants, institutional aid is in many ways the only aid that is available to them.

Several states, including California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington, have all enacted similar policies to open up their financial aid to undocumented students. These states tried various models. For example, in Texas they created a FAFSA alternative that undocumented students filled out to determine their level of need. Unfortunately, in each of these states, there was a start-up cost to develop these programs and the increased workload on financial aid offices. In each of these states, funding was appropriated by their legislatures to cover these initial costs. We are asking the General Assembly to do the same should this bill move forward.

In a year that we are facing layoffs and budget cuts, it would be extremely difficult to absorb the costs of this new initiative within available appropriations. While the cost of this program to the state may be hard to bear at this time, the human costs of this lack of access is even greater. I urge you again to support this important piece of legislation.

We have been meeting with groups representing undocumented students to try to work together to resolve this critical issue. Educating our residents is part of our core services, and making sure it is accessible to all residents is our philosophy. We welcome the opportunity to continue this discussion with those groups and the legislature to find the best way forward on this issue. Furthermore, allowing more students access to our schools has the potential to increase our enrollment which is a net positive for everyone.

SB 273 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES:

While this bill is not as impactful to our students as the previous two bills that I have already testified on today, it is still an important piece of legislation to our system, and I urge your support. This bill makes technical changes to our enabling statutes to reflect current practices and policies at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system.

This provision enables us to clearly distinguish the collective system of 17 institutions, which are the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, from its governing board, the Board of Regents for Higher Education. Over the years there has been some confusion about the Board of Regents title and how it specifically applies to our system.

For instance, currently by statute I am the President of the Board of Regents for Higher Education. Nicholas Donofrio is the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

While my title is President of the Board of Regents, I serve as the president of our system of 17 higher education institutions. My responsibilities include, among things, building interdependent support and facilitation of cooperative synergy between the 17 institutions that comprise the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system.

Chairman Donofrio serves as the leader of the Board of Regents, the governing board which oversees our system and establishes its policies.

The legislation before you today seeks to put into statute the reality of our titles, our responsibilities, and our current practices. This changes my title from President of the Board of Regents for Higher Education to President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, and makes conforming changes to this effect through the rest of our enabling statutes.

I want to thank this Committee again for raising these important bills for our students and our system, and urge your support for them. I welcome any questions that you have for me at this time.