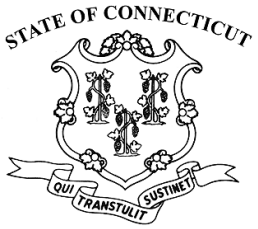

Senate Bill No. 1114

Public Act No. 25-21

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4-124z of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Not later than January 1, 2022, and as necessary thereafter, the board of the Technical Education and Career System, in consultation with the Chief Workforce Officer, the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development, Education and Social Services, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and one member of industry representing each of the economic clusters identified by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development pursuant to section 32-1m shall (1) review, evaluate and, as necessary, recommend improvements for certification and degree programs offered by the Technical Education and Career System and the community-technical college system to ensure that such programs meet the employment needs of business and industry, (2) develop strategies to strengthen the linkage between skill standards for

education and training and the employment needs of business and industry, (3) assess the unmet demand from employers in the state to hire graduates of trade programs from technical education and career schools and the unmet demand from students in the state to enroll in a trade program at a technical education and career school, and (4) assess opportunities to increase utilization of technical education and career schools during **[**after school**]** after-school hours and on weekends.

Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 4-124ff of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) There is established a Council of Advisors on Strategies for the Knowledge Economy to promote the formation of university-industry partnerships, identify benchmarks for technology-based workforce innovation and competitiveness and advise the award process for (1) **[**for**]** innovation challenge grants to public postsecondary schools and their business partners, and (2) grants under section 4-124hh. The council shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and shall include the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the Labor Commissioner, the Chief Workforce Officer, the chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated and four representatives from the technology industry, one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There is established the Early Childhood Cabinet. The cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee, (4) the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the chancellor's designee, (5) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity or the executive director's designee, (9) the project director of the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a parent or guardian of a child who attends or attended a school readiness program appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, (11) a representative of a local provider of early childhood education appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, (13) a representative of a state-funded child care center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a member of a board of education for a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, and one of whom is a parent who has a child attending a school in an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of an association of early education and child care providers and one of whom is a representative of a public elementary school with a prekindergarten program, (16) ten appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Head Start Association, one of whom is a representative of the business community in this state, one of whom is a representative of the philanthropic community in this state, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut State Employees

Association, one of whom is an administrator of the child care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, one of whom is responsible for administering grants received under **[**section**]** Section 1419 of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1419, as amended from time to time, one of whom is responsible for administering the provisions of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq., one of whom is responsible for coordinating education services to children and youth who are homeless, one of whom is a licensed family child care home provider and a member of a staffed family child care network identified by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, and one of whom is a parent recommended by a parent advisory group that has been appointed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, (17) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, (18) the Lieutenant Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's designee, (19) the Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee, and (20) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee.

Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-220q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall notify each student enrolled in his or her final year of high school, and the parent or guardian of such student, whether such student may be admitted to at least one participating institution under the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program based on the academic threshold established by such institution pursuant to subsection (e) of section 10a-11h.

Sec. 5. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-233d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(3) Unless an emergency exists, no pupil shall be expelled without a formal hearing held pursuant to sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, and section 4-181a, provided whenever such pupil is a minor, the notice required by section 4-177 and section 4-180 shall also be given to the **[**parents**]** parent or guardian of the pupil at least five business days before such hearing, not including the day of such hearing. If an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The notice shall include information concerning the parent's or guardian's and the pupil's legal rights and concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services. An attorney or other advocate may represent any pupil subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent or guardian of the pupil shall have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-239e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The demonstration board shall authorize the parents or legal guardian of scholarship recipients to use the demonstration scholarships at any public or private school in which the scholarship recipient is enrolled provided such public or private school: (1) Meets all educational, fiscal, health and safety standards required by law, (2) does not discriminate against the admission of students and the hiring of teachers on the basis of race, color or economic status and has filed a certificate with the State Board of Education that the school is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) in no case levies or requires any tuition, fee or charge above the value of the education scholarship, (4) is free from sectarian control or influence except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, (5) provides public

access to all financial and administrative records and provides to the parent or guardian of each eligible child in the demonstration area comprehensive information, in written form, on the courses of study offered, curriculum, materials and textbooks, the qualifications of teachers, administrators and paraeducators, the minimum school day, the salary schedules, financial reports of money spent per pupil and such other information as may be required by the demonstration board, (6) provides periodic reports to the parents or legal guardians on the average progress of the pupils enrolled, and (7) meets any additional requirements established for all participating schools by the demonstration board.

Sec. 7. Subsection (d) of section 10a-35b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, each regional workforce development board, community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885, institution of higher education, private career school, provider of an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of Education **[**,**]** and provider of a training program listed on the Labor Department's Eligible Training Provider List shall submit information, in the form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Higher Education, about any credential offered by such institution, school or provider for inclusion in the database created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Such information shall include, but need not be limited to, the data described in subdivisions (1) to (12), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, except an institution of higher education may omit the data required pursuant to subdivisions (6), (9) and (10) of subsection (b) of this section if such data is not applicable to a credential offered by such institution.

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10a-104 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

2025):

(a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall: (1) Make rules for the government of the university and shall determine the general policies of the university, including those concerning the admission of students and the establishment of schools, colleges, divisions and departments, which policies shall be consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and shall direct the expenditure of the university's funds within the amounts available; (2) develop the mission statement for The University of Connecticut, and all campuses thereof, that shall be consistent with such goals and include, but not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational needs of and constituencies served by said university and campuses; (B) the degrees offered by said university; and (C) the role and scope of each institution and campus within the university system, which shall include each institution's and campus' particular strengths and specialties; (3) establish policies for the university system and for the individual institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (4) review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new academic programs; (5) report all new programs and program changes to the Office of Higher Education; (6) make recommendations, when appropriate, regarding institutional or campus mergers or closures; (7) coordinate the programs and services of the institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (8) be authorized to enter into agreements, consistent with the provisions of section 5-141d, to save harmless and indemnify sponsors of research grants to The University of Connecticut, provided such an agreement is required to receive the grant and limits liability to damages or injury resulting from acts or omissions related to such research by employees of the university; (9) promote fund-raising to assist the university and report to the Commissioner of Higher Education and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education by January 1, 1994, and biennially thereafter, on such fund-raising; (10) charge the direct costs for a building project

under its jurisdiction to the bond fund account for such project, provided (A) such costs are charged in accordance with a procedure approved by the Treasurer, and (B) nothing in this subdivision shall permit the charging of working capital costs, as defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, or costs originally paid from sources other than the bond fund account; (11) exercise the powers delegated to it pursuant to section 10a-109d; and (12) establish by October 1, 1997, policies governing the acceptance of gifts made by a foundation established pursuant to sections 4-37e and 4-37f to the university or its employees for reimbursement of expenditures or payment of expenditures on behalf of the university or its employees.

Sec. 9. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10a-109f of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The university may, when directed by vote of its board of trustees, borrow money and enter into financing transactions proceedings in anticipation of assured revenues, project revenues or other funding sources in the name of the university, on behalf of the state, and issue securities in connection with such proceedings, as follows: (1) To finance the cost of UConn 2000 or any one project thereof, or more than one, or any combination of projects thereof; (2) to refund securities issued pursuant to sections 10a-109a to 10a-109y, inclusive; and (3) to refund any such refunding borrowings. All securities issued in connection with assured revenues, project revenues **[**,**]** or other funding sources financing transaction proceedings entered into pursuant to this section shall be authorized by a resolution approved by not less than a majority vote of its board of trustees. Nothing in this subsection shall increase the annual or aggregate cap on the amount of securities the special debt service requirements of which are secured by the state debt service

commitment pursuant to section 10a-109g.

(b) The board of trustees shall submit each resolution for the issuance of securities, approved pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to the Governor accompanied by a summary report of the estimated total completion costs of projects that will not be completed within the issuance which is the subject of the resolution. The Governor may, not later than thirty days after such submission, disapprove such resolution by notifying the board in writing of his disapproval and the reasons for it. If the Governor does not act within such thirty-day period, the resolution is deemed approved.

Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 20-281c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) **[**Good character**]** "Good character", for purposes of this section, means lack of a history of dishonest or felonious acts. The board may refuse to grant a certificate on the grounds of failure to satisfy this requirement only if there is a substantial connection between the lack of good character of the applicant and the professional responsibilities of a licensee and if the finding by the board of lack of good character is supported by clear and convincing evidence, and when based upon the prior conviction of a crime, is in accordance with the provisions of section 46a-80. When an applicant is found to be unqualified for a certificate because of a finding of lack of good character, the board shall furnish the applicant a statement containing the findings of the board and a complete record of the evidence upon which the determination was based.

Sec. 11. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(2) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate (A) prior to July 1, 2023, shall expire on or before twenty-four months after the date on which such license was issued, and **[**,**]** (B) on or after July 1, 2023, shall expire on or before twelve months after the date on which such license was issued. Such license may be renewed not more than two times if issued prior to July 1, 2023, and not more than three times if issued on or after July 1, 2023, for twelve months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist associate applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having satisfied the continuing education requirements prescribed in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 12. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 31-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(g) (1) Notwithstanding any of the information disclosure provisions of this section, the administrator shall disclose information obtained pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to: (A) A regional workforce development board, established pursuant to section 31-3k, to the extent necessary for the effective administration of the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Program of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended from time to time, the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, as amended from time to time, and the state employment services program established pursuant to section 17b-688c for recipients of temporary family assistance, provided a regional workforce development board **[**,**]** enters into a written agreement with the administrator, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, concerning protection of the confidentiality of such information prior to the receipt of any such information; (B) a nonpublic entity that is under contract with the administrator or another state agency where necessary for the effective administration of this chapter or with the United States

Department of Labor to administer grants which are beneficial to the interests of the administrator, provided such nonpublic entity enters into a written agreement with the administrator, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, concerning protection of the confidentiality of such information prior to the receipt of any such information; (C) the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, appointed under section 10a-1a, for use in the performance of such chancellor's official duties to the extent necessary for evaluating programs at institutions of higher education governed by said board pursuant to section 10a-1a, provided such chancellor enters into a written agreement with the administrator, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, concerning protection of the confidentiality of such information prior to the receipt of any such information; or (D) a third party pursuant to written, informed consent of the individual or employer to whom the information pertains.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 9, 2025