



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 158

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 381

Senate, March 24, 2026

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. SLAP of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING PROGRAMS CONCERNING PROBLEM GAMBLING AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Each public institution of
2 higher education in the state shall provide an on-campus program
3 concerning problem gambling at least once each academic year. Such
4 program shall include, but need not be limited to, information about any
5 on-campus and community resources available for the treatment and
6 rehabilitation of problem gambling. Any institution may contract with
7 a nonprofit organization to provide such program at such institution.
8 Each institution that enters into such a contract shall give priority to any
9 nonprofit organization receiving funds pursuant to section 17a-713 of
10 the general statutes. As used in this section, "problem gambling" means
11 when an individual engages in compulsive gambling or has an
12 uncontrollable urge to keep gambling despite any negative impact on
13 such individual's life.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
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HED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Constituent Units of Higher Education	OF - Cost	Potential	Potential

Note: OF= Other Funds

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost annually beginning in FY 27 to the constituent units of higher education. It requires each public institution of higher education to conduct one on-campus program concerning problem gambling each year.

The per campus cost of one problem gambling program can vary significantly depending on the program's itinerary. Cost associated with educational materials, event space and technology, speaker fees, and food and refreshments could be up to \$10,000. At \$5,000 per campus: (1) at UConn, this results in an annual cost of \$25,000 across Storrs and the four regional campuses; and (2) at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, this results in an annual cost of \$80,000 across the four state universities and 12 CT State campuses.

The bill allows UConn and CSCU to each contract with a nonprofit to conduct problem gambling programming. If the contract requires the nonprofit to cover all, or a portion of, the program cost, the above stated cost could be significantly reduced or eliminated.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the cost of problem gambling programs, and the provisions of contracts the constituent units of higher education enter into with nonprofits.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 381*****AN ACT REQUIRING PROGRAMS CONCERNING PROBLEM GAMBLING AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires public higher education institutions to provide an on-campus problem gambling program at least once each academic year. The program must have information about on-campus and community resources that treat and rehabilitate problem gambling. Under the bill, “problem gambling” is compulsive gambling or an uncontrollable urge to continue gambling regardless of its negative impacts on the person’s life.

The bill permits an institution to contract with a nonprofit organization for this program, but the institution must give priority to a nonprofit organization that receives funds from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services’ (DMHAS) compulsive gamblers treatment and rehabilitation program. By law, this DMHAS program gives funding to regional behavioral health action organizations and nonprofit organizations, including the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 1 (03/12/2026)