

# Government Oversight Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-423 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OVER HIGHER EDUCATION.

**Vote Date:** 3/17/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/10/2026

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

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### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill expands oversight and reporting requirements related to Connecticut's higher education system by requiring the Board of Regents and other entities to submit additional reports to the Government Oversight Committee. It enhances performance metrics and reporting on the consolidation of community-technical colleges into CT State, including detailed data on student outcomes, costs, administrative efficiency, and institutional impacts. It also mandates a comprehensive staffing comparison report across administrative functions within the CSCU system and requires the Planning Commission for Higher Education to share its strategic plans and progress updates with the Government Oversight Committee, strengthening accountability and transparency in higher education operations.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

#### [John Maduko, Interim Chancellor, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities \(CSCU\):](#)

Chancellor Maduko submitted testimony offering general comments on this bill, expressing concerns that certain provisions do not align with the centralized structure of CT State Community College and suggesting clarifications to ensure reporting requirements are practical and accurate.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Lois D. Aimé, Director of Educational Technology, CT State Norwalk:](#) Ms. Aimé submitted testimony offering general comments on this bill, expressing concerns that it does not adequately address the negative impacts of the community college consolidation. She highlighted issues with reduced student support, loss of local control, and challenges to

educational equity, and emphasized the need for stronger legislative oversight and potential structural changes.

**Seth Freeman, President, 4Cs SEIU 1973:** Mr. Freeman submitted testimony supporting this bill, stating it is needed to ensure accountability and transparency in the community college consolidation, which he argues has reduced student support and failed to deliver promised benefits.

**Dr. Colena Sesanker, Professor, CT State Gateway:** Dr. Sesanker submitted testimony supporting this bill, stating it is necessary to provide oversight and accountability for the community college consolidation. She emphasized concerns about the consolidation's negative impact on students, equity, and decision-making, and stressed the need for careful, nuanced evaluation of its outcomes.

**Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO:** Mr. Hawthorne submitted testimony offering general comments on this bill, emphasizing the need for strong legislative oversight of the community college consolidation, and urging that reporting focus on meaningful data related to student outcomes and equity.

**Drew Michael McWeeny, Assistant Professor, CT State Norwalk:** Mr. McWeeny submitted testimony supporting this bill, stating it is necessary for transparency and accountability in the community college consolidation, while also raising concerns that certain metrics may not fully reflect student needs or on-the-ground realities.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None

**Reported by: Clerk- Greg Wolff  
Assistant Clerk- Mike Hamann**

**Date: 3/20/26**