



Capitol Monitor

A Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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Anti-Union Bills Set To Appear In Approps:

With bills that would [rob faculty of their right to collectively bargain](#) or would remove [pension benefits from contract negotiations](#), The Appropriations Committee is set to hear a plethora of anti-state worker bills at their public hearing set for Friday, March 24, beginning at 10 a.m. Please join CSU-AAUP members, other faculty and unions to help make our voices heard. If you wish to testify, contact [Liz Newberg](#) for more information. Even if you can't testify, please join us at the hearing. Your attendance sends a message to legislators that we stand together, united, to protect the faculty voice and the right to unionize.

Click the following links for a list of the 2017 bills that have been introduced this session and involve [higher education](#) and [collective bargaining](#). You can also find this list on the [CSU-AAUP website](#) under Action Center. CSU-AAUP and our lobbyists will continue to monitor the status of these most egregious bills. **Be prepared for more calls to action to defend public higher education and collective bargaining rights.**

State Special Election Keeps Status Quo:

The Feb. 28 Special Election saw one Democrat elected to the CT House of Representatives and one Republican and one Democrat elected to the CT Senate. Democrat Dorinda Borer won in the 115th House District, replacing Stephen Dargan. Democrat Doug McCrory won the 2nd Senate District to replace Eric Coleman. Republican Eric Berthel won in the 32nd, taking Rob Kane's seat. The results keep the status quo of an 18-18 split in the Senate and a Democratic majority in the House, with 78 Democrats and 71 Republicans. There are two vacancies in the House that will be filled in another special election.

Legislators Aim To Make Higher ED Affordable Again:

House Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz announced on March 3 plans to make college more affordable to students who work in-state after graduation. [House Bill 5586](#) establishes a tax credit against the personal income tax for recent graduates from an accredited institution of higher education with an associate, bachelor, master or doctoral degree who live in Connecticut within two years of graduation. The bill had a public hearing in the Higher Education Committee on March 3.

As student debt rises to unbearable levels, such measures will be welcome for students and their families. Another Connecticut lawmaker, Rep. Matt Lesser, a Democrat serving Middletown, has introduced legislation that would establish tuition-free higher education in Connecticut. His [HB 6162 An Act Concerning the Implementation of a Debt-Free Program For Students Attending Public Institutions of Higher Education](#) had a public hearing in the Higher Education Committee in February.

Save the Date! Lobby Day March 31:

CSU-AAUP is joining forces again with UConn-AAUP and the 4Cs on March 31 for our second lobby day of the 2017 legislative session.

Please join us as we urge legislators to support public higher education. Our second lobby day will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and include a morning reception, during which we will hear from the three union presidents and the 4Cs lobbyist Robert Fernandez, and then meet individually with legislators and their aides.

If you wish to attend, [click here to register by March 17](#). Please invite your students as well.

With the continued cuts to public higher education, it is imperative that we keep the conversation going and maintain a strong presence at the Capitol.

Remember, we are stronger together!



Higher Ed Hearing March 9:

The next Higher Education and Employee Advancement Public Hearing will be held March 9 at 11:30 a.m. in room 1E of the Legislative Office Building (LOB). *Please note, CSU-AAUP is not issuing any Calls to Action for any of the bills being heard March 9.* [Click here for more information about the committee.](#)

Bills for review include:

1. [S.B. No. 837](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH GROWTH, HIGH DEMAND JOBS. (HED)
2. [S.B. No. 947](#) (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WAIVER PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY TEACHING FACULTY. (HED)
3. [S.B. No. 948](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING DIGITAL DISCOUNTS TO REDUCE THE COST OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. (HED)
4. [S.B. No. 969](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS. (HED)
5. [S.B. No. 970](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAM MODIFICATION AT INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. (HED)
6. [S.B. No. 971](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS. (HED)
7. [S.B. No. 972](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION INTEGRITY AT FOR-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. (HED)
8. [H.B. No. 7212](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS. (HED)
9. [H.B. No. 7213](#) (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE TUITION RATES. (HED)
10. [H.B. No. 7233](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CODIFYING FEDERAL TITLE IX PROTECTIONS. (HED)
11. [H.B. No. 7234](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS IN CRISIS. (HED)