

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BILL TRACKING
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Where 2019 was the year of the "**Student Loan Bill of Rights**" and a more concerted effort to regulate and mitigate the fallout of **college mergers/closures**, 2020 is shaping up to be the year of **college affordability** and **student athlete compensation**.

Work-Based Learning: Three New England states have introduced legislation that would expand work-based learning (WBL) opportunities in their state. **Connecticut** (HB 5111) is proposing to establish a task force to study WBL opportunities in high-growth industries and expand apprenticeship opportunities for related jobs. **New Hampshire** (HB 1454) has proposed a bill that would authorize local secondary school boards to grant academic credit for WBL programs. **Vermont** (S.231) is calling on the Vermont State Colleges and regional CTE centers to design and submit to the legislature a plan to expand the number of formal apprenticeships offered in the state and to ensure that these apprenticeships follow an "earn to learn" model.

College Affordability: Essentially every New England state has proposed legislation around debt-free and or tuition-free college, as well as student loan debt relief.

Debt-Free College:

- **CT HB 5353** - to appropriate \$16 million to the debt-free community college program.
- **MA H.1221** - would guarantee free public higher education as a right to all Massachusetts residents.

Tuition-Free College:

- **CT SB 128** - to provide tuition-free community college to CT residents.
- **ME HP 634** - to fully fund cc for eligible students who are residents of Maine.
- **MA H.1245** - would establish the Massachusetts Promise Program, which would provide a tuition waiver for students enrolled in the state's community colleges.
- **VT S.271** - would provide free tuition at the state's community colleges for students whose family income is under \$100,000.

Student Loan Debt Relief:

- **ME HP 303** - would provide funds to guarantee zero interest student loans to certain residents who live and work in Maine for at least five years.
- **ME SP 36** - would provide funds for payment of student loan debt for individuals who agree to live and work in Maine for at least five years.
- **MA H.1202** - would establish a student loan forgiveness program.
- **MA H.1248** - would establish a commission to study student loan debt relief programs.
- **NH SB 529** - would establish a workforce development student debt relief program

Student Athlete Compensation: Four New England states – **Connecticut** (SB 306), **Massachusetts** (S.2454), **New Hampshire** (HB 1505), and **Vermont** (H.797) – have introduced bills that would allow student athletes to earn compensation from the use of their name, image, or likeness or from employment in activities unrelated to an intercollegiate athletic program.

NEW ENGLAND BOARD of HIGHER EDUCATION



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Vermont General Assembly

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

N.B.: Names in orange are of members of NEBHE's LAC and/or Board.

HB 5013	<p>An Act Concerning Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by Eligible College Students</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To increase access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by eligible students at institutions of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>
HB 5014	<p>An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Providers of Clinical Nursing Experiences</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To provide a tax credit to preceptors who provide clinical nursing experiences to nursing students earning a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree from an institution of higher education in the state.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>
HB 5029	<p>An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Graduates of Institutions of Higher Education and Private Occupational Schools in the State</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gary Turco</p> <p>Summary: To establish a personal income tax credit for in-state graduates with a bachelor's degree, associate degree or an advanced manufacturing certificate.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
HB 5111	<p>An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Work-based Learning Opportunities in Industries With a Hiring Need in the State</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To establish a task force to identify high-growth, high-demand jobs and analyze the implementation and creation of partnerships that provide apprenticeship opportunities for such jobs.</p>

	<p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
HB 5112	<p>An Act Concerning the Budget of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to include the central office in the itemization of its budget request.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/27/2020</p>
HB 5113	<p>An Act Requiring Legislative Approval for the Merger or Closing of Institutions Within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: Seeks to establish criteria by which the institutions within the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College may close or merge. These criteria include: (1) the recommended merger or closure would require a two-thirds vote of the Board of Regents of Higher Education, (2) notice of merger or closure must be sent to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly, (3) the recommended merger or closure must be accepted by a majority vote of both houses of the General Assembly or rejected by a majority vote of either house of the General Assembly no later than one year after receiving notice by the board; if the General Assembly fails to act, the merger or closure shall be deemed accepted. The bill calls to appoint advisory committees with representatives from public and independent institutions of higher education to study methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public institutions of higher education with The University of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education. It would develop and maintain a central higher education information system and establish definitions and data requirements for the Connecticut State University System, the regional community technical college system, and Charter Oak State College. If passed, it would take effect July 1, 2020.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/27/2020</p>
HB 5114	<p>An Act Requiring Training for the Members of the Governing Boards of the Institutions of Higher Education in the State</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p>

	<p>Summary: To require training of each board member responsible for governing any institution of higher education in the state.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/27/2020</p>
HB 5115	<p>An Act Concerning the Unfunded Pension Liability Portion of the Fringe Benefit Cost for Employees of the Constituent Units of the State System of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To require the Comptroller to fund the unfunded pension liability portion of the fringe benefit cost for employees of the constituent units of the state system of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
HB 5116	<p>An Act Concerning Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To require the Office of Higher Education to study issues related to higher education.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
HB 5117	<p>An Act Concerning the Legislative Commissioners' Office Recommendations Regarding Technical Revisions to the Higher Education Statutes</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To make technical revisions to the higher education statutes.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
HB 5158	<p>An Act Funding the Pilot Program for the Expansion of Advanced Manufacturing Certificate Programs to Public High Schools.</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p>

	<p>Summary: To appropriate one million dollars for the pilot program for the expansion of advanced manufacturing certificate programs to public high schools.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
HB 5159	<p>An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Employers of Instructors in Advanced Manufacturing Certificate Programs at Regional Community-technical Colleges.</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To establish a tax credit for employers of instructors in advanced manufacturing certificate programs at regional community-technical colleges.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
HB 5311	<p>Bill of Rights for Postsecondary Students with Autism</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Committee on Human Services (Includes LAC member James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: Concerns a bill of rights for post-secondary students with autism spectrum disorder, ensures students with autism spectrum disorder have the necessary support to achieve success at state institutions of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
HB 5327	<p>An Act Concerning a Student Loan Reimbursement Program for Certain Private Sector Employees in Certain High-Demand Fields</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Committee on Commerce</p> <p>Summary: Would examine the creation of a student loan reimbursement program through public private partnerships to attract skilled labor to the state and meet the hiring needs of private sector employers in the state.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Commerce</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/27/2020</p>
HB 5352	<p>An Act Concerning Climate Adaptation Strategies at Public Institutions of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p>

	<p>Summary: To require public institutions of higher education to develop and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on their campuses by forty-five per cent by January 1, 2030.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
HB 5353	<p>An Act Funding the Debt-free Community College Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To appropriate sixteen million dollars to the debt-free community college program and to establish an account for such a program into which will be deposited state appropriations and any money received from any online offering of lottery draw games.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/03/2020</p>
HB 5354	<p>An Act Allowing a Personal Income Tax Deduction or an Estate Tax Credit For a Scholarship Donation</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To allow either a personal income tax deduction or an estate tax credit for a donation to an endowment fund established by the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority for the benefit of the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/03/2020</p>
HB 5355	<p>An Act Concerning Freedom of Expression on College Campuses</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To require institutions of higher education in the state to adopt a policy on freedom of expression.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>

<p>SB 15</p>	<p>An Act Implementing the Governor’s Budget Recommendations Concerning Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gov. Ned Lamont</p> <p>Summary: This proposal makes changes to the statutes to implement policy changes in the Governor’s recommended FY 2021 budget adjustments related to higher education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Section 1</u> revises the debt-free community college program: Under current law, the program is available to first-time, degree-seeking, in-state students who enroll full-time, make satisfactory academic progress while enrolled, and have completed the FAFSA. As revised by this bill, eligible students must also have graduated from high school up to one year before enrolling in community college and must have a FAFSA EFC of no more than \$7,500. The Board of Regents may use up to \$2,130,842 of the program’s appropriation in FY 2021 to hire advisors at community colleges as part of the Guided Pathways initiative. The bill directs up to \$500,000 each year beginning in FY 2021 to market the debt-free college program. • <u>Sections 2-4</u> repeal the Higher Education Coordinating Council. • The governor proposes these changes to (1) reduce the overall cost of debt-free community college and (2) provide funding necessary to increase advising services at community colleges. Expansion of advisors will improve student success rates and retention among community colleges. • <u>Section 1</u> reduces the program’s costs by results significantly reducing the number of community college students eligible for free tuition or minimum awards under the debt-free college program. However, by hiring allocating funds for the hiring of advisors, the governor hopes to improve student retention at community colleges. <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/03/2020</p>
<p>SB 17</p>	<p>An Act Requiring Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: Requires the completion of the free application for federal student aid, includes completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the application for institutional financial aid for undocumented students, or a waiver form as a condition to high school graduation.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>
<p>SB 18</p>	<p>An Act Requiring the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority to Establish a Student Loan Subsidy Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To establish the Student Loan Subsidy Program to provide persons employed and living in the state with low interest student loans.</p>

	<p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>
<u>SB 19</u>	<p>An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: Concerns sexual misconduct on college campuses, establishes a Council on Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey to create a sexual misconduct climate survey for use by institutions of higher education in the state, and protect students who report being a victim or witness of sexual assault, stalking or violence from disciplinary action by the institution of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>
<u>SB 102</u>	<p>An Act Concerning the Learn Here, Live Here Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To require the Department of Economic and Community Development to implement the Learn Here, Live Here Program.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
<u>SB 103</u>	<p>An Act Concerning Post-secondary Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To require the Office of Higher Education to conduct a study regarding post-secondary education in the state.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
<u>SB 104</u>	<p>An Act Requiring Financial Transparency of the Students First Plan</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to provide a detailed financial report of the Students First plan.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p>

	<p>Date of Last Action: 02/27/2020</p>
<p>SB 127</p>	<p>An Act Concerning the Protection of Funding for Public Institutions of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Mae Flexer</p> <p>Summary: Provides adequate funding and support to public institutions of Higher Education in order to ensure their future growth and success.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/14/2020</p>
<p>SB 128</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Free Community College</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Mae Flexer</p> <p>Summary: Proposes to provide tuition free community college for Connecticut residents.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/14/2020</p>
<p>SB 285</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Student Information Collected Through College Admissions Examinations</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Committee on Children (includes LAC member Gary Turco)</p> <p>Summary: Would prohibit testing companies from sharing student information collected through college admissions examinations without consent.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/03/2020</p>
<p>SB 302</p>	<p>An Act Concerning the Use of Connecticut Higher Education Trust Funds for Fire Schools and Other Training Programs</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To (1) require the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to seek qualification for the Connecticut Fire Academy and the regional fire schools as an eligible educational institution for the purposes of becoming eligible to receive funds from the Connecticut Higher Education Trust, and (2) require the Labor Commissioner to provide information on registering apprenticeship programs to become eligible to receive funds from the Connecticut Higher Education Trust.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>

<p><u>SB 303</u></p>	<p>An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force Regarding the Prevention and Treatment of Mental Illness at Institutions of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To implement the recommendations of the task force regarding the prevention and treatment of mental illness at institutions of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/03/2020</p>
<p><u>SB 304</u></p>	<p>An Act Concerning Transportation Services Provided by the Department of Transportation to Students at Institutions of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To allow the Commissioner of Transportation to contract with institutions of higher education to provide transportation services to students at such institutions.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/03/2020</p>
<p><u>SB 305</u></p>	<p>An Act Concerning the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority and the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To (1) allow the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority to (A) finance the capital projects of out-of-state health care institutions, and (B) make loans and transfer funds to its subsidiaries, and (2) allow the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority to (A) fund the Special Capital Reserve Fund with a bank letter of credit, (B) increase its Special Capital Reserve Fund backed bond limit to five hundred million dollars, (C) allow it to provide educational financial assistance other than loans and grants, and (D) add the state pledge for its bond holders.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
<p><u>SB 306</u></p>	<p>An Act Concerning Student Athletes at Institutions of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p>

	<p>Summary: To allow student athletes to earn compensation from such students' name, image or likeness or from employment in activities unrelated to an intercollegiate athletic program.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
SB 307	<p>An Act Concerning Post-secondary Expenses of Individuals Adopted Through the Department of Children and Families</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To allow the Department of Children and Families to contract through the New England Board of Higher Education with compacting states to establish reciprocity for post-secondary education financial assistance available to students adopted through a foster care program and attending an institution of higher education in this state or a compacting state.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/03/2020</p>
SB 308	<p>An Act Establishing a Scholarship Program for Noncredit Sub-baccalaureate Certificate Programs</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: Would require the Office of Higher Education to establish a scholarship program for students enrolled in noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
SB 309	<p>An Act Concerning Tuition Waivers for Dependent Children of Permanently Disabled Veterans at Public Institutions of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Gregg Haddad, Will Haskell, Gary Turco, Mae Flexer, James Maroney)</p> <p>Summary: To waive the payment of tuition at public institutions of higher education for the dependent children of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled and reside in the state.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/03/2020</p>

Governor Ned Lamont's State of the State Address	<p>February 5, 2020</p> <p>Priorities unfunded pension liabilities, lagging economic growth, boosting job and wage growth, promoting retention, college affordability.</p> <p>Higher Education and Workforce Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Council: Gov. Lamont recently revamped the Governor's Workforce Council, led by Garret Moran, to improve the higher education and training pipeline in Connecticut. • College Affordability: Gov. Lamont pledge to make college more affordable for middle-class families. Starting in 2020, UConn will eliminate tuition and fees for students of families that earn less than \$50,000 per year; community college will be debt-free for recent high school graduates.
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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE N.B.: Names in orange are of members of NEBHE's LAC and/or Board.	
HP 303	<p>Student Loan Debt Relief</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Daniel Hobbs, Catherine Nadeau, Joyce McCreight, Shawn Babine, Henry Ingwersen, Scott Landry</p> <p>Summary: Would provide funds to the Finance Authority for zero interest student loans and loan consolidation or refinancing interest rate reductions for certain residents who agree to live and work in the state for at least five years, creates the Student Loan Debt Relief Program.</p> <p>Status: Carried over to any special or regular session, or both</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 06/19/2019</p>
HP 634	<p>An Act To Establish the Maine Community College System No-cost Tuition Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael Brennan</p> <p>Summary: To fully fund community college for eligible students. To be eligible, a person must (1) be a resident of Maine, (2) be admitted to a college and enrolled in courses leading to completion of an eligible program of study at that college, (3) not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate degree or earned an associate degree in an eligible program of study that directly leads to a baccalaureate degree in an eligible program of study, (4) have completed a FAFSA application for which the person may be eligible for the academic year in which the person applies through the programs, (5) not have previously enrolled in a college at no cost.</p> <p>Status: Voted</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/05/2020</p>
HP 640	<p>An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael Brennan, Brownie Carson, Margaret Craven, Jeff Evangelos, Lori Gramlich, Erik Jorgensen, Dave McCrea, Victoria Morales, Anne Perry, Charlotte Warren</p> <p>Summary: Maine is the first U.S. state in the 2020 session with an enacted bill related to financial aid. HP 640 sets up homeless student financial assistance grants and requires campuses to set up specific supports for students experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Status: Enacted (allowed to become law without the governor's signature)</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/12/2020</p>
HP 1391	<p>An Act To Fund Capital Improvements to Career and Technical Education Centers</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ryan Fecteau</p>

	<p>Summary: Authorizes the issuance and use of up to \$20,000,000 in Maine 10 Governmental Facilities Authority securities for capital improvements to career and 11 technical education centers and regions.</p> <p>Status: Work Session</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/12/20</p>
HP 1344	<p>Resolve to Establish the Commission to Study the Use of Adjunct Professors in Maine's Public University and College System</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Janice Dodge, David Miramant, Dave McCrea, Bruce White</p> <p>Summary: Would create a commission to study the use of adjunct professors at Maine's public postsecondary institutions.</p> <p>Status: Passed House, Placed on Special Study Table</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/27/20</p>
SP 26	<p>Income Tax Credit for Student Loan Repayments</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Matthew Pouliot, Ben Chipman, Ryan Tipping, Linda Sanborn, Erin Herbig</p> <p>Summary: Provides an income tax credit for certain student loan repayments made by the Finance Authority or an entity managed or administered by the Authority in an amount equal to the amount an individual is required to include in federal adjusted gross income as the result of student loan payments made directly to the individual's student loan lender by the Authority.</p> <p>Status: Carried over to the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 06/20/2019</p>
SP 36	<p>Student Debt Forgiveness</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs</p> <p>Summary: Would require a General Fund bond obligation for a program administered by the Finance Authority to provide funds for payment of student loan debt for individuals who agree to live and work in the state for five years and to reimburse employers that make student loan debt payments on behalf of their employees who agree to live and work in Maine for 5 years, establishes the Student Loan Debt Relief Program and Fund.</p> <p>Status: Carried over to the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 06/19/2019</p>

<p><u>SP 352</u></p>	<p>Educational Opportunity Tax Credit</p> <p>Sponsor(s): <u>Matthew Pouliot</u>, Ryan Tipping, Dana Dow, Mattie Daughtry, Nate Libby, Ryan Fecteau, David Woodsome, Harold Trey Stewart</p> <p>Summary: Would make the current income tax credit for educational opportunity inapplicable to certain tax years, creates a new simplified tax credit for student loan repayment applicable to specified tax years, provides that a qualified individual must be a full year state resident who has obtained an associate, bachelor's, or graduate degree from an accredited community college, college, or university and who works.</p> <p>Status: Carried over to the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 06/20/2019</p>
<p><u>S 418</u></p>	<p>Rural Health Care</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Troy Jackson, Paul Davis, Joseph Perry, Brian Hubbell, Norm Higgins, Paul Stearns, Colleen Madigan, Mike Carpenter, Chloe Maxmin, Louis Luchini</p> <p>Summary: Would provide that student loan payments made by a taxpayer's employer directly to a lender on behalf of a qualified health care employee are not included in federal adjusted gross income for state income tax purposes, directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule regarding reimbursement to rural and nonrural hospitals and others.</p> <p>Status: Carried over to the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 06/20/2019</p>
<p><u>SP 512</u></p>	<p>An Act To Increase Funding for Career and Technical Education Programs</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jim Dill</p> <p>Summary: This bill provides an additional \$1,500,000 per year for the cost of career and technical education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688-A, 13 subsection 1. This bill also removes the so-called hold harmless provision that limits the amount of any decrease or increase in the total allocation for a career and technical education center 16 or career and technical education region, effective January 1, 2020.</p> <p>Status: Work Session</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/12/2020</p>
<p><u>SP 587</u></p>	<p>Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Erik Jorgensen, Joseph Perry, Geoff Gratwick, Patricia Hymanson, Jessica Fay, Trey Stewart, Shenna Bellows, Michele Meyer, Marianne Moore</p> <p>Summary: Would amend the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program.</p> <p>Status: Carried over to the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session</p>

	<p>Date of Last Action: 06/20/2019</p>
<p><u>SP 640</u></p>	<p>College Completion by Homeless Youth</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael Brennan, Margaret Craven, Joseph Perry, Jeffrey Evangelos, Erik Jorgensen, Charlotte Warren, David McCrea, Lori Gramlich, Victoria Morales</p> <p>Summary: Would require higher education institutions in Maine to designate an existing staff member to serve as a liaison for homeless youth enrolled in that institution of higher education, requires institutions of higher education to give homeless youth priority for on campus housing, develop a plan to provide homeless youth housing during school breaks, and allow homeless youth who are enrolled part time to access on-campus housing during the first year.</p> <p>Status: Became law without governor's signature</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/12/2020</p>
<p><u>SP 701</u></p>	<p>Education Savings Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Erin Herbig</p> <p>Summary: Would amend the Maine Education Savings Program by making permissive rather than mandatory the investment of fund dollars by the Finance Authority of Maine in state-based financial institutions.</p> <p>Status: Work session</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/12/2020</p>
<p>Maine Moves Ahead to Unify Accreditation</p>	<p>First proposed by Chancellor Dannel Malloy</p> <p>The University of Maine (UMaine) system's Board of Trustees voted unanimously in January to move forward with plans to attempt to become the first state university system in the country to have all of its seven campuses accredited together instead of separately. The vote now allows the system to figure out details of the move, such as how to ensure the quality of education at each campus. The plan will then be submitted for approval to the system's regional accreditor, NECHE. UMaine's decision arrives with state funding unable to keep up with rising costs and projections that the number of students attending college in Maine will only decrease in coming years. The move, according to officials, could allow the system to create more program offerings that combine the resources and faculty of each campus. Concerned professors and other stakeholders worry that unified accreditation could diminish the uniqueness of Maine's system: with a public liberal arts college at Farmington, the rural university at Fort Kent and more, UMaine's system is diverse across educational offerings.</p> <p>Status: In Progress</p>

<p><u>Gov. Janet Mill's State of the State Address</u></p>	<p>January 21, 2020</p> <p>3 Main Priorities: health care reform, economic development, combating climate change (and the potential of offshore wind to create jobs, reduce carbon emissions, and save money). She stated, “This spring I will visit Scotland to see the offshore wind platforms they are using to supply that country with clean renewable energy. I am determined that the business we once lost to them, we will bring back to Maine. We have great potential. And in the coming weeks, my administration will be taking steps forward to unleash it.”</p> <p>Higher Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget: The biennial budget “increased funding for higher education [The Maine Community College System, the University of Maine System and Maine Maritime Academy] to help keep tuition affordable.” Mills asked the Legislature to fully fund the second year of the higher education budget which was cut last spring, warning that “higher tuition is the last thing our students need.” • Debt Relief: She stated a need to simplify debt relief programs (e.g., Educational Opportunity Tax Credit) and boost the Educators for Maine Loan Forgiveness Program to incentivize young teachers to work in underserved areas, where they are most needed. • Workforce: Mills asked the Legislature to fund equipment upgrades for Maine’s CTEs to provide the state’s 8,000 CTE students with the skills that they desperately need. Such upgrades will help Maine begin to overcome its workforce shortage.
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MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

N.B.: Names in orange are of members of NEBHE's LAC and/or Board.

H.1202	<p>An Act Establishing a Program for Student Loan Forgiveness</p> <p>Sponsor(s): James Arciero</p> <p>Summary: Would establish a student loan forgiveness program within the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority.</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>
H.1211	<p>An Act to Establish a Finish Line Grant Program to Encourage College Completion</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Sean Garballey, Natalie Higgins</p> <p>Summary: To establish a Finish Line Grant Program to provide scholarships to cover the entire cost of tuition and fees for one year other than the first, in a program leading to an associate or bachelor's degree at a Massachusetts public college or university. The scholarships would be available to residents of the Commonwealth in need of financial assistance whose family income is less than 175% of median family income in Massachusetts.</p> <p>The Department of Higher Education will establish guidelines governing the program, which will include eligibility requirements, selection criteria (such as acceptable grades and an academic plan for timely degree completion), and other guidelines designed to help meet the department's goals, such as increasing overall student success and graduation rates, and lowering achievement gaps for high-risk students; provided, further, that no funds from this scholarship program may be used to pay the tuition or fees for any course or program offered or administered by a non-public entity and that no student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship from this program more than one time.</p> <p>The funds for the program are meant to supplement and not supplant existing scholarship funds; funds for this program will not be derived from existing financial aid programs the Commonwealth administers.</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>
H.1215	<p>An Act to ensure higher education student and campus safety</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Sean Garballey</p> <p>Summary: To provide for a program of capital improvements to public institutions of higher education to ensure the wellbeing and safety of students, faculty, staff and the college community at large, support their educational missions, and enhance regional economic development through their educational initiatives</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>

H.1221	<p>An Act to Guarantee Debt-Free Public Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Natalie Higgins</p> <p>Summary: Would declare it to be the policy of the commonwealth to guarantee free public higher education as a right for all residents.</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>
H.1229	<p>An Act Requiring Institutions of Higher Education to Provide Uniform Financial Aid Information to Accepted Applicants</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Adrian Madaro</p> <p>Summary: Would require higher education institutions to provide each accepted applicant with a 17 uniform financial aid information shopping sheet to assist the accepted applicant with the 18 applicant's decision to enroll in the institution of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>
H.1245	<p>An Act Establishing Tuition Free Community College in Massachusetts</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Chynah Tyler</p> <p>Summary: The Department of Higher Education shall administer the Massachusetts Promise Program. Subject to appropriation and notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, the Department of Higher Education shall establish a fund to provide a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees for community college courses held in the Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters at eligible postsecondary institutions to low income and low- and moderate- income residents of the commonwealth who meet specified criteria.</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>
H.1248	<p>An Act Establishing a Commission to Study Student Loan Debt Relief Programs</p> <p>Sponsor(s): John Velis</p> <p>Summary: The Massachusetts General Court shall initiate a commission to study 2 and draft policies to ease the burden of student loan debt on citizens on the Commonwealth. Said commission would have 3 members of the Massachusetts House appointed by the Speaker of the House, 3 members of the Massachusetts Senate appointed by the Senate President, 2 attorneys who specialize in student loans for higher education, a representative from a consumer advocacy group, and a representative from an association/advocacy group operating in Massachusetts that has a history of advocating on behalf of lenders and banks. This group will analyze the current state of student loan debt in the Commonwealth and potentially devise policies that would be beneficial to those who are trying to repay students loans.</p>

	<p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>
H.2450	<p>An Act Promoting Student Loan Repayment</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Peter Durant</p> <p>Summary: Any business that provides student loan payment assistance to a qualified employee or directly to the holder of the employee's qualified education loan shall be allowed a credit against the tax liability imposed by this chapter in an amount equal to 100 per cent of the student loan assistance paid; provided however, that a credit under this section shall not exceed \$4,500 dollars per qualified employee in any tax year.</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 04/07/2020</p>
H.2553	<p>An Act Relative to Employer Student Loan Contribution</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Paul Mark</p> <p>Summary: The employer is permitted a tax deduction not to exceed \$3,600.00 per qualified employee in any tax year for which the employer makes student loan payment assistance directly to the employee or to the qualified loan holder on behalf of the employee.</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 04/07/2020</p>
H.3620 (<u>accompanies</u> <u>S.1845 and</u> <u>H.2752</u>)	<p>An Act Prohibiting License Revocation for Student Loan Default</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Natalie Higgins</p> <p>Summary: No agency, and no board of registration operating under the provisions of chapter 112, shall deny issuance of, revoke, or refuse to renew any license or professional or occupational certificate, registration or authority based on an individual's default on an educational loan.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the committee on House Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 12/02/2019</p>
H.3897	<p>An Act relative to the training of higher education counselors in PTSD</p> <p>Sponsor(s): James Arciero</p> <p>Summary: A bill to support veterans with PTSD attending Massachusetts colleges and universities. It petitions the University of Massachusetts medical school to develop a continuing education program for clinical and non-clinical counselors serving institutions within the state's system of public institutions of higher education. The program would include education on the following subjects: (i) military culture and its influence on service member and veteran</p>

	<p>psychology; (ii) deployment cycle stressors as they impact campus life for students who are service members and veterans; (iii) outreach strategies for administrative, non-clinical and clinical services; (iv) symptoms of depression, suicide, deployment-related, insomnia, substance use, and post-traumatic stress disorder; and available resources and methods of referral.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 06/13/2019</p>
<p><u>H.4233 (formerly H.163)</u></p>	<p>An Act Relative to a Loan Repayment Program for Human Service Workers</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jeff Roy, Smitty Pignatelli</p> <p>Summary: Would establish a loan repayment program for certain human service workers.</p> <p>Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 11/26/2019</p>
<p><u>H.4418</u></p>	<p>An Act Relative to Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joint Committee on Higher Education (Includes LAC members: Anne Gobi, Jeff Roy, Marc Pacheco, Sean Garballey)</p> <p>Summary: Would establish a task force on sexual assault climate surveys on the campuses of public and private institutions of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
<p><u>H.4419</u></p>	<p>An Act creating higher education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other developmental disabilities</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joint Committee on Higher Education (Includes LAC members: Anne Gobi, Jeff Roy, Marc Pacheco, Sean Garballey)</p> <p>Summary: The executive office of education shall develop and administer a discretionary grant program to provide monies to school committees and public institutions of higher education partnering to offer inclusive concurrent enrollment program options for school-aged children, ages 18 to 21, inclusive. The program shall be limited to students who are considered to have severe intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, or other developmental disabilities, and have been unable to achieve the competency determination necessary to pass the statewide assessment test pursuant</p> <p>Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>

<p>H.4420</p>	<p>An Act Protecting Public Higher Education Student Information</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joint Committee on Higher Education (Includes LAC members: Anne Gobi, Jeff Roy, Marc Pacheco, Sean Garballey)</p> <p>Summary: Chapter 66 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding a new section:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section 22. Public institutions of higher education, as set forth in section 5 of chapter 15A, and municipally owned institutions of higher education, shall not be required to produce education records, including information designated by the public institution of higher education as directory information, as defined under the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act, 20 U.S.C. section 1232 (g). This section shall not apply to requests from federal, state, or municipal agencies.</p> <p>Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
<p>H.4421</p>	<p>An Act relative to early college high schools</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joint Committee on Higher Education (Includes LAC members: Anne Gobi, Jeff Roy, Marc Pacheco, Sean Garballey)</p> <p>Summary: Would establish a Massachusetts Early College Education Program which would be administered jointly by the commissioner of the department of higher education and the commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education. The purpose of the program is to help increase postsecondary education participation and completion. The commissioners would jointly promulgate any rules, regulations, or guidelines they deem necessary for the implementation of the program.</p> <p>Public secondary schools designated as Massachusetts Early College Schools would provide programs open to all enrolled students, on a space available basis, and would not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, special needs, proficiency in the English language, or academic achievement. A lottery would be held if more students apply than can be accommodated. There would be no application fee or tuition charge for students participating in the program.</p> <p>The program would allow for a minimum accumulation of 12 transferable college credits, such as those agreed to by the institutions of higher education participating in the partnership with the postsecondary school. Courses would be taught by postsecondary faculty or secondary teachers credentialed to teach postsecondary courses and approved by the participating institution of higher education, and would include the transfer of any advanced placement courses taken by participating students who earn a qualifying score on the advanced placement examination.</p> <p>Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>

<p><u>H.4424</u></p>	<p>An Act Ensuring Students' Access to Academic Transcripts</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joint Committee on Higher Education (Includes LAC members: <u>Anne Gobi</u>, <u>Jeff Roy</u>, <u>Marc Pacheco</u>, <u>Sean Garballey</u>)</p> <p>Summary: Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section 19F. (a) Institutions of higher education shall not withhold a student's unofficial academic transcript solely due to the student's failure to pay any loan payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other expenses owed to the institution, except that a student's academic credits and grades may be withheld for any course for which the student's tuition and mandatory courses fees are not paid in full. For students paying on a per semester basis, an institution may withhold a student's academic credits or grades for any course taken in a semester for which the student's tuition and mandatory course fees have not been paid.</p> <p>Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Steering, Policy, and Scheduling</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
<p><u>H.4460</u></p>	<p>An Act relative to apprenticeship programs</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development (Includes LAC member <u>Michael Moore</u>)</p> <p>Summary: For all relevant contracts, all trade contractors and subcontractors working under the contract must, within thirty calendar days of award of the contract, maintain or participate in an apprentice training program registered and approved pursuant to Sections 11E through 11W of Chapter 23 inclusive, or registered and approved as a registered apprenticeship program by the U.S. Department of Labor pursuant to 29 C.F.R. Section 29. Said contractors and subcontractors would need to employ apprentices registered and approved through said programs on said contract throughout the duration of said contract. Effective January 1, 2023, to be eligible as an apprenticeship program under this section, said registered and approved apprenticeship program must have graduated apprentices to journey worker status for at least three of the past five years.</p> <p>Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/27/2020</p>
<p><u>S.160</u></p>	<p>Student Loan Bill of Rights</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Eric Lesser</p> <p>Summary: Would establish a Student Loan Bill of Rights</p> <p>Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means</p>

	<p>Date of Last Action: 02/06/2020</p>
<p>S.250</p>	<p>An Act Adding a Suicide Prevention Hotline Number on Student Identification Cards</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joanne M. Comerford</p> <p>Summary: A petition for legislation to add a suicide prevention hotline number on student identification cards.</p> <p>Status: Discharged to the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/21/2020</p>
<p>S.741</p>	<p>An Act committing to higher education the resources to Insure a strong and healthy public higher education system</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joanne M. Comerford</p> <p>Summary: Proposes that the council shall establish a 5-year schedule, beginning in fiscal year 2020, to restore the level of funding of public institutions of higher education and needs based financial assistance developed under to no less than the total per student appropriation for fiscal year 2001, adjusted for inflation to the current fiscal year using the consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, as determined by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.</p> <p>Status: Reporting Date Extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>
<p>S.765</p>	<p>An Act relative to the Massachusetts State College Building Authority</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael O. Moore</p> <p>Summary: Chapter 113 of the acts of 2018 is hereby amended by inserting after section 31 the following section:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section 32. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, state university projects authorized through item 7066-8110 of section 2 of this act and projects authorized through Item 7066-8000 of section 2 of chapter 258 of the acts of 2008 may utilize supplemental funding accessed through the Massachusetts State College Building Authority.</p> <p>Status: Reporting Date Extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>

<p><u>S.1089</u></p>	<p>An Act Relative to Community College Tuition</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Eric Lesser</p> <p>Summary: The OSFA shall administer the Massachusetts Workforce Opportunity Scholarship 19 program for students seeking an associate's degree, certificate or diploma from an eligible 20 postsecondary institution under certain conditions: the student must be enrolled full-time at an eligible postsecondary program within five years of graduation, students must complete the application in the first year and the FAFSA annually thereafter, the student must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0, recipients must participate in mentoring and community service programs, recipients must maintain continuous enrollment (except for medical or personal leave of absence).</p> <p>Status: Reporting Date Extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/20/2020</p>
<p><u>S.1471</u></p>	<p>An Act Relative to Part-Time Higher Education Faculty Eligibility in the State Retirement System</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael Brady</p> <p>Summary: Any business that provides student loan payment assistance to a qualified employee 19 or directly to the holder of the employee's qualified education loan shall be allowed a credit 20 against the tax liability imposed by this chapter in an amount equal to 100 per cent of the student 21 loan assistance paid; provided, however, that a credit under this section shall not exceed \$4,500 22 per qualified employee in any tax year.</p> <p>Status: Reporting Date Extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 04/07/2020</p>
<p><u>S.1649</u></p>	<p>An Act Promoting Student Loan Repayment</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ryan Fattman</p> <p>Summary: Would amend the current law to state that, for purposes of this section and notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any faculty who teach the equivalent of at least two three credit courses per semester or four three or more- credit courses per calendar year at one or more state higher education institution, including a division of continuing education, regardless of funding source, including but not limited to subsidiary account CC, shall be considered an employee eligible for membership in the state employees retirement system and shall earn creditable service for such time.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Senate Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 10/24/2019</p>

<p>S.1689</p>	<p>An Act Encouraging Employer Student Loan Repayment</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Edward Kennedy</p> <p>Summary: In determining the net income subject to tax under this chapter, a business corporation 14 shall be allowed a deduction of an amount equal to the principal payments on education debts 15 paid by the business corporation on behalf of an employee who is a resident of the 16 commonwealth; provided however, that the deduction taken for payments on education debts 17 paid on behalf of any individual employee shall not exceed \$2,000.</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 04/07/2020</p>
<p>S.1724</p>	<p>An Act Establishing a College Tuition Tax Deduction</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael O. Moore</p> <p>Summary: An amount equal to 50 per cent of the cost of tuition payments made by the taxpayer to a public institution of higher education, as defined by section 5 of chapter 15A, in which the taxpayer or a dependent of said taxpayer is enrolled, less any scholarships, grants or financial aid received. No deduction shall be allowed under this subparagraph if a deduction is claimed under subparagraph (11).</p> <p>Status: Reporting date extended</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 04/07/2020</p>
<p>S.2428</p>	<p>An Act Relative to a Loan Repayment Program for Human Service Workers</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>Summary: There shall be a student loan repayment program for human service workers to encourage individuals to enter the field and maintain employment at human service programs. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall administer the program in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Department of Higher Education. (c) To be eligible for this program, a participant must be working a minimum of 35 hours per week as a human service worker and have an individual income of no more than \$50,000 per year. Further, individuals must have maintained 12 consecutive months of employment as a human service worker at a minimum of 35 hours per week to be eligible for this program. This program will help defray costs from previously incurred student loans for graduates holding certificate, undergraduate or graduate degrees. Eligible participants in this program can be reimbursed up to \$1,800 per year based on the amount of loan payments made by the participant. The Commonwealth shall repay the eligible participant's student loan at a rate not to exceed \$150 per month for a period not to exceed 48 months.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Senate Ways and Means</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 12/02/2019</p>

S.2431	<p>An Act Relative to Ensure the Safety of Students, Faculty, and Staff on the Campuses of State Colleges, Community Colleges, and State Universities</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Paul Feeney</p> <p>Summary: In order to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff on college campuses, the council shall have the power to require the issuance of firearms and any other safety equipment it deems necessary to campus police officers employed by the commonwealth and working on the campuses of state colleges, community colleges and universities. The decision to issue firearms and other safety equipment shall be binding regardless of any past or future vote to the contrary by a board of trustees.</p> <p>Status: Hearing Scheduled</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/03/2020</p>
S.2454	<p>An Act relative to college athlete compensation</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Barry Finegold</p> <p>Summary: A public or private institution of higher education shall not uphold any rule, requirement, standard or other limitation that prevents a student of that institution participating in intercollegiate athletics from earning compensation as a result of the use of the student's name, image or likeness. Earning compensation from the use of a student's name, image or likeness shall not affect the student's scholarship eligibility. For the purposes of this section, a public or private institution of higher education shall include a community college.</p> <p>Status: Hearing Scheduled</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/04/2020</p>
S.2541	<p>Order Relative to Authorizing the Joint Committee on Higher Education to Make an Investigation and Study of Certain Current Senate Documents Relative to Higher Education Issues</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Joint Committee on Higher Education (Includes LAC members: Anne Gobi, Jeff Roy, Marc Pacheco, Sean Garballey)</p> <p>Summary: Ordered, That the committee on Higher Education be authorized and directed to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents numbered 739, 740, 743, 745, 746, 748, 749, 750, 753, 755, 766, 767, 770, 771, 772, 1120 and 2454 relative to higher education issues.</p> <p>Status: Discharged to the committee on Senate Rules</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>

<p><u>Gov. Charles Baker's State of the Commonwealth Address</u></p>	<p>January 21, 2020</p> <p>Main Priorities: climate change (net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, working with Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states on the Transportation Climate Initiative), transportation infrastructure improvements (increase operating funds for the T), reduce skills gap, access to high quality education, improving the health system while limiting cost increases, affordable housing.</p> <p>Education and Workforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Gap: Baker announced the launch of a \$15 million partnership with the state's vocational schools to give adults and high schoolers “hands-on” educational opportunities and close the skills gap. Classes will be provided in three shifts: adults can take evening classes, traditional high school students can take classes after their regular school day, and full-time vocational students attend as they do now. Over the next several years, this partnership is expected to train 20,000 new, skilled, and diverse workers in key trades and technical jobs.
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NEW HAMPSHIRE GENERAL COURT N.B.: Names in orange are of members of NEBHE's LAC and/or Board.	
HB 1185	<p>An Act Establishing A Committee To Study A Dual System Apprenticeship Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ken Wells, David Karrick, Douglas W. Thomas</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a committee to gather information and propose a plan for a New Hampshire apprenticeship program.</p> <p>Status: Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2020-0614h (Vote 17-0; CC)</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/12/2020</p>
HB 1322	<p>An Act Prohibiting University System Funds From Being Spent To Oppose The Formation Of Unions And Collective Bargaining Units</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Robert Cushing, Mel Myler, Jan Schmidt, Paul Berch, Martha Fuller Clark</p> <p>Summary: This bill prohibits the university system from prohibiting or using university system funds to discourage an employee from becoming a member of any group or organization, or from exercising his or her rights of association by joining a labor union.</p> <p>Status: Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/12/2020</p>
HB 1454	<p>Relative to Credit for Alternative, Extended Learning, and Work-Based Programs</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jay Kahn, Linda Tanner, Connie Van Houten, Jan Schmidt, Stephen Woodcock, Sue Mullen, Marjorie Porter, Gerri Cannon, David Doherty, Susan Ford, Art Ellison</p> <p>Summary: This bill authorizes local school boards to grant academic credit for alternative, extended learning, and work-based programs.</p> <p>Status: Ought to Pass: MA RC 202-142</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
HB 1469	<p>An Act Relative to Hazing at Educational Institutions</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Cam Kenney, Garrett Muscatel, Denny Ruprecht, Timothy Horrigan, Kristina Schultz, Wendy Chase, Samantha Fox, Cassandra Levesque, Ellen Read, Wendy Thomas, Martha Fuller Clark, Martha Hennessey</p> <p>Summary: This bill would establish prohibitions and reporting procedures for hazing at secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.</p> <p>Status: Committee Report: Refer for Interim Study</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/27/2020</p>

<u>HB 1487</u>	<p>An Act Relative to Freedom of Speech and Association on College Campuses</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gates Lucas, Joe Alexander Jr., Regina Birdsell, James Gray, Harold French</p> <p>Summary: This bill prohibits public and private postsecondary educational institutions from disciplining students for engaging in speech, association, or other forms of expression or communication that would be constitutionally protected outside of the college campus.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/23/2020</p>
<u>HB 1499</u>	<p>An Act Relative to Public College and University Policies for Qualified Service Year Alumni</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Matt Wilhelm, Samantha Fox</p> <p>Summary: This bill requires the university and community college systems of New Hampshire to develop and implement preferential admissions criteria for current members and alumni of a civilian national service organization.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/23/2020</p>
<u>HB 1500</u>	<p>An Act Relative To a Student Loan Bill of Rights and a Student Loan Ombudsman</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Willis Griffith, Craig Thompson, Patricia Cornell, Samantha Fox</p> <p>Summary: Considers student loan oversight legislation to establish new rules and licensure for student loan servicers. This bill would require the commissioner of the banking department to designate a student loan ombudsman within the department. This bill also establishes a student loan servicer license.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/14/2020</p>
<u>HB 1505</u>	<p>An Act Relative to Compensation of College Athletes</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Garrett Muscatel, Willis Griffith, William Pearson, Cam Kenney, Greg Indruk, David Luneau</p> <p>Summary: This bill permits college athletes to receive compensation for use of the athlete's name, image, or likeness rights, or athletic reputation.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Commerce and Consumer Affairs</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>

<u>HB 1522</u>	<p>An Act Requiring Colleges and Universities To Report Allegations of Sexual Assault to Local Law Enforcement</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Laura Pantelakos, Rick Ladd, Kate Murray, Martha Fuller Clark</p> <p>Summary: This bill requires all public and private institutions of higher education to develop a policy requiring the reporting all incidents of sexual assault to the local law enforcement agency.</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/23/2020</p>
<u>HB 1576-FN-A</u>	<p>An Act Establishing a Targeted Workforce Development Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Deanna Jurius</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes the targeted workforce development program and workforce development fund.</p> <p>Status: Refer for Interim Study: MA VV</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>
<u>HB 1582</u>	<p>An Act Providing Free Tuition at Colleges and Universities for Children of Veterans Who are Totally and Permanently Disabled</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Terry Roy, Judy Aron</p> <p>Summary: Helps military personnel and their families pursue a postsecondary education. This bill would establish a tuition waiver at any institution in the university system or community college system of New Hampshire for a child of a totally and permanently disabled veteran.</p> <p>Status: Subcommittee Work Session</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/18/2020</p>
<u>SB 421</u>	<p>An Act Relative To Educational Assistance For Members Of The New Hampshire National Guard And Relative To Tuition Waivers For Children In State Foster Care Or Guardianship</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lou D'Allesandro, Bob Giuda, Regina Birdsell, Sharon Carson, Dan Feltes, Chuck Morse, Susan Ford, Rick Ladd</p> <p>Summary: This bill clarifies postsecondary educational assistance for members of the New Hampshire national guard. It also authorizes tuition waivers for children in state foster care or guardianship for part-time enrollment in programs in public postsecondary institutions.</p> <p>Status: Ought to Pass with Amendment 2020-0441s, MA, VV; OT3rdg</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>

<p><u>SB 455</u></p>	<p>An Act Prohibiting Higher Education Institutions From Discriminating on the Basis of Military, Law Enforcement, or Veterans Status.</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jeb Bradley, <u>David Watters</u>, Martha Fuller Clark, Bob Giuda, James Gray, Regina Birdsell, David Starr, Lou D'Allesandro, Chuck Morse, Sharon Carson, Richard Hinch, Erin Hennessey, Al Baldasaro</p> <p>Summary: This bill prohibits a higher education institution from discrimination on the basis of law enforcement, military, or veteran status.</p> <p>Status: Ought to Pass with Amendment 2020-0621s, MA, VV; OT3rdg</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>
<p><u>SB 529</u></p>	<p>An Act Relative to the New Hampshire Excellence in Higher Education Scholarship Program and Establishing a Workforce Development Student Debt Relief Program and Fund.</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lou D'Allesandro, <u>Jay Kahn</u>, Dan Feltes, Donna Soucy</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a workforce development student debt relief program and fund, and authorizes a portion of funds in the New Hampshire excellence in higher education trust fund to be used for this new program.</p> <p>Status: In committee – referred to Finance</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/30/2020</p>
<p><u>SB 568</u></p>	<p>An Act Establishing An Oversight Committee To The Office Of Professional Licensure And Certification.</p> <p>Sponsor(s): <u>Jay Kahn</u>, Jeb Bradley, James MacKay, Jess Edwards, David Meader</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a permanent statutory oversight committee to promote efficiency and effectiveness in professional licensing and certification administered by the office of professional licensure and certification.</p> <p>Status: Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate; Vote 5-0</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/12/2020</p>
<p><u>SB 569</u></p>	<p>Relative to the Borrowing Authority of the University System of New Hampshire</p> <p>Sponsor(s): <u>Jay Kahn</u>, <u>David Watters</u>, Martha Fuller Clark, Jon Morgan, David Luneau, Mary Heath</p> <p>Summary: University System of New Hampshire; Authority of the Trustees. RSA 187-A:16, XVII is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:</p> <p>XVII. With the consent of the governor and council, borrow on the credit of the university system, or on any other credit or security approved by the board of trustees, for any corporate purpose of the university system of New Hampshire, or any of its component institutions,</p>

	<p>including financing or refinancing any capital expenditures of, or financing working capital or reserves for, the university system of New Hampshire or any of its component institutions. Any such borrowing may be incurred directly by the university system through loan agreements, indentures, leases, bonds, notes, or otherwise or, through the New Hampshire health and education facilities authority pursuant to RSA 195-D. The board of trustees shall not authorize any additional borrowing if the projected annual debt service on such additional borrowing, when added to the prior projected and actual annual debt service on any previously authorized borrowing, both issued and unissued, exceeds 10 percent of the university system's operating revenues as reported in the most recent audited financial statements.</p> <p>Status: Refer to Interim Study, MA, VV</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/13/2020</p>
SB 557	<p>An Act relative to the advisory council on career and technical education</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jay Kahn, Jon Morgan, David Watters, Rick Ladd, David Doherty</p> <p>Summary: This bill adds a member to the advisory council on career and technical education. This bill also requires the state board of education to adopt rules establishing requirements for a career readiness credential.</p> <p>Status: Introduced and referred to Education</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/09/2020</p>
SB 663	<p>Establishing a Credit Against Business Taxes for Employer Payments in the Graduate Retention Incentive Partnership Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jay Kahn, David Watters, Erin Hennessey, Dan Feltes, Donna Soucy, David Doherty, Linda Tanner</p> <p>Summary: This bill provides for a credit against business taxes for participating employers in the graduate retention incentive partnership (GRIP) program and reduces the amount of credit available under the education tax credit.</p> <p>Status: Died – Inexpedient to Legislate</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/29/2020</p>
SB 679	<p>An Act Relative to Policies on Sexual Assault in Higher Education Institutions.</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Martha Hennessey, Dan Feltes, Melanie Levesque, Cindy Rosenwald, Regina Birdsell, Martha Fuller Clark, Shannon Chandley, David Watters, Kevin Cavanaugh, Jon Morgan, Sharon Carson, John Reagan, Jeb Bradley, Tom Sherman, Donna Soucy, Joseph Kenney, Garrett Muscatel, Joe Alexander Jr., Mary Heath, Daryl Abbas</p> <p>Summary: This bill requires institutions of higher education to adopt and make available to students policies on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; to develop a task force and survey on sexual misconduct and report its findings; to appoint a campus safety advisor; to collaborate with law enforcement on the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault</p>

	<p>incidents; to establish confidential resource advisors; to develop awareness programming; and to undertake institutional training in the awareness and prevention of sexual violence on campus.</p> <p>Status: Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
<p>SB 726-FN</p>	<p>An Act Relative To Programs To Aid Veterans' Access To Employment, Entrepreneurship, Housing, Health Care and College Degrees</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jon Morgan, Tom Sherman, Jeb Bradley, Regina Birdsell, Lou D'Allesandro, Cindy Rosenwald, Martha Fuller Clark, Kevin Cavanaugh, Sharon Carson, Shannon Chandley, Chuck Morse, Donna Soucy, Stephen Woodcock, Lucille Allard</p> <p>Summary: This bill</p> <p>I. Requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to develop and operate a veteran health navigator training program for the existing veterans service officers under the department of military affairs and veterans services to help veterans and their families to increase access to health care and mental health services.</p> <p>II. Requires the business finance authority to make loans available to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and service-disabled veterans.</p> <p>III. Requires the commissioner of the department of employment security to publish a monthly workforce needs assessment report for veterans.</p> <p>IV. Requires the adjutant general to take steps to increase veterans' awareness of the military skills test waiver program; increase acceptance of military training and experience towards the licensing requirements in certain occupations and professions; and establish an end veterans homelessness program.</p> <p>V. Requires the university system and community college system of New Hampshire to award college credit for military training courses completed and to increase flexibility in application and course registration procedures for veterans.</p> <p>VI. Requires the adjutant general to expand training and apprenticeship programs for providing job training for veterans.</p> <p>Status: Hearing</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/18/2020</p>
<p>Gov. Chris Sununu's State of the State Address</p>	<p>February 13, 2020</p> <p>Main Priorities: economy and workforce, fair treatment of pregnant women in the workforce, paid family leave, education, environment, addiction treatment, prescription drug costs, senior health care,</p> <p>Higher Education and Workforce Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Hampshire Career Academy: The program allows students in New Hampshire schools to receive a high school diploma, associate degree, and a guaranteed job

	<p>interview – all at no extra cost to the student or taxpayer. Enrollment in the program at the state’s community colleges officially opened in February 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Debt Relief: Last year, the governor budgeted for a \$160 million, ten year investment in student debt relief. The legislature killed that proposal, but Sununu stated that he is hopeful the state can find compromise and deliver this opportunity to provide student debt-relief and direct scholarships at no expense to the taxpayer.
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RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY N.B.: Names in orange are of members of NEBHE's LAC and/or Board.	
<u>SB 2005</u>	<p>An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government - Departments of State Government</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Dominick Ruggerio, Michael McCaffrey, Maryellen Goodwin, Hanna Gallo, William Conley</p> <p>Summary: Requires that the secretary of EOHHS, the secretary of commerce of the commerce corporation and the commissioners of elementary and secondary education and postsecondary education be appointed subject to the approval of the senate.</p> <p>Status: Referred to House Judiciary</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/12/2020</p>
<u>SB 2033</u>	<p>An Act Relating to Education – The Board of Education Act</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lou DiPalma, Hanna Gallo, Ryan Pearson, Sandra Cano, Ana Quezada</p> <p>Summary: Requires the board of education to develop and implement a 5 year plan to improve student performance in science, technology, engineering, and math and increase the number of postsecondary degrees awarded in STEM fields on or before 2/1/21</p> <p>Status: Committee recommended measure be held for further study</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/26/2020</p>
<u>SB 2058</u>	<p>An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – MicroZone Economic Revitalization Act</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Satchell, Harold Metts, Melissa Murray, Sandra Cano, William Conley</p> <p>Summary: Creates micro zones in distressed areas to stimulate economic revitalization, employment opportunities, and business development through the redevelopment of obsolete, dilapidated and abandoned industrial and commercial structures.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, referred to Senate Finance</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/21/2020</p>
<u>SB 2037</u>	<p>Campus Police Armament</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Frank Ciccone, Frank Lombardo, Frank Lombardi</p> <p>Summary: Mandates arming campus police at public higher educational institutions, includes campus police in the definition of law enforcement officer for the purposes of the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights.</p> <p>Status: Hearing before the Senate Judiciary</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>

<p><u>SB 2177</u></p>	<p>Office of Adult Education and Literacy</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Harold Metts, Hanna Gallo, James Seveney, James Sheehan, Ana Quezada</p> <p>Summary: Establishes the Office of Adult Education and Literacy and the Adult Education and Employment Advisory Committee within the Governor's Workforce Board, to carry out adult education and literacy services, provides that the programs and services of adult education consist of basic education, career and technical education, higher education, continuing education in professional and technological occupations, general personal development, public service education, and supportive services.</p> <p>Status: Hearing before Senate Education</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/05/2020</p>
<p><u>SB 2182</u></p>	<p>An Act Relating to Human Services – The Rhode Island Works Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lou DiPalma, Hanna Gallo, Melissa Murray, Harold Metts, James Seveney</p> <p>Summary: Removes the condition that there needs to be a reasonable expectation that a 19 year old will complete a program in secondary school in order to qualify as a dependent child.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, referred to Senate Education</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/04/2020</p>
<p><u>SB 2204</u></p>	<p>An Act Relating to Taxation – Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker Fellowship</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ryan Pearson, Sandra Cano, Bridget Valverde, Adam Satchell</p> <p>Summary: Repeals the provisions of the Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker Fellowship, and establish the Stay Invested in RI Tax Credit to provide eligible taxpayers with a tax credit for educational loan repayment expenses.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, referred to Senate Finance</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/04/2020</p>
<p><u>HB 7034</u></p>	<p>An Act Relating to Maintenance of Order on Campus</p> <p>Sponsor(s): William O'Brien, Robert Craven, Christopher Millea, Gregg Amore, Arthur Corvese</p> <p>Summary: Would allow the board of education to appoint one or more individuals to act as police officers on state college and university campuses. These officers would have the same powers as municipal police officers, and they will carry firearms.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, referred to House Judiciary</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/09/2020</p>

HB 7118	<p>Access to Advanced Placement Courses</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gregg Amore, William O'Brien, Anastasia Williams, Mary Messier, June Speakman</p> <p>Summary: Changes the definition of advance placement to mean a college level class taught at the high school level that provides students the opportunity to earn college credit upon passage of an exam, expands the reach of access to advanced placement courses to ensure that the opportunity to participate in the advanced placement program and gain college credit is available to the greatest amount of students as practicable.</p> <p>Status: House Read and Passed</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/15/2020</p>
HB 7054	<p>An Act Relating to Education – Curriculum</p> <p>Sponsor(s): John Lombardi, Raymond Hull, Moira Walsh, John Lyle, Kathleen Fogarty</p> <p>Summary: Directs the council on elementary and secondary education to develop recommendations for a high school curriculum to prepare students for successful postsecondary education and careers in computer science.</p> <p>Status: Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/04/2020</p>
HB 7501	<p>An Act Relating to Taxation – Student Loan Tax Credit</p> <p>Sponsor(s): George Nardone, Michael Chippendale, Robert Quattrocchi, Justin Price, Sherry Roberts</p> <p>Summary: Allows for a tax credit up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for any resident of the state that is obligated for a student loan, who is attending a college, university, or other post-secondary school in the state, and working within the state.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, referred to House Finance</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/07/2020</p>
HB 7795	<p>An Act Relating to Education – Regional Vocational Schools</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Nicholas Mattiello, Joe McNamara, Evan Shanley, Karen Alzate, Grace Diaz</p> <p>Summary: Seeks to advance economic development by guaranteeing students the right to enroll in approved career technical educational programs and would allow them to enroll outside the district of residence if their district does not offer a duplicate program.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/26/2020</p>

HB 7818	<p>An Act Relating to Education – Access to Advanced Placement Courses for All Students Act</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gregg Amore, William O'Brien, June Speakman, Anastasia Williams, Mary Duffy Messier</p> <p>Summary: Updates Access to Advanced Placement Courses for All Students Act.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/26/2020</p>
Gov. Gina Raimondo's State of the State Address	<p>January 14, 2020</p> <p>Main Priorities: K-12 education, child welfare system, cutting taxes, transportation and infrastructure, gun reform, workforce education.</p> <p>Higher Education and Workforce Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raimondo seeks to make the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship program permanent. It is set to sunset after this year's high school seniors go through the program. • She reiterated that the state has been expanding career education and college-level classes in high schools.

VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY N.B.: Names in orange are of members of NEBHE's LAC and/or Board.	
<u>H.641</u>	<p>An Act Relating to Promoting Technology-Based Economic Development</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Charles Kimbell</p> <p>Summary: Proposes to authorize an incentive award under the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive program to be made as a forgivable loan.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/10/2020</p>
<u>H.703</u>	<p>An Act Relating to Creating a Workforce Development Provider Portal</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael Marcotte, Robert Bancroft, James Carroll, Eileen "Lynn" Dickinson, Stephanie Jerome, Emilie Kornheiser, Jean O'Sullivan, Zachariah Ralph</p> <p>Summary: Proposes to create a one-stop workforce development provider portal to enable providers, educators, training programs, and others to communicate and exchange information about services and other matters.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/15/2020</p>
<u>H.704</u>	<p>An Act Relating to Adult Technical Education and Workforce Development</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael Marcotte, Robert Bancroft, James Carroll, Eileen "Lynn" Dickinson, Stephanie Jerome, Charles Kimbell, Emilie Kornheiser, Kristi Morris, Jean O'Sullivan, Zachariah Ralph</p> <p>Summary: Proposes (1) to direct the Department of Labor to double the number of apprentices and apprenticeship programs in Vermont and to work with the VT State Colleges and regional technical centers to expand apprenticeship opportunities, and (2) to direct the Agency of Education and the Department of Labor: to explore ways to repurpose and retarget federal and State grant funds, within relevant parameters, to revitalize and enhance connections between VT's adult and post-secondary education systems, to propose new partnerships that will incentivize new and more targeted training and workforce development systems, to explore how to fund new investments that are aligned with robust metrics and key indicator analyses.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/15/2020</p>

<u>H.797</u>	<p>Student Athlete Compensation</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Casey Toof</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to allow Vermont student athletes to earn compensation from the use of the student athlete's name, image, or likeness.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee Education</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/21/2020</p>
<u>H.802</u>	<p>An Act Relating to the Education of Military Families</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Maxine Grad, Woodman Page, Vicki Strong, Joseph "Chip" Troiano</p> <p>Summary: Proposes to allow a child whose parent is transferring to VT on military orders to be remotely enrolled in public schools. Also provides that the spouse and dependent child of any person who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and stationed in VT pursuant to military orders be considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/21/2020</p>
<u>H.885</u>	<p>An Act Relating to Funding Positions at the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges to Teach Emerging Technologies and to a New Grant Program for Use by the University of Vermont to Establish a Quantum Computing Program</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Seth Chase</p> <p>Summary: Proposes to fund a new faculty position at each the Univ. of VT and the VT State Colleges in the subject area of emerging technologies. Also proposes a new grant program for use by the Univ. of VT to establish a quantum computing program, with the grant funding shifting to new technical research areas once the quantum computing program is complete.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/21/2020</p>
<u>S.231</u>	<p>An Act Relating to Expanding Apprenticeship Opportunities</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Alison Clarkson</p> <p>Summary: On or before January 15, 2021, the Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Agency of Education, the Vermont State Colleges, and the regional CTE centers shall design and submit to the General Assembly a plan: (1) to expand the number of formal apprenticeships offered in this State from 28 to 50 over five years; and (2) to ensure that formal apprenticeships follow an "earn-to-learn" model under which apprentices receive on-the-job training at an apprenticeship rate for approximately 70% of their educational experience and perform coursework and receive related instruction at VT CTE centers or VT State Colleges for appx 30% of their educational experience.</p>

	<p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/01/2020</p>
S.240	<p>An Act Relating to Recruiting New Remote Workers and New Relocating Workers</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael Sirotkin</p> <p>Summary: Of the amounts appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in 2019 Acts No. 80, Sec. 20 for the New Worker Relocation Incentive Program, the Agency may use not more than 50% of the funds in fiscal year 2020 to continue providing grants through the New Remote Worker Grant Program created in 2018.</p> <p>Status: Amended version passed Senate; House Proposal of Amendment</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/10/2020</p>
S.242	<p>An Act Relating to Funding to Support a Dental Therapy Laboratory at Vermont Technical College</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Michael Sirotkin, Virginia Lyons, Jeanette White</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to appropriate \$100,000.00 in general funds for a laboratory for the dental therapy program at the Vermont Technical College, provided that Vermont Technical College raises \$300,000.00 through private funds.</p> <p>Status: Committee on Education relieved; bill committed to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on motion of Senator Baruth</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/17/2020</p>
S.271	<p>An act relating to the creation of a Community College of Vermont tuition-free scholarship program for Vermont residents</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ruth Hardy, Becca Balint, Philip Baruth, Christopher Bray, Cheryl Hooker, Debbie Ingram, Dick McCormack, Andrew Perchlik</p> <p>Summary: Would provide free tuition for qualifying students at Vermont community colleges. As written, the bill would apply to those with family or individual incomes under \$100,000. Reports stated that the bill would cost \$5.9 million in its first year, \$6.8 million in subsequent years.</p> <p>Status: Read first time & referred to Committee on Education. Committee will seek more information about setting the income ceiling at a lower figure</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/14/2020</p>
S.307	<p>An act relating to Binding Interest Arbitration for Employees of the Vermont Judiciary and the Vermont State Colleges</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Cheryl Hooker, Anthony Pollina</p>

	<p>Summary: This bill proposes to provide that a bargaining impasse between the Vermont Judiciary or the Vermont State Colleges and the representative of a collective bargaining unit may be resolved 10 through binding arbitration upon the request of either party.</p> <p>Status: New Business/Third Reading</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 03/10/2020</p>
S.331	<p>An Act Relating to Reducing Student Loan Debt for Rural Vermont Workers</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Alison Clarkson, Rebecca Balint, Christopher Bray, Brian Campion, Ruth Hardy, Cheryl Hooker, Richard Westman</p> <p>Summary: Would (1) recruit new workers to rural areas of Vermont; and (2) provide relief from student loan debt. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development, in coordination with the Vermont Housing Finance Authority, shall design and implement a Rural Vermont Workforce Incentive Program to provide additional down payment assistance to qualifying buyers who purchase a home in a Vermont Opportunity Zone and participate in the Down Payment Assistance Program. Under the Program: (1) The Agency shall supplement the amount of a down payment assistance loan from the Authority to provide not more than \$20,000.00 in total down payment assistance for a qualifying buyer who purchases a home in a designated Vermont Opportunity Zone. (2) If the buyer has documented student debt, the Agency shall forgive \$4,000.00 of the down payment assistance loan at the end of each year the buyer owns the residence and has student debt. (3) The Agency shall give priority to a buyer who is employed in an area in which Vermont is experiencing a significant workforce shortage, as determined by the Agency.</p> <p>Status: Read first time & referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/22/2020</p>
S.332	<p>An Act Relating to Regulating Student Loan Servicers</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Corey Parent, Rebecca Balint, Randolph Brock, Ruth Hardy</p> <p>Summary: Proposes to authorize the Department of Financial Regulation to license and supervise student loan servicers.</p> <p>Status: Passed Senate, Read first time & referred to House Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/20/2020</p>
Gov. Phil Scott's State of the State Address	<p>January 9, 2020</p> <p>Main Priorities: economic disparity with regard to the aging population (“demographic crisis”), cradle to career education system, after-school opportunities for children, substance use prevention, criminal justice reform, economic growth, affordable housing.</p> <p>Higher Education and Workforce Development:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding: The budget added \$5 million more in higher ed and added nearly \$1.5 million for career and trades training.• Criminal Justice Reform: Called for supporting inmates transitioning to the workforce.
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U.S. CONGRESS (SELECTED PROPOSED LEGISLATION) N.B.: Names in orange are of members of NEBHE's LAC and/or Board.	
<u>S. Res.515</u>	<p>A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month</p> <p>New England co-sponsors: Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Margaret Hassan (D-NH), Angus King (I-ME), Jack Reed (D-RI), Bernie Sanders (I-VT)</p> <p>Summary: Would (1) designate February 2020 as "Career and Technical Education Month" to celebrate career and technical education across the United States, (2) support the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month, (3) recognize the importance of career and technical education in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in the United States, and (4) encourage educators, guidance and career development professionals, administrators, and parents to promote career and technical education as a respected option for students.</p> <p>Status: Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/27/2020</p>
<u>S. 3095</u>	<p>Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education Act</p> <p>Sponsor: Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)</p> <p>Summary: To develop voluntary guidelines for accessible postsecondary electronic instructional materials and related technologies, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 12/18/2019</p>
<u>S. 3115</u>	<p>The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act</p> <p>Sponsor: Susan Collins (R-ME), New England co-sponsor: Maggie Hassan (D-NH)</p> <p>Summary: The bill aims to aid rural students to enroll in, graduate from, and find jobs after completing higher education. It lays out several goals to foster success in rural students, who tend to graduate from high school at higher or similar rates that their urban or suburban counterparts, yet attend college at the lowest rates. It cites a need for "investment in new strategies" to improve college access for rural students. Specifically, it calls for programs that: expose rural families to college campuses, courses, and internships; help rural students navigate first-generation challenges, such as financial aid applications; and identify what credentials these students need post-graduation. The bill relies on partnerships formed between rural community stakeholders to aid students to matriculate, graduate, and enter the workforce. These stakeholders consist of local school districts, institutions of higher education, regional economic development entities, and rural community-serving organizations.</p> <p>Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/08/2020</p>
<u>S. 3243</u>	Simplifying Access to Student Loan Information Act of 2020

	<p>Sponsor: Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)</p> <p>Summary: The bill, introduced originally in 2015 under the same name, calls for the development of a central online portal, where students can review all of their public and private loans-along with repayment options-in one place. Specifically, the bill amends the Higher Education and Truth in Lending Acts to expand the National Student Loan Data System (the Department of Education's own financial aid database) to include loans beyond federal ones-the only type available on the Education Department's website. The bill seeks to address the increasing amount of student debt owed nationally, but also in Shaheen's own state, where 76% of college students graduate with student debt.</p> <p>Status: Introduced to Senate</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/28/2020</p>
H.R. 3621	<p>Comprehensive CREDIT Act of 2020</p> <p>Sponsor: Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)</p> <p>Summary: The House passed this bill, that would allow student loan borrowers to improve their credit following a delinquent or defaulted loan. The bill allows borrowers to “rehabilitate” their loan upon making nine, on-time “affordable and reasonable” monthly payments. In addition, credit reporting agencies would have to remove any adverse marks on a borrower's history after they complete the rehabilitation.</p> <p>Status: Passed the House of Representatives: On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 221 – 189. Received in the Senate</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 01/20/2020</p>
H.R. 4371	<p>Strengthen CTE in Higher Education Act</p> <p>Sponsor: Lori Trahan (D-MA-3), New England co-sponsors: Chris Pappas (D-NH-1), Ann Kuster (D-NH-2), Jahana Hayes (D-CT-5), Peter Welch (D-VT-At Large)</p> <p>Summary: To authorize funding to strengthen investments in the Nation’s postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs and build connections across the entire education and workforce development system.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 09/18/2019</p>
H.R. 4430	<p>Clean Data in Higher Education Act of 2019</p> <p>Sponsor: Lori Trahan (D-MA-3)</p> <p>Summary: To direct the Secretary of Education to assign a unique numeric identifier to institutions of higher education to facilitate data collection and reporting, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor</p>

	<p>Date of Last Action: 09/20/2019</p>
<p>H.R. 4674</p>	<p>College Affordability Act</p> <p>New England Co-Sponsors: Joe Courtney (D-CT-2), Jahana Hayes (D-CT-5), James McGovern (D-MA-2), Lori Trahan (D-MA-3), Joseph Kennedy (D-MA-4), Katherine Clark (D-MA-5), Seth Moulton (D-MA-6), Stephen Lynch (D-MA-8), William Keating (D-MA-9), David Cicilline (D-RI-1), James Langevin (D-RI-2), Chris Pappas (D-NH-1), Ann Kuster (D-NH-2)</p> <p>Summary: The bill is a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The CAA is a massive bill, comprising 1,165 pages as introduced, and it touches on a vast array of new and existing programs and their interactions with higher education, including: new accreditation requirements, increases to federal student aid, simplifies the federal student aid application process and loan repayment plans, impose more substantial reporting regulations for certain programs, redefines “hazing,” “harassment,” and “sexual harassment,” requires institutions to create and fill positions dedicated to specific roles, includes America’s College Promise Act (ACP) language to allocate roughly \$93 billion over ten years to create a two-year community college partnership with states that choose to apply, extends Pell eligibility to short-term job training programs, and implements additional accountability provisions.</p> <p>Status: Introduced in the House</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 10/15/2019</p>
<p>H.R. 5768</p>	<p>Accreditation Reform Act of 2020</p> <p>Sponsor: Lori Trahan (D-MA-3), New England Co-Sponsor: Jahana Hayes (D-CT-5)</p> <p>Summary: The bill aims to strengthen the quality assurance system for colleges and universities by increasing transparency and improving protections for students and taxpayers from poor-performing institutions and weak accrediting agencies. The changes would be made across the accreditation system, strengthening the independent review by National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) to provide a more rigorous oversight process, requiring better reporting from accrediting agencies on the actions they take and the reasons behind those actions, and ensuring public accountability by requiring that information to be posted on the Education Department’s website for access by the public.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor</p> <p>Date of Last Action: 02/6/2020</p>
<p>Letter from Maine Delegation to Sec. DeVos</p>	<p>Susan Collins (R-ME), Angus King (I-ME), Chellie Pingree (D-ME-1), Jared Golden (D-ME-2)</p> <p>Maine Delegation Writes to Education Department over Funding for Rural Maine Schools The Maine Delegation wrote to the Education Department and Secretary Betsy DeVos, voicing opposition to the Department's proposed changes to its Rural Education Achievement Program. The program, co-authored by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) in 2002, provides funds to schools in rural areas for services such as technology, mental health professionals, and summer programs to rural schools. The Department has introduced changes to the program that would eliminate flexibility in how states calculate eligibility for rural districts. These proposed changes could, according to Maine's own Department of Education, cost the state \$1.2 million in losses.</p>

	<p>Senator Susan Collins first sent her own letter to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. Read more in Maine Public.</p>
<p>Pres. Donald Trump's State of the Union Address</p>	<p>February 4, 2020</p> <p>Main Priorities: economy (“blue collar boom”), health care, China and the Middle East, the threat of socialism</p> <p>Education and Jobs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Jobs and Education Opportunities: Trump announced the Pledge to American Workers, in which over 400 companies will provide new jobs and education opportunities to almost 15 million Americans. ● Vocational Education: Called on Congress to back his plan to offer vocational and technical education in every high school in America. ● School Choice: Asked Congress to pass the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act to expand school choice opportunities for K-12 students.