Governor’s FY 2015 Budget: Article 20 – Board of Education

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee
February 11, 2014

Background

- 2012 Assembly enacted legislation to abolish Board of Governors for Higher Education and Board of Regents effective January 1, 2013
- Created a new 11 member Board of Education
- Abolished Office of Higher Education effective July 1, 2014
Background

- Enacted to address concerns:
  - College readiness
  - Remedial education needs
  - Overall connection between lower and higher education
    - RIC graduates 50% of state’s teachers

Background

- Legislation created executive committee
  - Presidents of higher ed institutions
  - Commissioner of higher education
  - Commissioner of elem. & secondary ed.
  - Board required to submit plan for permanent administrative structure
January 8 and 10, 2013
- Governor announced appointments

February 12, 2013
- Senate confirmed four members

March 5, 2013
- Senate confirmed final seven members
- March 11, 2013 - Board started meeting

April 23, 2013 - Chair testified before House Finance
- Indicated she hired a consultant to help with restructuring efforts
- No specific plan was identified

July 30, 2013 - Clark Greene, Chief of Staff for ELSEC temporarily loaned to the Office of Higher Education during search for a commissioner
Background

- Ray DiPasquale was commissioner and CCRI president from January 1, 2010 through September 30, 2013
- October 2013 - Board discussed an initial draft proposal
- October/November 2013 - stakeholder meetings and public hearings
- December 9, 2013 meeting - Board approved plan

Issues that arose that would need to be resolved:

- Size of the board
- Role of the commissioners and presidents
  - They answer to Board, responsible for implementing Board policy but should have voice
- State’s role
- Effectiveness of board meetings
  - Institution specific approvals clog agenda
# Background

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# Board Approved Proposal

- **One Board of Education**
- Two councils with full statutory authority for governance and regulation
  - Pre-K through 12
  - Higher education
- **Coordinating Committee**
  - Board Chair, Council Chairs, 2 Commissioners
  - Set meeting agendas
  - Monitor implementation and operation of priority system-wide initiatives
Board Approved Proposal

- Governor appoints Chair with advice and consent of Senate
- Chair would appoint members to each council and appoint council chairs after discussion with all members
- Board plan is “starting point” for discussion

Article 20

- Includes legislation to restructure the Board of Education
- 15 members
  - Appointed by the Governor
  - With advice and consent of the Senate
  - Members also serve on one of two councils
Article 20

- Full board will focus on leading broad policy initiatives, long-range goals, and accountability
  - College and career readiness
  - Teacher preparation, assessment, evaluations
  - Adult education and certificate programs
Article 20

Full Board
- Long-range planning and goals
- Promote collaboration between and among education agencies
- Establish budget and finance recommendations
- Develop and adopt a strategic plan

Full Board
- Advice and consent on hiring commissioners
  - Elementary and Secondary Education
  - Postsecondary Education
- Budget review and consent
- Develop a performance funding formula for public higher education
Article 20

- Councils have most of the statutory authority and responsibility currently held by Board of Education
- Seven members on each council appointed by the Governor
- Governor also appoints council chairs
Article 20

- Statutory authority for elementary and secondary education governance and regulation
  - Adopting standards
  - Implementing and enforcing regulations
  - Developing budgets
  - Appointing commissioner
Article 20

Statutory authority for higher education governance and coordination
- Granting tenure
- Overseeing tuition, budget, capital
- Assuring credit portability and recovery
- Appointing commissioner and presidents

Council is “employer of record”
- Labor agreements
- Appeal authority
- Fulfills NEASC accreditation requirements
  (New England Association of Schools and Colleges)
- Maintain office of postsecondary commissioner
  - Budget, coordination, etc.
**Article 20**

Additional Powers of Presidents
- Creating/consolidating departments, programs, courses of study
- Submit budget to Council
- Property management
- Tables or organization*
- Reporting on faculty and student race, gender, etc.*
  *Formerly responsibility of OHE

Office of Postsecondary Commissioner
- Replaces OHE
- All of the same functions and responsibilities with the exception of reporting responsibilities and recommending tables of organizations
  - These transfer to presidents
Article 20

Office of Postsecondary Commissioner
- Governor recommends 12.8 positions and $1.1 million
  - Level of support in the FY 2014 enacted budget
  - Office currently has 10 filled positions
  - Legislation does not address which positions would stay or go

Issues to consider:
- How will councils interact with each other?
- How will disagreements between the councils be resolved?
- How will Board enforce agenda?
  - Could 2 or 3 members exert control?
- Role of new Postsecondary Commissioner office?
- Article 20 is silent on idea of coordinating committee
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