



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 652**

*January Session, 2001*

Senate Bill No. 530

*Senate, May 8, 2001*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. CRISCO of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT EXPANDING THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-169a of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) There is established a Connecticut information technology  
4 scholarship pilot program administered by the Department of Higher  
5 Education.

6 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide  
7 grants for students entering or enrolling in an information technology  
8 related degree or certification program at any public or independent  
9 institution of higher education in this state. The scholarship shall not  
10 exceed three thousand dollars per student per year. The scholarship  
11 shall not exceed the combined costs of tuition and fees of an institution  
12 at which a recipient is or will be enrolled. The Department of Higher

13 Education shall develop eligibility requirements for recipients. Such  
14 requirements may include income guidelines. Students shall be eligible  
15 for such scholarships for each year enrolled in an information  
16 technology related degree or certification program for a total of not  
17 more than four years per student. Students may apply for such  
18 scholarships to the Department of Higher Education at such time and  
19 in such manner as the Commissioner of Higher Education prescribes.

20 (c) The Department of Higher Education may accept donations for  
21 such scholarship program.

22 [(d) The recipients of scholarships pursuant to this section for the  
23 fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, shall constitute a cohort and  
24 scholarships for succeeding years shall only be available to members of  
25 such cohort.]

26 [(e) (d) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this  
27 section shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available  
28 for expenditure during the next fiscal year.

29 [(f) (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the Department of  
30 Higher Education may use up to five per cent of the funds  
31 appropriated for purposes of this section for program administration,  
32 promotion, recruitment and retention activities.

33 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

**ED**            *Joint Favorable C/R*

APP

**APP**            *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Indeterminate Costs

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Higher Education

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Passage of the bill would result in indeterminate costs to the state depending upon the size of the cohort to be impacted by an expansion of the Connecticut Information Technology Scholarship Program (CITSP). HB 6668, "An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 2003, and Making Appropriations Therefore", that is currently being considered by the legislature, does not include any funding to accommodate an expansion as described in the bill.

The CITSP is a competitive merit-based program that provides scholarship grants for students pursuing an information technology related degree or certification program at an institution of higher learning in the state during the 2000-01 academic year. During the 2000 legislative session, \$1.25 million from the FY 00 surplus was appropriated for this program and another \$1.25 million was appropriated for a loan reimbursement pilot. 237 students, which represent 50% of those who met the eligibility requirements, received awards that covered the combined costs of tuition and required fees up to a maximum of \$3,000. Those selected for the program constitute a

cohort and the total \$1.25 million will be disbursed over the next four years to only those eligible members of the cohort.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 530

***AN ACT EXPANDING THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows new students to receive scholarships under the state's Information Technology Scholarship Pilot Program. Under current law, future scholarships are available only to those who are already receiving them in FY 2000-01.

The program provides grants to students who enroll in information technology-related degree or certificate programs at Connecticut public or private higher education institutions. The scholarships equal the student's tuition and fees up to a maximum of \$3,000 per year. Students are eligible for each year they are enrolled in an information technology degree or certificate program, up to a maximum of four years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 29      Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 47      Nay 0