



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1238

LCO No. 3919

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING A TAX CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION TRUST FUND AND HIGHER EDUCATION PERSONNEL.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) For taxable years commencing on or after
2 January 1, 2001, there shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed
3 under chapter 229 of the general statutes to any resident individual in
4 an amount equal to four per cent of the amount contributed up to ten
5 thousand dollars during such taxable year by such individual to a
6 Connecticut higher education trust account established for the purpose
7 of meeting the qualified higher education expenses of the account, as
8 defined in section 3-22f of the general statutes.

9 (b) The amount of credit allowed to any individual under this
10 section shall not exceed the amount of tax due from such individual
11 under chapter 229 of the general statutes with respect to such taxable
12 year.

13 (c) If the Treasurer makes a distribution to any individual who has
14 contributed to a Connecticut higher education trust account, the

15 Treasurer shall deduct and withhold an amount equal to four per cent
16 of that portion of the distribution that represents the investment in the
17 account and shall pay over that amount to the Commissioner of
18 Revenue Services as a recapture of the credit under this section. If such
19 contributor is able to establish, to the satisfaction of the commissioner,
20 that no credit was previously claimed under this section by such
21 contributor on account of such contribution, the commissioner shall
22 refund the amount of such recaptured credit to such contributor.

23 Sec. 2. Section 10a-15 of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

25 The Board of Governors of Higher Education may initiate and shall,
26 pursuant to sections 10a-77 and 10a-99 and subsection (a) of section
27 10a-105, review and make recommendations on changes in tuition and
28 fee schedules of the constituent units of the state system of higher
29 education. On or before January 1, 1992, the Department of Higher
30 Education shall recommend to the joint standing committee of the
31 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
32 a minimum proportion of educational costs which shall be supported
33 by tuition and fees at each constituent unit of the state system of higher
34 education. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if a
35 collective bargaining agreement is submitted to the General Assembly
36 pursuant to section 5-278 and is not rejected, any increase in
37 educational costs which result from such collective bargaining
38 agreement shall be fully funded in accordance with the provisions of
39 section 5-278.

40 Sec. 3. Section 10a-17 of the general statutes is repealed and the
41 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

42 The Department of Higher Education shall [(a)] (1) be responsible
43 for obtaining information on new programs and methods of education
44 that are being developed in the public schools and colleges of the state
45 and nation, keeping such records current and publicizing information
46 concerning these programs; and [(b)] (2) encourage and aid in the

47 development of new and improved programs and methods of
48 education in order to recruit, prepare and train or retrain personnel
49 needed in such programs. The department shall encourage the
50 constituent units of the state system of higher education to make such
51 training and professional development opportunities available to part-
52 time faculty as well as full-time faculty.

53 Sec. 4. (NEW) Part-time faculty who teach at one or more public
54 institutions of higher education shall be considered full-time
55 employees for purposes of section 5-259 of the general statutes, if they
56 teach courses that carry a total of six or more credits in any semester.

57 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide a tax credit against the income tax for contributions to a higher education trust account. To ensure that increases in educational costs that result from collective bargaining are fully funded if the agreement is not rejected by the General Assembly. To encourage the constituent units to offer training and professional development opportunities to part-time faculty. To consider part-time faculty full-time employees for purposes of health insurance plans if such part-time employees teach courses in any semester that carry a total of six or more credits.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]