



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 1345**

*January Session, 2001*

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT CRITICAL WORKFORCE  
NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) There is established a Connecticut critical  
2 workforce needs scholarship grant program administered by the  
3 Department of Higher Education.

4 (b) The program shall provide scholarship grants for matriculating  
5 sophomores and juniors attending any public or independent  
6 institution of higher education in this state on a full or part-time basis  
7 who are enrolled in a high technology, biotechnology, bioscience,  
8 teaching, nursing or pharmacy degree or certification program, or any  
9 other degree or certification program related to a high workforce  
10 development need area identified by the Department of Higher  
11 Education, after consultation with the Labor Department and the  
12 Office of Workforce Competitiveness. The scholarship grant shall not  
13 exceed three thousand dollars per student per year. The scholarship  
14 grant shall not exceed the combined costs of tuition and fees of an  
15 institution at which a recipient is or will be enrolled. The Department  
16 of Higher Education shall develop eligibility requirements for  
17 recipients which shall include a requirement that each recipient enter  
18 into a written agreement with the department to (1) satisfy all degree,  
19 diploma or certificate requirements and other requirements established  
20 pursuant to this section, (2) commence employment in this state not

21 later than one year after completion of an approved undergraduate  
22 degree or certificate program for a period of one year for each  
23 academic year the student received a scholarship grant under this  
24 section, unless the department determines that extenuating  
25 circumstances prevented the recipient from commencing such  
26 employment, and (3) reimburse the state all amounts received under  
27 this section, together with interest computed at a rate to be determined  
28 by the department, if the recipient fails to comply with subdivisions (1)  
29 and (2) of this subsection. Such requirements may include income  
30 guidelines. Students shall be eligible for such scholarship grants for  
31 each year enrolled in such related degree or certification program for a  
32 total of not more than three years per student. Students may apply for  
33 such scholarship grants to the Department of Higher Education at such  
34 time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Higher Education  
35 prescribes.

36 (c) The Department of Higher Education may accept donations for  
37 such scholarship grant program.

38 (d) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this  
39 section shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available  
40 for expenditure during the next fiscal year.

41 (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, the Department of  
42 Higher Education may use up to five per cent of the funds  
43 appropriated for purposes of this section for program administration,  
44 promotion, recruitment and retention activities.

45 Sec. 2. The sum of nine million dollars is appropriated to the  
46 Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
47 2002, for purposes of the Connecticut critical workforce needs  
48 scholarship grant program established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

49 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

***WFD***

*JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R*

ED