



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 Department of Education, the
12 Labor Department and the Office of Workforce Competitiveness. The
13 scholarship grant shall not exceed three thousand dollars per student
14 per year. The scholarship grant shall not exceed the combined costs of
15 tuition and fees of an institution at which a recipient is or will be
16 enrolled. The Department of Higher Education shall develop eligibility
17 requirements for recipients which shall include a requirement that
18 each recipient enter into a written agreement with the department to
19 (1) satisfy all degree, diploma or certificate requirements and other

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