



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

**Raised Bill No. 78**

LCO No. 853

\*00853\_\_\_\_\_CE\_\*

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:  
(CE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-4i of the 2012 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
5 in consultation with the Commissioner of Revenue Services and the  
6 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, [may] shall  
7 establish the Learn Here, Live Here program. Such program [may]  
8 shall provide an incentive for graduates of a public institution of  
9 higher education, private university or college, or health care training  
10 school in this state, who qualified as in-state students and paid the in-  
11 state tuition rate, or graduates from a regional vocational-technical  
12 school, to buy a first home in the state. Persons who graduate on or  
13 after January 1, 2014, from such institutions, universities, colleges or  
14 schools may have their income tax liability, up to a maximum of two  
15 thousand five hundred dollars annually, segregated into the  
16 Connecticut first-time homebuyers account established pursuant to

17 section 32-4j, provided not more than one million dollars from all  
18 program participants may be so segregated in any calendar year. After  
19 a period not exceeding ten years after graduation, any amounts so  
20 segregated may be withdrawn by a participant for the purchase of a  
21 first home in the state. The Commissioner of Economic and  
22 Community Development [may] shall make payments in accordance  
23 with this section from said fund to the [participant] participants. For  
24 the purposes of this section, "health care training school" means of  
25 medical or dental school, chiropractic college, school or college of  
26 optometry, school or college of chiropody or podiatry, school or  
27 college of natureopathy, school of dental hygiene, school of physical  
28 therapy or any other school or institution giving instruction in the  
29 healing arts.

30 (b) (1) After a period not exceeding ten years after the date of  
31 graduation, a participant in the program established pursuant to  
32 subsection (a) of this section may apply to the Commissioner of  
33 Economic and Community Development for a payment to be issued,  
34 on behalf of such participant, and used as the down payment on a  
35 house, which must be the first house such participant has bought,  
36 either singly or jointly. Such payment may be in an amount equal to  
37 the amount of segregated funds deposited on behalf of such  
38 participant. If the payment is less than such amount, any excess  
39 amount shall be deposited in the General Fund.

40 (2) If a participant ceases to live in the state at any time up to one  
41 year after such date, such participant shall repay one hundred per cent  
42 of the amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in the state at any  
43 time up to two years after such date, such participant shall repay  
44 eighty per cent of the amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in  
45 the state at any time up to three years after such date, such participant  
46 shall repay sixty per cent of the amount paid out. If a participant ceases  
47 to live in the state at any time up to four years after such date, such  
48 participant shall repay forty per cent of the amount paid out. If a  
49 participant ceases to live in the state at any time up to five years after

50 such date, such participant shall repay twenty per cent of the amount  
51 paid out. After five years, there is no repayment obligation. Any  
52 amounts repaid under this subdivision shall be deposited in the  
53 General Fund.

54 (c) On or before December 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Economic  
55 and Community Development may develop, within available  
56 appropriations, a comprehensive public education program to educate  
57 recent graduates of a public institution of higher education, private  
58 university or college, or health care training school in the state, who  
59 qualified as in-state students and paid the in-state tuition rate, or of a  
60 regional vocational-technical high school about the program  
61 established under this section for first-time home buyers. The public  
62 education program shall include, but not be limited to, information  
63 concerning life-time savings plans and information on the purchase of  
64 a home. If the commissioner develops such public education program,  
65 the department shall begin to implement such program not later than  
66 January 1, 2014.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	32-4i

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow graduates from certain higher education institutions to participate in the Learn Here, Live Here program and require payments from the Department of Economic and Community Development in accordance with the program.

*[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.]*