

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 12-75—sSB 78**

*Commerce Committee*

*Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee*

*Appropriations Committee*

*Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee*

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

**SUMMARY:** This act allows more students to participate in the Live Here, Learn Here Program. PA 11-140 authorized the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to establish the program, which, when operational, would help graduating students save money toward a down payment on their first home in Connecticut. Prior law limited the program to students graduating from regional-technical schools and in-state students graduating from state colleges and universities after January 1, 2014.

The act opens the program to any student graduating from a public or private college in Connecticut or a health care training school located here. The latter includes medical or dental schools, chiropractic colleges, optometry schools or colleges, chiropody or podiatry schools or colleges, occupational therapy schools, hospital-based occupational schools, naturopathy schools or colleges, dental hygiene schools, physical therapy schools, and any other healing arts school or institution.

The act requires the DECD commissioner to include recent graduates from these institutions in any public education program she develops to explain the Learn Here, Live Here Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

*Live Here, Learn Here Assistance*

The Live Here, Learn Here Program helps students save towards a down payment on their first home in Connecticut by segregating a portion of their state income tax payments for up to 10 years after they graduate. The law limits the amount that may be segregated for each student to \$2,500 per year and the amount that may be segregated for all students to \$1 million per year.

To receive the down payment assistance, a student must apply to the DECD commissioner within 10 years after graduation. The payment equals the segregated amount, up to the amount needed for the down payment. Any balance remaining in a student's account must be deposited in the General Fund.

Students who receive the assistance and subsequently leave Connecticut may have to repay all or part of the assistance, depending on when they leave. Those who leave within the first year after receiving assistance must repay the entire

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

amount. Those who leave in any of the four subsequent years repay smaller amounts as follows: 80% in the second, 60% in the third, 40% in the fourth, and 20% in the fifth.

OLR Tracking: JR:KM:JSL:DY