
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5380

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING A REPORT ON FINANCIAL AID AWARDS AND TRACKING TRANSFER CREDITS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires UConn, beginning January 1, 2015, to compile separate, annual reports on (1) awarding student financial aid and (2) course transferability, for the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to include in its higher education trends report.

By law, OHE annually delivers a trends report to the Higher Education and Appropriation committees on state, regional, and national trends in higher education expenditures; funding; enrollment; faculty and staff positions; cost sharing; and financial aid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID REPORT

The bill requires UConn's financial aid report to address financial aid awards given to both in- and out-of-state students, separately, each academic year. It must include the:

1. numbers and percentages of all undergraduate and of first-time, full-time students who received (a) need-based institutional aid and (b) merit-based institutional aid;
2. typical aid packages awarded, categorized by type, with students grouped into five equal aid ranges according to their expected family contribution (EFC) (see BACKGROUND); and
3. amounts of financial aid received by all undergraduates and by first-time, full-time freshmen categorized by aid type, along with

the share of total dollars awarded for each aid type.

Merit-based Institutional Aid

The bill defines “merit-based institutional aid” to include awards primarily or solely based on academic achievement or other talent, conferred by UConn’s financial aid office, academic and athletic departments, or foundation.

It requires UConn to list merit-based aid types separately and further separate such aid by the percentage of students and freshmen who:

1. have no financial need, as determined by EFC and
2. have aid exceeding financial need, excluding those students with no financial need.

COURSE TRANSFERABILITY REPORT

The bill also requires UConn to separately report on course transferability for students who first completed courses at another college or university. The report must include the:

1. number of transfer students who applied, were accepted, and enrolled at UConn,
2. number of transfer courses and credits applied for by such students, and
3. number and percentage of courses and credits accepted by UConn towards general education requirements and corresponding major requirements.

UConn must report the data for each Connecticut public institution from which students are transferring and, in the aggregate, for students transferring from Connecticut private and out-of-state public colleges and universities.

BACKGROUND

EFC

A student's EFC is the amount his or her family is expected to contribute toward educational costs. Each student seeking financial aid must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The federal government uses FAFSA to calculate a student's EFC.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 0 (03/13/2014)