



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 241

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5050

House of Representatives, April 1, 2014

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPROVING COLLEGE COMPLETIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) There is established a Go
2 Back to Get Ahead program, administered by the Board of Regents for
3 Higher Education, for the purpose of encouraging individuals who
4 previously enrolled in an associate's or bachelor's degree program, but
5 left such program prior to its completion, to return to an institution of
6 higher education to earn a degree.

7 (b) The Go Back to Get Ahead program shall provide, within
8 available resources, an incentive of up to three free three-credit courses
9 necessary for the completion of an associate's or bachelor's degree to
10 any resident of this state who previously enrolled in an associate's or
11 bachelor's degree program at any public or independent institution of
12 higher education, but who (1) left such program prior to completing it,
13 and (2) has not attended any institution of higher education for at least
14 eighteen months as of June 30, 2014. Said program shall be limited to

15 individuals who enroll, not later than September 30, 2016, in an
16 associate's or bachelor's degree program at a state college within the
17 Connecticut State University System, a regional community-technical
18 college or Charter Oak State College.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Board of Regents President's Operating Fund - Potential Cost	13.5 million	6.9 million

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill may result in \$20.4 million costs over two years to the Board of Regents for Higher Education to implement the Go Back to Get Ahead program. The cost will support additional staff for classes and loss of tuition revenue.

Section 13 of sHB 5030, the FY 15 Revised Budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, transfers \$65 million from the resources of the General Fund to the Board of Regents - President's Operating Fund. It is estimated that \$13.5 million in FY 15 and \$6.9 million in FY 16 of these funds will be utilized for the Go Back to Get Ahead program. It should be noted that the bill requires that the program be provided within available appropriations. It does not appear that this mandates that the agency perform the activity regardless of available funding, therefore the cost described above is potential.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to program enrollments and tuition

revenue to continue support of the program.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5050

AN ACT IMPROVING COLLEGE COMPLETIONS.

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes the “Go Back to Get Ahead” program, administered by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, to encourage individuals who dropped out of a higher education degree program to return and earn a degree. Under the bill, eligible participants may receive, within available resources, up to three free three-credit courses required to complete an associate’s or bachelor’s degree program. Eligible participants must:

1. reside in Connecticut;
2. have previously enrolled in an associate’s or bachelor’s degree program at any public or private college or university and left before completing it;
3. have not attended any college or university for at least 18 months, as of June 30, 2014; and
4. enroll in an associate’s or bachelor’s degree program by September 30, 2016 at a Connecticut State University System institution, a Connecticut community college, or Charter Oak State College.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 4 (03/13/2014)