



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 261**

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5495

*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 ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED CERTIFICATES PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "eligible adult" means an adult who (1) is eligible to enroll in a  
3 program of adult classes established pursuant to section 10-69 of the  
4 general statutes, (2) is not proficient in English or mathematics, as  
5 determined by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, and (3)  
6 seeks to enter or reenter the workforce or obtain better employment.

7 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education, in collaboration  
8 with the Office of Higher Education, the Department of Education and  
9 the regional work force development boards established pursuant to  
10 section 31-3k of the general statutes, shall develop an accelerated  
11 certificates program pursuant to which an eligible adult may obtain a  
12 postsecondary certificate on an accelerated schedule, as determined by  
13 said board, but not to exceed a period of eighteen months.

14 (c) The accelerated certificate program established pursuant to  
 15 subsection (b) of this section shall consist of courses that include adult  
 16 literacy, English for adults with limited English proficiency,  
 17 mathematics and career or technical training. The Board of Regents for  
 18 Higher Education shall work with the Department of Education and  
 19 the regional work force development boards to ensure that the  
 20 accelerated certificate program is offered locally to eligible adults in  
 21 several locations throughout the state, including one or more regional  
 22 community-technical colleges, technical high schools or programs of  
 23 adult education.

24 (d) Not later than July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the president  
 25 of the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall report, in  
 26 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
 27 the following to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
 28 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education:

29 (1) The types of certificates offered by the board pursuant to the  
 30 accelerated certificates program;

31 (2) The number of eligible adults who are enrolled in such program;

32 (3) The number of eligible adults who have successfully completed  
 33 such program; and

34 (4) The number of eligible adults who obtained employment in the  
 35 subject area in which they obtained a certificate pursuant to such  
 36 program, obtained employment as a result of earning a certificate  
 37 pursuant to such program, or enrolled for additional education in the  
 38 subject matter area in which they obtained a certificate pursuant to  
 39 such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	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.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 15 \$</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>
Board of Regents for Higher Education	GF - Cost	1,000,000	750,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	274,950	274,950

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill results in a cost to the state of \$1,274,950 in FY 15 and \$1,024,950 in FY 16. The costs include \$750,000 for part-time faculty needed at the Board of Regents (BOR), \$274,950 in associated fringe benefits and \$250,000 in certificate development fees (FY 15 only). The estimate assumes the development of five programs serving 250 students. The reporting requirements of the bill result in no cost as the BOR has sufficient expertise to produce the reports.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact related to part-time faculty identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.66% of payroll in FY 15 and FY 16.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5495*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED CERTIFICATES PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to develop an accelerated certificates program that allows eligible adults to obtain a post-high school certificate within 18 months or less, as determined by BOR. BOR must develop the program in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, the State Department of Education (SDE), and regional workforce development boards. The bill defines “eligible adults” as individuals who are:

1. eligible to enroll in adult education programs (see BACKGROUND),
2. not proficient in English or mathematics, as determined by BOR, and
3. seeking to enter or reenter the workforce or obtain better employment.

The bill requires the program’s courses to include (1) adult literacy, (2) English for adults with limited English proficiency, (3) mathematics, and (4) career or technical training. It also requires BOR to work with SDE and regional workforce development boards to ensure that the program is offered locally throughout the state at one or more regional community-technical colleges, technical high schools, or adult education programs.

It also requires the BOR president, beginning July 1, 2015 and annually thereafter, to report to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement committee about the types of certificates

BOR offers under the program, as well as the number of eligible adults who:

1. enrolled in and successfully completed the program and
2. found a job or enrolled for additional education in their earned certificate subject area.

(Employment and further education enrollment data may be incomplete for the first annual report because students may take up to 18 months to earn a certificate.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

**BACKGROUND**

***Adult Education Enrollment Requirements***

The law does not require high school graduates to meet enrollment requirements for adult education; however, high school students who wish to enroll in adult education must:

1. receive the approval of the high school principal where he or she is enrolled or
2. be enrolled in an adult educational activity as part of an alternative educational opportunity during an expulsion period (CGS § 10-69(a)).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 1 (03/13/2014)