



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 5553



Offered by:

REP. WILLIS, 64th Dist.
SEN. BARTOLOMEO, 13th Dist.
REP. BETTS, 78th Dist.
SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5332

File No. 341

Cal. No. 235

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 10a-173 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

5 (a) For the purposes of this section:

6 (1) "Family contribution" means the expected family contribution for
7 educational costs as computed from the student's Free Application for
8 Federal Student Aid;

9 (2) "Full-time or part-time undergraduate student" means a student
10 who is enrolled at an institution of higher education in a course of
11 study leading to such student's first associate or bachelor degree and

12 who is carrying, for a full-time student, twelve or more semester credit
13 hours, or, for a part-time student, between six and eleven semester
14 credit hours at such institution of higher education;

15 (3) "Independent institution of higher education" means a nonprofit
16 institution established in this state (A) that has degree-granting
17 authority in this state; (B) that has its main campus located in this state;
18 (C) that is not included in the Connecticut system of public higher
19 education; and (D) whose primary function is not the preparation of
20 students for religious vocation;

21 (4) "Public institution of higher education" means the constituent
22 units of the state system of higher education identified in subdivisions
23 (1) to (4), inclusive, of section 10a-1;

24 (5) "Eligible educational costs" means the tuition and required fees
25 for an individual student that are published by each institution of
26 higher education participating in the grant program established under
27 this section, plus a fixed amount for required books and educational
28 supplies as determined by the Office of Higher Education.

29 (b) The state, acting through the Office of Higher Education, shall
30 establish the Governor's Scholarship program to annually make need-
31 based financial aid available for eligible educational costs for
32 Connecticut residents enrolled at Connecticut's public and
33 independent institutions of higher education as full-time or part-time
34 undergraduate students beginning with new or transfer students in the
35 fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Any award made to a student in the
36 fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, under the capitol scholarship grant
37 program, established under section 10a-169 of the general statutes,
38 revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, the Connecticut aid to
39 public college students grant program, established under section 10a-
40 164a of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013,
41 Connecticut aid to Charter Oak, established under subsection (c) of
42 section 10a-164a of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
43 January 1, 2013, or the Connecticut independent college student grant

44 program, established under section 10a-36 of the general statutes,
45 revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, shall be offered under the
46 Governor's Scholarship program and be renewable for the life of the
47 original award, provided such student meets and continues to meet
48 the need and academic standards established for purposes of the
49 program under which such student received the original award.

50 (c) Within available appropriations, the Governor's Scholarship
51 program shall [be comprised of] include a need and merit-based grant,
52 a need-based grant [,] and a Charter Oak grant [, and a performance
53 incentive pool.] The need and merit-based grant shall be funded at not
54 less than twenty per cent but not more than thirty per cent of available
55 appropriations. The need-based grant shall be funded at up to eighty
56 per cent of available appropriations. The Charter Oak grant shall be
57 not less than one hundred thousand dollars of available
58 appropriations. [The incentive pool shall be not less than two and one-
59 half per cent of available appropriations.] There shall be an
60 administrative allowance based on one-quarter of one per cent of the
61 available appropriations, but not less than one hundred thousand
62 dollars. [Not less than thirty-eight per cent of the annual appropriation
63 shall be allocated to the independent institutions of higher education
64 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and not less than thirty-six per
65 cent of such appropriation shall be allocated to such institutions for the
66 fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.] In addition to the amount of the
67 annual appropriation allocated to the regional community-technical
68 colleges under subsection (e) of this section, and to regional
69 community-technical college students under subsection (d) of this
70 section, not less than two and one-half per cent of the annual
71 appropriation shall be allocated to the regional community-technical
72 colleges to be used for financial aid purposes.

73 (d) The Governor's Scholarship need and merit-based grant shall be
74 available to any Connecticut resident who is a full-time or part-time
75 undergraduate student at any public or independent institution of
76 higher education, [beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.]
77 The Office of Higher Education shall determine eligibility by financial

78 need based on family contribution and eligibility by merit based on
79 either previous high school academic achievement or performance on
80 standardized academic aptitude tests. The Office of Higher Education
81 shall make awards according to a sliding scale, annually determined
82 by said office, up to a maximum family contribution and based on
83 available appropriations and eligible students. The Governor's
84 Scholarship need and merit-based grant shall be awarded in a higher
85 amount than the need-based grant awarded pursuant to subsection (e)
86 of this section. Recipients of the need and merit-based grant shall not
87 be eligible to receive an additional need-based award. The order of
88 institutions of higher education provided by a student on the student's
89 Free Application for Federal Student Aid shall not affect the student's
90 eligibility for an award under this subsection. The accepting institution
91 of higher education shall disburse sums awarded under [such] the
92 need and merit-based grant for payment of the student's eligible
93 educational costs.

94 (e) The Governor's Scholarship need-based grant shall be available
95 to any Connecticut resident who is a full-time or part-time
96 undergraduate student at any public or independent institution of
97 higher education. [beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.
98 The Office of Higher Education shall determine eligibility based on
99 family contribution.] The amount of the annual appropriation to be
100 allocated to each institution of higher education shall be determined by
101 its actual [eligible enrollment based on family contribution during the
102 fiscal year one year prior to the grant year] full-time equivalent
103 enrollment of undergraduate students who are Connecticut residents
104 with a family contribution during the fall semester of the fiscal year
105 two years prior to the grant year of an amount not greater than two
106 hundred per cent of the maximum family contribution eligible for a
107 federal Pell grant award for the academic year one year prior to the
108 grant year. Not later than July first, annually, each institution of higher
109 education shall report such enrollment data to the Office of Higher
110 Education. Not later than October first, annually, the Office of Higher
111 Education shall (1) publish such enrollment data on its Internet web

112 site, and (2) notify each institution of higher education of the
113 proportion of the annual appropriation that such institution of higher
114 education will receive the following fiscal year and publish the
115 proportions for each institution of higher education on its Internet web
116 site. Participating institutions of higher education shall make awards
117 [according to a sliding scale, annually determined by the Office of
118 Higher Education, up to a maximum family contribution and based on
119 available appropriations and the number of eligible students] (A) to
120 eligible full-time students in an amount up to four thousand five
121 hundred dollars, and (B) to eligible part-time students in an amount
122 that is prorated according to the number of credits each student will
123 earn for completing the course or courses in which such student is
124 enrolled, such that a student enrolled in a course or courses earning (i)
125 at least nine but less than twelve credits is eligible for up to seventy-
126 five per cent of the maximum award, and (ii) at least six but less than
127 nine credits is eligible for up to fifty per cent of the maximum award.
128 Each participating institution of higher education shall expend all of
129 the moneys received under the Governor's Scholarship program as
130 direct financial assistance only for eligible educational costs. [based on
131 the sliding scale determined by the Office of Higher Education and the
132 maximum award amounts set by said office.]

133 (f) Participating institutions of higher education shall annually
134 provide the Office of Higher Education with data and reports on all
135 Connecticut students who applied for financial aid, including, but not
136 limited to, students receiving a Governor's Scholarship grant, in a form
137 and at a time determined by said office. If an institution of higher
138 education fails to submit information to the Office of Higher Education
139 as directed, such institution shall be prohibited from participating in
140 the scholarship program in the fiscal year following the fiscal year in
141 which such institution failed to submit such information. Each
142 participating institution of higher education shall maintain, for a
143 period of not less than three years, records substantiating the reported
144 number of Connecticut students and documentation utilized by the
145 institution of higher education in determining eligibility of the student

146 grant recipients. Such records shall be subject to audit or review.
147 Funds not obligated by an institution of higher education shall be
148 returned by [February fifteenth] May first in the fiscal year the grant
149 was made to the Office of Higher Education for reallocation. Financial
150 aid provided to Connecticut residents under this program shall be
151 designated as a grant from the Governor's Scholarship program.

152 (g) The Governor's Scholarship Charter Oak grant shall be available
153 to any full-time or part-time undergraduate student enrolled in
154 Charter Oak State College, [beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30,
155 2014.] The Office of Higher Education shall allocate any appropriation
156 to Charter Oak State College to be used to provide grants for eligible
157 educational costs to residents of this state who demonstrate substantial
158 financial need and who are matriculated in a degree program at
159 Charter Oak State College. Individual awards shall not exceed a
160 student's calculated eligible educational costs. Financial aid provided
161 to Connecticut residents under this program shall be designated as a
162 grant from the Governor's Scholarship program.

163 [(h) The Governor's Scholarship incentive pool shall be created to
164 encourage retention and completion for any student who (1) receives
165 the Governor's Scholarship need-based grant, (2) returns with
166 sufficient credits to complete such student's associate degree in two
167 years or bachelor degree in four years, and (3) exceeds the minimum
168 satisfactory academic performance standards as determined by the
169 Office of Higher Education. Such student shall be eligible beginning in
170 the second year of such student's need-based grant. The pool shall be
171 distributed to participating institutions of higher education based on
172 eligibility as determined by the Office of Higher Education.]

173 [(i)] (h) In administering the Governor's Scholarship program, the
174 Office of Higher Education shall develop and utilize fiscal procedures
175 designed to ensure accountability of the public funds expended. Such
176 procedures shall include provisions for compliance [audits] reviews
177 that shall be conducted by the Office of Higher Education on any
178 institution of higher education that participates in the program.

179 Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and biennially
180 thereafter, each such institution of higher education shall submit the
181 results of an audit done by an independent certified public accountant
182 for each year of participation in the program. Any institution of higher
183 education determined by the Office of Higher Education not to be in
184 substantial compliance with the provisions of the Governor's
185 Scholarship program shall be ineligible to receive funds under the
186 program for the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the
187 institution of higher education was determined not to be in substantial
188 compliance. Funding shall be restored when the Office of Higher
189 Education determines that the institution of higher education has
190 returned to substantial compliance."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	10a-173