



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 371

January Session, 2017

Substitute Senate Bill No. 870

Senate, April 3, 2017

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. BYE of the 5th Dist. and SEN. LINARES of the 33rd Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-17 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education shall (a) be
4 responsible for obtaining information on new programs and methods
5 of education that are being developed in the public schools and
6 colleges of the state and nation, keeping such records current and
7 publicizing information concerning these programs; and (b) encourage
8 and aid in the development of new and improved programs and
9 methods of education in order to recruit, prepare and train or retrain
10 personnel needed in such programs.

11 Sec. 2. Section 10a-19e of the general statutes is repealed and the

12 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

13 (a) There is established an "Engineering Connecticut" loan
14 reimbursement grant program, administered by the [Board of Regents
15 for] Office of Higher Education, for persons who have graduated from
16 institutions of higher education with undergraduate or graduate
17 degrees in engineering.

18 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
19 student loan reimbursement grants for persons who (1) attended any
20 institution of higher education, (2) have been awarded an
21 undergraduate or graduate degree in engineering, and (3) are newly
22 employed in Connecticut on or after January 1, 2006, as engineers.

23 (c) Persons who qualify under subsection (b) of this section shall be
24 reimbursed on an annual basis for qualifying student loan payments in
25 amounts as determined by the [president of the Connecticut State
26 Colleges and Universities] executive director of the Office of Higher
27 Education. A person qualifying under subsection (b) of this section
28 shall only be reimbursed for loan payments made while such person is
29 employed in the state as an engineer. The [Board of Regents for] Office
30 of Higher Education shall develop eligibility requirements for
31 recipients of such reimbursements. Such requirements may include
32 income guidelines. Persons may apply for grants to the [Board of
33 Regents for] Office of Higher Education at such time and in such
34 manner as the [president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
35 Universities] executive director of the Office of Higher Education
36 prescribes.

37 (d) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this
38 section shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available
39 for expenditure during the next fiscal year.

40 (e) The [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education may use
41 up to two per cent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this
42 section for program administration, promotion and recruitment
43 activities.

44 Sec. 3. Section 10a-19f of the general statutes is repealed and the
45 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

46 (a) There is established a "You Belong" loan reimbursement grant
47 program, administered by the [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher
48 Education, for graduates of doctoral programs who are employed in
49 Connecticut in economically valuable fields.

50 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
51 student loan reimbursement grants for persons who (1) have been
52 awarded a doctoral degree from any institution of higher education,
53 and (2) are newly employed in Connecticut in an economically
54 valuable field, as determined by the Department of Economic and
55 Community Development, on or after January 1, 2006, by a company
56 or an institution of higher education that has registered with or
57 otherwise been qualified under the program by the Department of
58 Economic and Community Development.

59 (c) Persons who qualify under subsection (b) of this section shall
60 receive reimbursement grants on an annual basis for qualifying
61 student loan payments in amounts as determined by the [president of
62 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities] executive director of
63 the Office of Higher Education. A person qualifying under subsection
64 (b) of this section shall only be reimbursed for loan payments made
65 while such person is employed in Connecticut by a qualifying
66 company or in research at an institution of higher education in an
67 economically valuable field. The [Board of Regents for] Office of
68 Higher Education shall develop eligibility requirements for recipients
69 of such reimbursement grants in consultation with the Department of
70 Economic and Community Development. Such requirements may
71 include income guidelines. Persons may apply for grants to the [Board
72 of Regents for] Office of Higher Education at such time and in such
73 manner as the [president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
74 Universities] executive director of the Office of Higher Education
75 prescribes.

76 (d) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this

77 section shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available
78 for expenditure during the next fiscal year.

79 (e) The [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education may use
80 up to two per cent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this
81 section for program administration, promotion and recruitment
82 activities.

83 Sec. 4. Section 10a-19i of the general statutes is repealed and the
84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

85 (a) As used in subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section:

86 (1) "Green technology" means technology that (A) promotes clean
87 energy, renewable energy or energy efficiency, (B) reduces greenhouse
88 gases or carbon emissions, or (C) involves the invention, design and
89 application of chemical products and processes to eliminate the use
90 and generation of hazardous substances;

91 (2) "Life science" means the study of genes, cells, tissues and
92 chemical and physical structures of living organisms and biomedical
93 engineering and the manufacture of medical devices; and

94 (3) "Health information technology" means the creation, execution
95 or implementation of electronic data systems that record or transmit
96 medical or health information.

97 (b) There is established a Connecticut green technology, life science
98 and health information technology loan reimbursement program to be
99 administered by the [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education.

100 (c) A Connecticut resident who graduated on or after May 1, 2010,
101 from an institution of higher education in this state with a bachelor's
102 degree in a field relating to green technology, life science or health
103 information technology and who has been employed in this state for at
104 least two years after graduation by a business in the field of green
105 technology, life science or health information technology and whose
106 federal adjusted gross income for the year prior to the initial

107 reimbursement year does not exceed one hundred fifty thousand
108 dollars shall be eligible for reimbursement of federal or state
109 educational loans up to a maximum of two thousand five hundred
110 dollars per year or five per cent of the amount of such loans per year,
111 whichever is less, for up to four years.

112 (d) A Connecticut resident who graduated on or after May 1, 2010,
113 from an institution of higher education in this state with an associate
114 degree relating to green technology, life science or health information
115 technology and who has been employed in this state for at least two
116 years after graduation by a business in the field of green technology,
117 life science or health information technology and whose federal
118 adjusted gross income for the year prior to the initial reimbursement
119 year does not exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be
120 eligible for reimbursement of federal or state educational loans up to a
121 maximum of two thousand five hundred dollars per year or five per
122 cent of the amount of such loans per year, whichever is less, for up to
123 two years.

124 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this
125 section, the total combined dollar value of loan reimbursements
126 available under this and any other provision of the general statutes
127 shall not exceed five thousand dollars per recipient of an associate
128 degree and ten thousand dollars per recipient of a bachelor's degree.

129 (f) The [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education may adopt
130 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry
131 out the provisions of subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

132 Sec. 5. Section 10a-55g of the general statutes is repealed and the
133 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

134 The [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education, in
135 consultation with the Department of Education, shall annually prepare
136 and publish on the [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education's
137 web site a list of every green jobs course and green jobs certificate and
138 degree program offered by technical high schools and public

139 institutions of higher education and an inventory of green jobs related
140 equipment used by such schools and institutions of higher education.

141 Sec. 6. Section 10a-144 of the general statutes is repealed and the
142 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

143 [(a)] There is established a higher education center for the central
144 Naugatuck Valley region. The regional community-technical college
145 established for the greater Waterbury area pursuant to subsection (g)
146 of section 10a-78, shall be located at such center. The University of
147 Connecticut shall have access to classrooms, faculty office space and
148 concurrent and cooperative use of common student facilities including,
149 but not limited to, library and athletic fields, at such center. The Board
150 of Trustees for the Regional Community-Technical Colleges and the
151 Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut shall jointly
152 develop, in conjunction with the president of the Connecticut State
153 Colleges and Universities, or his designee, an annual joint use plan for
154 such center. On or before September 1, 1993, and annually thereafter,
155 the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities shall
156 call and convene an initial meeting for the development of such plan.

157 [(b) On or before April 1, 1994, and annually thereafter, the Board of
158 Trustees for the Regional Community-Technical Colleges and the
159 Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut shall jointly
160 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
161 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
162 matters relating to education on the joint use plan developed pursuant
163 to subsection (a) of this section.]

164 Sec. 7. Section 10a-16 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
165 *from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-17
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10a-19e
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10a-19f

Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10a-19i
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	10a-55g
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10a-144
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer 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 18 \$	FY 19 \$
Higher Ed., Off.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost to the Office of Higher Education (OHE) as it transfers a number of duties from the Board of Regents (BOR). The cost to OHE is potential, as the BOR is not currently performing the functions, and if OHE continues not to execute the functions, there will be no additional cost. However, if OHE chooses to implement the functions, they would require additional resources and staff to do so. The level of resources would be dependent on the scope of the programs and corresponding funding levels.

The only duty mentioned in the bill that has been carried out is the annual development of a Naugatuck Valley center plan. The bill maintains the obligation and the role of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, but eliminates the plan's reporting requirement.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the status of the various programs.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 870*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill reassigns the following duties from the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to the Office of Higher Education (OHE):

1. administering various grant and loan forgiveness programs,
2. publishing information about academic programs offered at public technical high schools and higher education institutions related to green jobs, and
3. gathering information about and developing programs for academic fields relating to public education.

It also relieves both BOR and UConn of an annual reporting requirement on a joint use plan for Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Additionally, the bill repeals a requirement that BOR, which is not a state agency, promulgate regulations for determining financial need for tuition waivers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DUTIES REASSIGNED FROM BOR TO OHE***Grant and Loan Forgiveness Program Administration***

The bill reassigns administration of the following grant and loan forgiveness programs from BOR to OHE: (1) Engineering Connecticut; (2) You Belong; and (3) the Connecticut green technology, life science, and health information technology loan reimbursement program (see

BACKGROUND).

Green Jobs Requirements

The bill also requires OHE, rather than BOR, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to annually prepare and publish on its website a list of the following: (1) every green jobs course, certificate, and degree program offered by technical high schools and public higher education institutions and (2) an inventory of green jobs-related equipment used by such schools and institutions.

Public Education Information and Program Development

The bill shifts from BOR to OHE the responsibility for gathering information on new programs and education methods being developed in public schools and colleges in Connecticut and nationwide. Under the bill, OHE must keep records of this information current and publicize it, as well as use the information to encourage and help develop new and improved programs and education methods in order to recruit, prepare, and train or retrain personnel for these programs.

BACKGROUND

“Engineering Connecticut”

This program provides student loan reimbursement grants to individuals who graduated from higher education institutions with undergraduate or graduate degrees in engineering, are employed in Connecticut as engineers, and satisfy certain other eligibility requirements (CGS § 10a-19e).

“You Belong”

This program provides student loan reimbursements to doctoral program graduates employed in Connecticut in economically valuable fields, as determined by the Department of Economic and Community Development (CGS § 10a-19f).

Connecticut Green Technology, Life Science, and Health Information Technology Loan Reimbursement Program

For individuals who graduated on or after May 1, 2010, and have

been employed in Connecticut in one of these fields for at least two years after graduation, this program reimburses federal and state loans of (1) up to \$2,500 per year or 5% of the amount of such loans, whichever is less, for up to four years for individuals with a bachelor's degree in these fields and (2) up to \$2,500 per year or 5% of the amount of such loans, whichever is less, for up to two years for individuals with an associate degree in these fields. Additionally, an income limit of \$150,000 also applies for the year prior to the first year of reimbursement (CGS § 10a-19i).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/15/2017)