



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 870

LCO No. 4299



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***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 Section 10a-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall adopt [regulations
4 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54] policies for
5 determining financial need for tuition waivers granted pursuant to
6 subsection (f) of section 10a-77, subsection (f) of section 10a-99 and
7 subsection (g) of section 10a-105. Such [regulations] policies shall
8 prohibit the designation of graduate students as graduate assistants
9 solely to provide tuition and fee waivers.

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 Section 10a-17 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

12 The [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education shall (a) be
13 responsible for obtaining information on new programs and methods

14 of education that are being developed in the public schools and
15 colleges of the state and nation, keeping such records current and
16 publicizing information concerning these programs; and (b) encourage
17 and aid in the development of new and improved programs and
18 methods of education in order to recruit, prepare and train or retrain
19 personnel needed in such programs.

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 Section 10a-19e of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

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

45 prescribes.

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

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

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

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

59 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
60 student loan reimbursement grants for persons who (1) have been
61 awarded a doctoral degree from any institution of higher education,
62 and (2) are newly employed in Connecticut in an economically
63 valuable field, as determined by the Department of Economic and
64 Community Development, on or after January 1, 2006, by a company
65 or an institution of higher education that has registered with or
66 otherwise been qualified under the program by the Department of
67 Economic and Community Development.

68 (c) Persons who qualify under subsection (b) of this section shall
69 receive reimbursement grants on an annual basis for qualifying
70 student loan payments in amounts as determined by the [president of
71 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities] executive director of
72 the Office of Higher Education. A person qualifying under subsection
73 (b) of this section shall only be reimbursed for loan payments made
74 while such person is employed in Connecticut by a qualifying

75 company or in research at an institution of higher education in an
76 economically valuable field. The [Board of Regents for] Office of
77 Higher Education shall develop eligibility requirements for recipients
78 of such reimbursement grants in consultation with the Department of
79 Economic and Community Development. Such requirements may
80 include income guidelines. Persons may apply for grants to the [Board
81 of Regents for] Office of Higher Education at such time and in such
82 manner as the [president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
83 Universities] executive director of the Office of Higher Education
84 prescribes.

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

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

92 Sec. 5. Section 10a-19i of the general statutes is repealed and the
93 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

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

103 (3) "Health information technology" means the creation, execution

104 or implementation of electronic data systems that record or transmit
105 medical or health information.

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

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

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

133 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this
134 section, the total combined dollar value of loan reimbursements

135 available under this and any other provision of the general statutes
136 shall not exceed five thousand dollars per recipient of an associate
137 degree and ten thousand dollars per recipient of a bachelor's degree.

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

141 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 10a-22 of the general statutes is
142 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
143 *passage*):

144 (c) The [Board of Regents for Higher Education and] Office of
145 Higher Education shall provide continuing evaluation of the
146 effectiveness of such contracts and shall submit on or before February
147 first, annual reports and recommendations to the Governor and the
148 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
149 of matters relating to education. In administering this section, the
150 [Board of Regents for Higher Education and] Office of Higher
151 Education shall develop and use fiscal procedures designed to insure
152 accountability of public funds.

153 Sec. 7. Section 10a-55g of the general statutes is repealed and the
154 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

155 The [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education, in
156 consultation with the Department of Education, shall annually prepare
157 and publish on the [Board of Regents for] Office of Higher Education's
158 web site a list of every green jobs course and green jobs certificate and
159 degree program offered by technical high schools and public
160 institutions of higher education and an inventory of green jobs related
161 equipment used by such schools and institutions of higher education.

162 Sec. 8. Section 10a-144 of the general statutes is repealed and the
163 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

164 [(a)] There is established a higher education center for the central
165 Naugatuck Valley region. The regional community-technical college
166 established for the greater Waterbury area pursuant to subsection (g)
167 of section 10a-78, shall be located at such center. The University of
168 Connecticut shall have access to classrooms, faculty office space and
169 concurrent and cooperative use of common student facilities including,
170 but not limited to, library and athletic fields, at such center. The Board
171 of Trustees for the Regional Community-Technical Colleges and the
172 Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut shall jointly
173 develop, in conjunction with the president of the Connecticut State
174 Colleges and Universities, or his designee, an annual joint use plan for
175 such center. On or before September 1, 1993, and annually thereafter,
176 the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities shall
177 call and convene an initial meeting for the development of such plan.

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

185 Sec. 9. Section 10a-161a of the general statutes is repealed and the
186 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

187 The [president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities
188 and the] Office of Higher Education shall report, biennially, in
189 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
190 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
191 relating to higher education on state, northeast regional and national
192 trends in (1) the cost of attendance at public and independent
193 institutions of higher education and private occupational schools, and
194 (2) the availability and utilization of all forms of student financial aid
195 for academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs relative

196 to economic conditions and personal income.

197 Sec. 10. Subsection (f) of section 10a-173 of the general statutes is
198 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
199 *passage*):

200 (f) Participating institutions of higher education shall annually
201 provide the Office of Higher Education with data [and reports on all
202 Connecticut students who applied for financial aid, including, but not
203 limited to,] on students receiving a Roberta B. Willis Scholarship grant,
204 [in a form and at a time determined by said office.] If an institution of
205 higher education fails to submit information to the Office of Higher
206 Education as directed, such institution shall be prohibited from
207 participating in the scholarship program in the fiscal year following
208 the fiscal year in which such institution failed to submit such
209 information. Each participating institution of higher education shall
210 maintain, for a period of not less than three years, records
211 substantiating the reported number of Connecticut students and
212 documentation utilized by the institution of higher education in
213 determining eligibility of the student grant recipients. Such records
214 shall be subject to audit or review. Funds not obligated by an
215 institution of higher education shall be returned by May first in the
216 fiscal year the grant was made to the Office of Higher Education for
217 reallocation. Financial aid provided to Connecticut residents under this
218 program shall be designated as a grant from the Roberta B. Willis
219 Scholarship program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-16
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10a-17
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10a-19e
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10a-19f
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	10a-19i
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10a-22(c)

Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	10a-55g
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	10a-144
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	10a-161a
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	10a-173(f)

Statement of Purpose:

To revise the higher education and employment advancement statutes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]