



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Raised Bill No. 353

LCO No. 1862



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE CONNECTICUT
HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Full-time undergraduate student" means a student who is
3 enrolled at a public institution of higher education in a course of study
4 leading to such student's first associate or bachelor's degree and who is
5 carrying twelve or more semester credit hours at such institution of
6 higher education;
- 7 (2) "Public institution of higher education" means the constituent
8 units of the state system of higher education identified in subdivisions
9 (1) and (2) of section 10a-1 of the general statutes; and
- 10 (3) "Eligible educational costs" means the tuition and required fees
11 for an individual student that are published by each public institution
12 of higher education participating in the grant program established
13 under this section, plus a fixed amount for required books and

14 educational supplies as determined by the Office of Higher Education.

15 (b) The state, acting through the Office of Higher Education, shall
16 establish the Connecticut Hope Scholarship program to annually make
17 merit-based financial aid available for eligible educational costs for
18 Connecticut residents enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at
19 public institutions of higher education. Any award made to a student
20 under this section shall be renewable for the life of the original award,
21 provided such student meets and continues to meet the academic
22 standards established for purposes of the program under which such
23 student received the original award.

24 (c) The Connecticut Hope Scholarship shall be available to any
25 Connecticut resident who graduated with an overall grade point
26 average of at least 3.5 from a public high school in the state not more
27 than four years prior to enrolling as a full-time undergraduate student
28 at any public institution of higher education. The Office of Higher
29 Education shall determine eligibility by merit based on either previous
30 high school academic achievement or performance on standardized
31 academic aptitude tests.

32 (d) The Office of Higher Education shall make scholarship awards
33 in an amount equal to the eligible educational costs for a student at the
34 public institution of higher education at which such student is
35 enrolled. The enrolling public institution of higher education shall
36 expend all of the scholarship money received under this section as
37 direct financial assistance only for eligible educational costs.

38 (e) The Connecticut Hope Scholarship program shall include an
39 administrative allowance based on one-quarter of one per cent of the
40 available appropriations, but not less than one hundred thousand
41 dollars.

42 (f) Public institutions of higher education shall annually provide the
43 Office of Higher Education with data and reports on all students who
44 receive a scholarship under this section, in a form and at a time
45 determined by said office. Each public institution of higher education

46 shall maintain, for a period of not less than three years, records
47 substantiating the reported number of students and documentation
48 utilized by the public institution of higher education in determining
49 eligibility of the student scholarship recipients. Such records shall be
50 subject to review or audit pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

51 (g) In administering the Connecticut Hope Scholarship program, the
52 Office of Higher Education shall develop and utilize fiscal procedures
53 designed to ensure accountability of the public funds expended. Such
54 procedures shall include provisions for compliance reviews that shall
55 be conducted by the Office of Higher Education on any public
56 institution of higher education. Commencing with the fiscal year
57 ending June 30, 2019, and biennially thereafter, each public institution
58 of higher education shall submit the results of an audit done by an
59 independent certified public accountant of records maintained
60 pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To create a merit-based scholarship for in-state students to attend a public institution of higher education.

[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.]