



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 28

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5135

House of Representatives, March 22, 2018

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-173 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section:

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

7 (2) "Full-time or part-time undergraduate student" means a student
8 who is enrolled at an institution of higher education in a course of
9 study leading to such student's first associate or bachelor's degree and
10 who is carrying, for a full-time student, twelve or more semester credit
11 hours, or, for a part-time student, between six and eleven semester
12 credit hours at such institution of higher education;

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

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

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

27 (b) The state, acting through the Office of Higher Education, shall
28 establish the Governor's Scholarship program to annually make need-
29 based financial aid available for eligible educational costs for
30 Connecticut residents enrolled at Connecticut's public and
31 independent institutions of higher education as full-time or part-time
32 undergraduate students beginning with new or transfer students in the
33 fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. [On and after July 1, 2016] For the
34 fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018, said program shall
35 be known as the "Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program". On and after
36 July 1, 2018, said program shall be known as the "Roberta B. Willis
37 Tuition Assistance Program". Any award made to a student in the
38 fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, under the capitol scholarship grant
39 program, established under section 10a-169 of the general statutes,
40 revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, the Connecticut aid to
41 public college students grant program, established under section 10a-
42 164a of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013,
43 Connecticut aid to Charter Oak, established under subsection (c) of
44 section 10a-164a of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
45 January 1, 2013, or the Connecticut independent college student grant

46 program, established under section 10a-36 of the general statutes,
47 revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, shall be offered under the
48 Roberta B. Willis [Scholarship program] Tuition Assistance Program
49 and be renewable for the life of the original award, provided such
50 student meets and continues to meet the need and academic standards
51 established for purposes of the program under which such student
52 received the original award.

53 (c) Within available appropriations, the Roberta B. Willis
54 [Scholarship program] Tuition Assistance Program shall include (1) a
55 need and merit-based grant, to be known as the "Prudence Crandall
56 Merit Scholarship", (2) a need-based grant, to be known as the "Louise
57 Duffy Need-Based Scholarship", and (3) a Charter Oak grant. The
58 [need and merit-based grant] Prudence Crandall Merit Scholarship
59 shall be funded at not less than twenty per cent but not more than
60 thirty per cent of available appropriations. The [need-based grant]
61 Louise Duffy Need-Based Scholarship shall be funded at up to eighty
62 per cent of available appropriations. The Charter Oak grant shall be
63 not less than one hundred thousand dollars of available
64 appropriations. There shall be an administrative allowance based on
65 one-quarter of one per cent of the available appropriations, but not less
66 than one hundred thousand dollars. 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 [Roberta B. Willis Scholarship need and merit-based grant]
74 Prudence Crandall Merit Scholarship shall be available to any
75 Connecticut resident who is a full-time or part-time undergraduate
76 student at any public or independent institution of higher education.
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 [Roberta B. Willis
84 Scholarship need and merit-based grant] Prudence Crandall Merit
85 Scholarship shall be awarded in a higher amount than the [need-based
86 grant] Louise Duffy Need-Based Scholarship awarded pursuant to
87 subsection (e) of this section. Recipients of the [need and merit-based
88 grant] Prudence Crandall Merit Scholarship shall not be eligible to
89 receive an additional need-based award. The order of institutions of
90 higher education provided by a student on the student's Free
91 Application for Federal Student Aid shall not affect the student's
92 eligibility for an award under this subsection. The accepting institution
93 of higher education shall disburse sums awarded under the [need and
94 merit-based grant] Prudence Crandall Merit Scholarship for payment
95 of the student's eligible educational costs.

96 (e) The [Roberta B. Willis] Louise Duffy Need-Based Scholarship
97 [need-based grant] shall be available to any Connecticut resident who
98 is a full-time or part-time undergraduate student at any public or
99 independent institution of higher education. The amount of the annual
100 appropriation to be allocated to each institution of higher education
101 shall be determined by its actual full-time equivalent enrollment of
102 undergraduate students who are Connecticut residents with a family
103 contribution during the fall semester of the fiscal year two years prior
104 to the grant year of an amount not greater than two hundred per cent
105 of the maximum family contribution eligible for a federal Pell grant
106 award for the academic year one year prior to the grant year. Not later
107 than July first, annually, each institution of higher education shall
108 report such enrollment data to the Office of Higher Education. Not
109 later than October first, annually, the Office of Higher Education shall
110 (1) publish such enrollment data on its Internet web site, and (2) notify
111 each institution of higher education of the proportion of the annual
112 appropriation that such institution of higher education will receive the
113 following fiscal year and publish the proportions for each institution of
114 higher education on its Internet web site. Participating institutions of

115 higher education shall make awards (A) to eligible full-time students
116 in an amount up to four thousand five hundred dollars, and (B) to
117 eligible part-time students in an amount that is prorated according to
118 the number of credits each student will earn for completing the course
119 or courses in which such student is enrolled, such that a student
120 enrolled in a course or courses earning (i) at least nine but less than
121 twelve credits is eligible for up to seventy-five per cent of the
122 maximum award, and (ii) at least six but less than nine credits is
123 eligible for up to fifty per cent of the maximum award. Each
124 participating institution of higher education shall expend all of the
125 moneys received under the Roberta B. Willis [Scholarship program]
126 Tuition Assistance Program as direct financial assistance only for
127 eligible educational costs.

128 (f) [Participating institutions] Each public and independent
129 institution of higher education shall annually provide the Office of
130 Higher Education with data and reports on all Connecticut students
131 who applied for financial aid, including, but not limited to, students
132 receiving a Roberta B. Willis [Scholarship] Tuition Assistance Program
133 grant, in a form and at a time determined by said office. If an
134 institution of higher education fails to submit information to the Office
135 of Higher Education as directed, such institution shall be prohibited
136 from participating in the scholarship program in the fiscal year
137 following the fiscal year in which such institution failed to submit such
138 information. Each participating institution of higher education shall
139 maintain, for a period of not less than three years, records
140 substantiating the reported number of Connecticut students and
141 documentation utilized by the institution of higher education in
142 determining eligibility of the student grant recipients. Such records
143 shall be subject to audit or review. Funds not obligated by an
144 institution of higher education shall be returned by May first in the
145 fiscal year the grant was made to the Office of Higher Education for
146 reallocation. Financial aid provided to Connecticut residents under this
147 program shall be designated as a grant from the [Roberta B. Willis
148 Scholarship program] Prudence Crandall Merit Scholarship or the
149 Louise Duffy Need-Based Scholarship.

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

161 (h) In administering the Roberta B. Willis [Scholarship program]
162 Tuition Assistance Program, the Office of Higher Education shall
163 develop and utilize fiscal procedures designed to ensure accountability
164 of the public funds expended. Such procedures shall include
165 provisions for compliance reviews that shall be conducted by the
166 Office of Higher Education on any institution of higher education that
167 participates in the program. Commencing with the fiscal year ending
168 June 30, 2015, and biennially thereafter, each such institution of higher
169 education shall submit the results of an audit done by an independent
170 certified public accountant for each year of participation in the
171 program. Any institution of higher education determined by the Office
172 of Higher Education not to be in substantial compliance with the
173 provisions of the Roberta B. Willis [Scholarship program] Tuition
174 Assistance Program shall be ineligible to receive funds under the
175 program for the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the
176 institution of higher education was determined not to be in substantial
177 compliance. Funding shall be restored when the Office of Higher
178 Education determines that the institution of higher education has
179 returned to substantial compliance.

180 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 4-89 of the general statutes is
181 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
182 *1, 2018*):

183 (f) The provisions of this section shall not apply to appropriations to
 184 the Office of Higher Education for student financial assistance for the
 185 Roberta B. Willis [Scholarship program] Tuition Assistance Program
 186 established under section 10a-173, as amended by this act, or to the
 187 Board of Regents for Higher Education for Connecticut higher
 188 education centers of excellence established under section 10a-25h, to
 189 the Office of Higher Education for the minority advancement program
 190 established under subsection (b) of section 10a-11, or to the operating
 191 funds of the constituent units of the state system of higher education
 192 established pursuant to sections 10a-105, 10a-99 and 10a-77. Such
 193 appropriations shall not lapse until the end of the fiscal year
 194 succeeding the fiscal year of the appropriation except that centers of
 195 excellence appropriations deposited by the Board of Regents for
 196 Higher Education in the Endowed Chair Investment Fund, established
 197 under section 10a-20a, shall not lapse but shall be held permanently in
 198 the Endowed Chair Investment Fund and any moneys remaining in
 199 higher education operating funds of the constituent units of the state
 200 system of higher education shall not lapse but shall be held
 201 permanently in such funds. On or before September first, annually, the
 202 Office of Higher Education and Board of Regents for Higher Education
 203 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General
 204 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and
 205 the budgets of state agencies, through the Office of Fiscal Analysis,
 206 concerning the amount of each such appropriation carried over from
 207 the preceding fiscal year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2018	10a-173
Sec. 2	July 1, 2018	4-89(f)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Section 2 was added for consistency.

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:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill does not result in a fiscal impact, as it makes various procedural and technical changes to the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program. The bill does not alter the eligibility requirements or terms of the scholarship program.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5135*****AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning July 1, 2018, this bill changes the name of the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program, the state's financial aid program for Connecticut residents who attend an in-state public or independent higher education institution for their undergraduate studies. It renames the program the "Roberta B. Willis Tuition Assistance Program" and also renames two of the three grants awarded under the program: the need- and merit-based grant becomes the "Prudence Crandall Merit Scholarship," and the need-based grant becomes the "Louise Duffy Need-Based Scholarship." The eligibility requirements and terms of these grants remain unchanged.

The bill also adds the new names to various higher education-related statutes for award clarification purposes and conformity.

Additionally, it requires all in-state public and independent higher education institutions, not just those participating in the program, to annually provide the Office of Higher Education (OHE) with data and reports on all Connecticut students who applied for financial aid, including those receiving a Roberta B. Willis Tuition Assistance Program grant. By law, OHE determines the form and frequency of these reports. Institutions that fail to submit the required information are banned from participating in the program for the next fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 2 (03/06/2018)