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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 746**

#### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT AND CREATING A BUSINESS TAX CREDIT.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a General Fund account to accept privately donated funds that benefit the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program, the state's student aid program for residents attending public and private in-state colleges and universities.

It also creates a corporate business tax credit for Connecticut businesses that donate to the Office of Higher Education (OHE) for the scholarship program. OHE is the state agency responsible for administering the program.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2019, for establishment of the account; January 1, 2020, and applicable to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2020, for the tax credit.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT**

The bill establishes the "Roberta B. Willis Scholarship account," a separate, nonlapsing account in the General Fund. OHE must deposit any private donation, bequest, or devise it receives for the scholarship program into this account. Under the bill, funds in this account are intended for OHE to use to supplement state-appropriated funds for the scholarship program to award need- and merit-based grants.

The bill also requires OHE to adopt guidelines for soliciting private donations for this account.

#### **CORPORATE BUSINESS TAX CREDIT**

The bill allows businesses authorized to do business in the state to claim a corporate business tax credit for donating to OHE for the scholarship program for 50% of the donated amount, but any donation

that exceeds the amount due in the taxable year does not qualify for the credit. The bill limits the total amount of awarded tax credits to \$27 million. Businesses must provide documentation to the revenue services commissioner in a form and manner he prescribes in order to claim the credit.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 6 (03/14/2019)