

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

April 24, 2019

ADDENDUM

To Fiscal Note on
sSB-273, File No. 257

AN ACT CONCERNING DEBT-FREE COLLEGE.

The original fiscal note was based on Connecticut community college student-level financial aid data from fall 2017. Fall 2018 and academic year 2017-18 enrollment data newly provided by the Board of Regents allows a more precise estimate of the number of students who may receive grants under the bill, and the new recipient estimate changes the fiscal impact of the bill. The bill is anticipated to cost the General Fund up to \$2.1 million in grants in FY 21 and up to \$3.3 million in grants in FY 22. The bill is also anticipated to result in: (1) additional tuition and fees revenue to the community colleges of between \$1.5 million and \$3.1 million in FY 21, and between \$2.3 million and \$5.0 million in FY 22, and (2) a revenue loss to the state universities under the Board of Regents, of under \$1.0 million in FY 21 and under \$1.4 million in FY 22. The number of students receiving the grant is anticipated to range from 2,625 to 2,983 in FY 21, and 4,095 to 4,653 in FY 22.

The number of students affected has declined because the data used in the original fiscal note could not account for: (1) developmental coursework, which cannot be paid for by the bill's grants, or (2) recent high school graduates who were enrolled full-time with freshmen

status but were not new to the community colleges, who are ineligible for grants under the bill. The new estimate adjusts for these factors, and applies the financial aid data to the eligible population. If the financial needs of the grant-eligible students differ from the student population included in the financial aid database, or experience differs from any of the assumptions in the original fiscal note (which are unchanged in this analysis), then the fiscal impacts will vary from the estimate above.