



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 274

LCO No. 3495



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEARN HERE,
LIVE HERE PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-4i of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
4 in consultation with the Commissioner of Revenue Services and the
5 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, [may]
6 shall establish the Learn Here, Live Here program. Such program
7 [may] shall provide an incentive for graduates of a public institution of
8 higher education, private university or college, or health care training
9 school in this state, or graduates from a technical education and career
10 school, to buy a first home in the state. Persons who graduate on or
11 after January 1, 2014, from such institutions, universities, colleges or
12 schools may have their income tax liability, up to a maximum of two
13 thousand five hundred dollars annually, segregated into the
14 Connecticut first-time homebuyers account established pursuant to
15 section 32-4j, provided not more than one million dollars from all
16 program participants may be so segregated in any calendar year. After

17 a period not exceeding ten years after graduation, any amounts so
18 segregated may be withdrawn by a participant for the purchase of a
19 first home in the state. The Commissioner of Economic and
20 Community Development may make payments in accordance with
21 this section from said fund to the participants. For the purposes of this
22 section, "health care training school" means a medical or dental school,
23 chiropractic college, school or college of optometry, school or college of
24 chiropody or podiatry, school of occupational therapy, hospital-based
25 occupational school, school or college of naturopathy, school of dental
26 hygiene, school of physical therapy or any other school or institution
27 giving instruction in the healing arts.

28 (b) (1) After a period not exceeding ten years after the date of
29 graduation, a participant in the program established pursuant to
30 subsection (a) of this section may apply to the Commissioner of
31 Economic and Community Development for a payment to be issued,
32 on behalf of such participant, and used as the down payment on a
33 house, which must be the first house such participant has bought,
34 either singly or jointly. Such payment may be in an amount equal to
35 the amount of segregated funds deposited on behalf of such
36 participant. If the payment is less than such amount, any excess
37 amount shall be deposited in the General Fund.

38 (2) If a participant ceases to live in the state at any time up to one
39 year after [such date] the date on which the Commissioner of
40 Economic and Community Development issued the payment to the
41 participant, such participant shall repay one hundred per cent of the
42 amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in the state at any time
43 up to two years after such [date] payment, such participant shall repay
44 eighty per cent of the amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in
45 the state at any time up to three years after such [date] payment, such
46 participant shall repay sixty per cent of the amount paid out. If a
47 participant ceases to live in the state at any time up to four years after
48 such [date] payment, such participant shall repay forty per cent of the
49 amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in the state at any time

50 up to five years after such [date] payment, such participant shall repay
51 twenty per cent of the amount paid out. After five years, there is no
52 repayment obligation. Any amounts repaid under this subdivision
53 shall be deposited in the General Fund.

54 (c) On or before December 1, [2012] 2019, the Commissioner of
55 Economic and Community Development [may] shall develop, within
56 available appropriations, a comprehensive public education program
57 to educate recent graduates of a public institution of higher education,
58 private university or college, or health care training school in the state,
59 or of a technical education and career school, about the program
60 established under this section for first-time home buyers. The public
61 education program shall include, but not be limited to, information
62 concerning life-time savings plans and information on the purchase of
63 a home. [If the commissioner develops such public education program,
64 the] The department shall begin to implement such program not later
65 than January 1, [2014] 2020.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	32-4i

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish the Learn Here, Live Here program to help graduates of any institution of higher education or certain certificate programs of private occupational schools save toward a down payment on their first home in the state by segregating a portion of their state income tax payments for up to ten years after they graduate.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HWANG, 28th Dist.; REP. TURCO, 27th Dist.

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