

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5467

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A "FEE-FREE DAY" AT PUBLIC  
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
UConn	Other - Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Other - See Below	See Below	See Below

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill requires the University of Connecticut (UConn) and the Board of Regents to establish an annual "Fee-Free Day," on which an admissions application fee will not be charged to high school students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The bill results in a revenue loss to both UConn and the Board of Regents, but the Board of Regents may potentially experience a small tuition and fee revenue increase as described below.

As the bill requires the constituent units to waive admissions fees for only high school students who submit applications on a single day, and have already completed the FAFSA, the extent of any fiscal impacts is anticipated to be limited.

The amount of the revenue fee loss will depend on the number of students who submit applications on Fee-Free Day and would have applied absent the one-day fee waiver. The institutions have not previously held similar fee-waiving days, although admissions fee

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waivers are available at any time upon request, and consequently, no previous experiences are available to inform this estimate. At UConn, the admissions application fee is \$80 per person, and total application fee revenue associated with first-time college applicants was approximately \$2.2 million in both FY 20 and FY 21. At the four Connecticut State Universities, the admissions application fee is \$50, and the total associated revenue for all undergraduate admissions was an estimated \$1.1 million in FY 20.

At the same time, the bill's mandated Fee-Free Day may encourage more applications. To the extent that any students apply who would not have otherwise done so, and any are admitted as well as enroll, then the bill may result in a tuition and fees revenue gain beginning in FY 23 to the Connecticut state universities. No comparable impact to UConn is anticipated because it is not expected to substantially grow its undergraduate student population in future years.

The bill will not impact the other institutions under the Board of Regents. The community colleges charge no application fees and very few Charter Oak State College students enroll immediately after high school graduation.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to changes in undergraduate college admission application fees.