



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 5895**

LCO No. 3789



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON THE REDUCTION OF  
STUDENT LOAN DEBT.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study the amount of student loan debt incurred by students and  
3 graduates in the state and options available for reducing such debt. Such  
4 study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1) the  
5 average amount of student loan debt incurred by students and  
6 graduates in the state compared to the average amount incurred by  
7 students and graduates in other states in the region and nationally, (2)  
8 possible reasons for any differences between such average amounts of  
9 student loan debt, (3) options available to the state for reducing the  
10 amount of student loan debt incurred by students and graduates, and  
11 (4) recommendations for programs to reduce the average amount of  
12 student loan debt in the state.

13 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

14 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
15 one of whom is a financial aid officer at a four-year public institution of

16 higher education in the state and one of whom is a financial aid officer  
17 at an independent institution of higher education in the state;

18 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
19 whom is a financial aid officer at a regional community-technical college  
20 in the state and one of whom works in the banking industry and has  
21 expertise in managing student loans;

22 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
23 Representatives, who is a current student at an institution of higher  
24 education in the state;

25 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a  
26 parent of a current student at an institution of higher education in the  
27 state;

28 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
29 Representatives, who is a recent graduate of an institution of higher  
30 education in the state;

31 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a  
32 parent of a recent graduate of an institution of higher education in the  
33 state;

34 (7) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education, or the  
35 executive director's designee;

36 (8) The executive director of the Connecticut Higher Education  
37 Supplemental Loan Authority, or the executive director's designee; and

38 (9) The chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and ranking members of the  
39 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
40 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, or  
41 their designees.

42 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
43 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member

44 of the General Assembly.

45 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
46 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
47 be filled by the appointing authority.

48 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
49 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
50 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
51 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
52 days after the effective date of this section.

53 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
54 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
55 education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

56 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report  
57 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
58 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
59 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
60 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
61 submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a task force to study the amount of student loan debt of students and graduates in the state.

*[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: REP. TURCO, 27th Dist.; REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.

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