



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5895

January Session, 2021



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, (4)
11 recommendations for programs to reduce the average amount of
12 student loan debt in the state, and (5) the relationship between race,
13 ethnicity, gender identity, sex or age and the average amount of debt
14 incurred by students or graduates.

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

16 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
17 one of whom is a financial aid officer at a four-year public institution of
18 higher education in the state and one of whom is a financial aid officer

19 at an independent institution of higher education in the state;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
45 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
46 of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

58 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report on
59 its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
60 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
61 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
62 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
63 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

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*