
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5129

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CONSIDERATION OF CRIMINAL HISTORY DURING THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOL OR BY AN EDUCATIONAL OR VOCATIONAL PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits Connecticut colleges, universities, and private occupational schools from asking about or considering a student's prior arrests, criminal charges, or convictions under the following circumstances:

1. on an admissions application and during the admissions process;
2. for enrollment in any program of study; or
3. when determining eligibility for any form of financial, grant, scholarship, or institutional aid program, except for aid granted based on a prior arrest, charge, or conviction.

It specifies that these prohibitions do not apply when state or federal law requires these criminal disclosures.

Current law prohibits discrimination against individuals in educational and vocational programs, based upon various factors such as race, age, and gender identity. The bill expands this prohibition to also include discrimination against individuals with a criminal history.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 1 (03/03/2022)