
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5299

AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDING PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

SUMMARY

This bill increases, to age 26, the age of eligibility for the Department of Children and Families' (DCF's) post-secondary education funding program (see BACKGROUND). Under the bill, the DCF commissioner must amend the department's policies and regulations for this funding program to increase:

1. from 21 to 26, the age until which a youth can voluntarily agree to receive and qualify for DCF services and funding under the program and
2. from 23 to 26, the age until which a youth who is enrolled in a post-secondary education program and who continues to meet DCF requirements is eligible for funding to complete the post-secondary education program.

For these purposes, a "post-secondary education program" is a program that leads to an academic degree or certification in a vocation or employment training.

The bill also extends the maximum age of DCF guardianship, from 21 to 26, for:

1. a child or youth committed to DCF care before age 18 who receives services and funding from the post-secondary education funding program and
2. a youth committed to DCF care before age 18 who (a) remains voluntarily in DCF care once he or she reaches age 18 and (b) receives services and funding through the post-secondary

education funding program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Post-Secondary Education Funding Program

Under this program, DCF provides funding for post-secondary education to certain young adults who, before their 18th birthday, were adjudicated as abused, neglected, or uncared for children and committed by the Superior Court to DCF.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 1 (03/17/2022)