
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1043

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

Beginning by January 1, 2024, this bill requires the Office of Higher Education to start annually reporting to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee on the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program for the current fiscal year, including at least the:

1. amount of the annual need-based grant and need-merit grant appropriation allocated to each participating higher education institution and awarded to students at each institution, respectively, and
2. number of students awarded grants.

By law, the Roberta B. Willis scholarship is the state's financial aid program for Connecticut residents who attend a public or independent higher education institution in the state. It consists of need-merit, need-based, and Charter Oak grants. Need-merit and need-based are both means-tested grants, although the need-merit also requires high academic achievement.

The bill also updates statutory language in the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program to reflect changes in federal law, which is phasing out the "Expected Family Contribution" (EFC) and replacing it with the "Student Aid Index" (SAI) (FAFSA Simplification Act, part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 - PL: 116-260). Like the EFC, the SAI is used to determine a student's eligibility for certain types of federal and state aid. Beginning July 1, 2024, the bill replaces EFC with SAI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/07/2023)