



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 86

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6566

House of Representatives, March 16, 2023

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING FOR THE DEBT-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 10a-174 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2023*):

4 (e) Not later than [March 1, 2021, and October 1, 2021] November 1,
5 2023, and March 1, 2024, and each semester thereafter, the Board of
6 Regents for Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the
7 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the
8 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
9 education and employment advancement and appropriations and the
10 budgets of the state agencies regarding the debt-free community college
11 program, including, but not limited to, (1) the number of qualifying
12 students enrolled at the regional community-technical colleges during
13 each semester, (2) the number of qualifying students receiving

14 minimum awards and the number of qualifying students receiving
15 awards for the unpaid portion of eligible institutional costs, (3) the
16 average number of credit hours the qualifying students enrolled in each
17 semester and the average number of credit hours the qualifying
18 students completed each semester, (4) the average amount of the award
19 made to qualifying students under this section for the unpaid portion of
20 eligible institutional costs, and (5) the completion rates of qualifying
21 students receiving awards under this section by degree or certificate
22 program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	10a-174(e)

HED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which delays by one month the semester-based deadlines for reporting on the state's debt-free community college program, is procedural and not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6566*****AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING FOR THE DEBT-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill delays, by one month, an annual deadline for reporting on the state's debt-free community college program (a.k.a., the Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT) program, see BACKGROUND). By law, the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) must report each fall and spring semester to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement and Appropriations committees on the:

1. number of qualifying students (a) enrolled during each semester, (b) receiving minimum awards, and (c) receiving awards for the unpaid portion of eligible institutional costs;
2. average number of credit hours that qualifying students (a) enrolled in each semester and (b) completed in each semester;
3. average award amount to be made to qualifying students for the unpaid portion of eligible institutional costs; and
4. completion rates of qualifying students who receive awards by degree or certificate program.

Under current law, BOR must submit this report by October 1 for the fall semester and March 1 for the spring semester. The bill moves the fall semester reporting deadline out one month to November 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

PACT

Generally, under PACT, Connecticut high school graduates who enroll as first-time, full-time regional community-technical college students are eligible to receive awards that (1) cover the unpaid portion of the institutional costs (i.e., tuition and fees minus scholarships; grants; and federal, state, and institutional aid awarded to the student excluding loans) or (2) provide a minimum award of \$250, whichever is greater. Qualifying part-time students (i.e., students enrolled at a regional community-technical college carrying at least six but no more than 11 credit hours in a semester) can receive awards that (1) cover the unpaid portion of the institutional costs or (2) provide a minimum award of \$150, whichever is greater. Provided on a semester basis, the awards must apply to the first 72 credit hours earned by a student in the first 48 months of community college enrollment in a degree-granting or certificate program (CGS § 10a-174).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (02/28/2023)