

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6566

AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING FOR THE DEBT-FREE COMMUNITY

**Title:** COLLEGE PROGRAM.

**Vote Date:** 2/28/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/16/2023

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill delays the annual reporting deadline for the fall semester as required by the debt-free community college program from, October first to November first annually. State university officials report that the current deadline does not align with fall financial aid awards and does not provide sufficient time to submit complete information on the PACT program. The bill aims to move the reporting deadline to November 1 annually, which would provide staff with enough time to complete a PACT report and furnish the General Assembly with comprehensive information before the legislative session.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut State Colleges & Universities \(CSCU\), Senior Director of Government Relations, and External Affairs, Sean Bradbury](#); supports this bill stating that the goal is to better align with fall financial aid awards and to submit accurate and complete data. It is stated that, currently, the fall semester reporting deadline is established in statute as October 1, but some data points required for submission are not finalized until roughly the middle of October. It was suggested that the deadline should be moved to November 1 to provide staff with sufficient time to finalize the information and submit one complete report on PACT for the fall, and to provide actionable information to the General Assembly.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Stated.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None stated.

**Reported by: Lukas Houle**

**Date: 3/1/2023**