

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 23-141—HB 6566

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act 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). Generally, PACT gives certain Connecticut high school graduates awards that cover the unpaid portion of the college's institutional costs (i.e., tuition and fees minus scholarships; grants; and federal, state, and institutional aid awarded to the student excluding loans).

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.

Prior law required BOR to submit this report by October 1 for the fall semester and March 1 for the spring semester. The act moves the fall semester reporting deadline out one month, to November 1, and maintains the March 1 deadline for the spring.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023