
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5239

AN ACT EXPANDING THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGIATE AWARENESS AND PREPARATION PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes to the Connecticut collegiate awareness and preparation program (ConnCAP), which is part of the Office of Higher Education's (OHE) Minority Advancement Program. Primarily, the bill extends funding eligibility to nonprofit community-based organizations that provide collegiate awareness and preparation programs with a demonstrated record of successful student completion. Under current law, these programs are offered only by higher education institutions.

The bill requires ConnCAP to target disadvantaged students, including low-income and first-generation college students, rather than "underachievers" as in current law.

The bill also defines a collegiate awareness and preparation program as a program that provides outreach and services to middle school and high school students to prepare them to successfully complete postsecondary education at a higher education institution.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Existing law requires OHE to review grant applications based on an evaluation format the office develops. The bill specifies that this format must include a preference for existing collegiate awareness and preparation programs with a demonstrated record of successful student completion.

The bill also sets a submission deadline for applications of no later than March 31. Current law does not specify a deadline.

PROGRAM AWARDS AND FUNDING

The bill requires payments to be available to grant recipients for one year beginning August 1 of the year in which the grant is awarded. Under the bill, OHE may require the recipient to repay the grant to the state if the office finds that the grant is being used for any purpose that does not conform with the program’s purposes.

The bill appropriates \$4,800,000 to OHE from the General Fund in FY 25 for the minority advancement program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/14/2024)