



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4488



Offered by:

REP. HADDAD, 54th Dist.

SEN. SLAP, 5th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5239

File No. 609

Cal. No. 156

**"AN ACT EXPANDING THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGIATE
AWARENESS AND PREPARATION PROGRAM."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As part of the minority
4 advancement program, the Office of Higher Education shall establish a
5 program to be known as the "Preparation for Academic Transition to
6 Higher Education" or "PATH" program. For the fiscal year ending on
7 June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the office shall allocate not
8 more than one hundred thousand dollars, within available
9 appropriations, to award grants to any nonprofit community-based
10 organization in the state that provides assistance to students who reside
11 in the state and are in grade eleven or twelve with (1) completing
12 applications to postsecondary education programs, (2) completing the
13 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or an application for
14 institutional financial aid established pursuant to section 10a-161d of the
15 general statutes, including, but not limited to, through informational

16 events and presentations concerning such financial aid applications,
17 and (3) securing education scholarships and grants to finance
18 attendance in a postsecondary education program.

19 (b) The Office of Higher Education shall award grants under the
20 PATH program on a competitive basis to any nonprofit community-
21 based organization that (1) provided the types of assistance specified in
22 subsection (a) of this section during the academic year prior to the year
23 in which the grant will be awarded, and (2) will provide, cooperatively
24 with the school administrators of a public high school in the state, such
25 assistance during the academic year for which the grant will be
26 awarded. The office shall establish procedures for the submission of
27 grant applications for said program and shall review such grant
28 applications on the basis of an evaluation format developed by the
29 office, that shall include, but need not be limited to, preference for such
30 nonprofit community-based organizations that provide such assistance
31 in a school district designated as an alliance school district, pursuant to
32 section 10-262u of the general statutes, for the academic year in which
33 the grant will be awarded. Grants shall be awarded in amounts not
34 exceeding twenty thousand dollars and not less than fifteen thousand
35 dollars and shall be available for the duration of the academic year for
36 which such grant is awarded. If the office finds that any such grant is
37 being used for any purpose that is not in conformity with the purposes
38 of the PATH program, the office may require repayment of the grant to
39 the state.

40 Sec. 2. Section 10a-11a of the general statutes is repealed and the
41 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

42 (a) As used in this section, "collegiate awareness and preparation
43 program" means a program that provides outreach and services to
44 middle school and high school students to prepare such students for
45 successful completion of postsecondary education at institutions of
46 higher education.

47 [(a)] (b) As part of the minority advancement program, the Office of

48 Higher Education shall establish a Connecticut collegiate awareness and
49 preparation program to develop linkages with public school systems
50 targeted by the office for the purpose of providing motivation and skills
51 development for middle school or high school [underachievers]
52 students who are disadvantaged, including, but not limited to, students
53 from low-income families and first-generation postsecondary education
54 students.

55 [(b)] (c) Funding for said program shall be on a competitive basis
56 open to all [Connecticut] institutions of higher education in the state.
57 The Office of Higher Education shall issue a request for proposals to all
58 [Connecticut higher educational] such institutions. A panel shall review
59 applications on the basis of an evaluation format developed by said
60 office. Payment [will] shall be made under contractual agreements
61 between the office and the grant recipients."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	10a-11a