
OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 6390

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

SUMMARY:

This bill extends in-state tuition status to undocumented immigrants residing in Connecticut who meet certain criteria. By law, with limited exceptions, determination of in-state tuition status is based on an applicant's domicile, that is, his "true, fixed and permanent home" and the place where he intends to remain and return to when he leaves. Undocumented immigrants are not considered to be domiciled in Connecticut.

Under the bill, a person, except a nonimmigrant alien (someone with a visa permitting temporary entrance to the country for a specific purpose), qualifies for in-state tuition if he or she:

1. resides in Connecticut;
2. attended any educational institution in the state and completed at least four years of high school here;
3. graduated from a high school in Connecticut, or the equivalent; and
4. is registered as an entering student, or is currently a student at, UConn, a Connecticut State University, a community-technical college, or Charter Oak State College.

By law, "resides" means continuous and permanent physical presence within the state. The establishment of residence is not affected by temporary absence for short periods of time.

If the individual is an undocumented immigrant, he or she must file

an affidavit with the college stating that he or she has applied to legalize his or her immigration status or will do so as soon as he or she is eligible to apply. (Currently, undocumented immigrants who apply for student visas or lawful permanent resident status are subject to deportation. Thus, they are not eligible to apply until federal law is amended to allow them to do so.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

PRELIMINARY