



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5137**

February Session, 2022



**AN ACT STUDYING AND FUNDING THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than forty-five days after  
2 the effective date of this section, the Chief Workforce Officer and the  
3 executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall develop and  
4 issue a request for proposals for a third party to make recommendations  
5 for proposed changes to the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program  
6 established under section 10a-173 of the general statutes. The Chief  
7 Workforce Officer and the executive director shall consult with the  
8 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and representatives  
9 from public and independent institutions of higher education in the  
10 state in developing such request for proposals. The third party shall be  
11 a national organization with expertise in financial aid programs for  
12 institutions of higher education.

13 (b) The proposed changes to such program shall, at a minimum: (1)  
14 Provide need-based financial aid to Connecticut residents enrolled at  
15 public and independent institutions in a manner that promotes access  
16 and choice to postsecondary education in the state and focuses on the  
17 student, (2) ensure prospective and current students are notified of their  
18 initial eligibility for a grant based on the completion of the Free

