



Substitute House Bill No. 5301

Public Act No. 22-101

AN ACT CONCERNING IN-STATE STUDENT STATUS OF VETERANS, A POSTSECONDARY PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFICE, THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, FOOD INSECURE STUDENTS AND CHILD CARE CENTERS ON OR NEAR COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

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

Section 1. Section 10a-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

The following shall determine the status of a student:

(1) Every person having [his] such person's domicile in this state shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes. Except as otherwise provided in this part, no person having [his] such person's domicile outside of this state shall be eligible for classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes;

(2) The domicile of an unemancipated person is that of [his] such person's parent;

(3) Upon moving to this state, an emancipated person employed full-time who provides evidence of domicile may apply for in-state classification for such person's spouse and unemancipated children after six consecutive months of residency and, provided such person is

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not [himself or herself] in this state primarily as a full-time student, such person's spouse and unemancipated children may at once be so classified, and may continue to be so classified as long as such person continues such person's domicile in this state;

(4) Any unemancipated person who remains in this state when such person's parent, having theretofore been domiciled in this state, removes from this state, shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student until attainment of the degree for which such person is currently enrolled, as long as such person's attendance at a school or schools in this state shall be continuous;

(5) The spouse of any person who is classified or is eligible for classification as an in-state student shall [likewise] be entitled to classification as an in-state student;

(6) (A) A member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, who is stationed in this state pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student.

(B) The spouse of any person who is a member of the armed forces and stationed in this state pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student. The spouse, while in residence after the spouse's acceptance for matriculation at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor or advanced degree, shall not lose classification as an in-state student if the member of the armed forces is thereafter transferred on military orders;

(7) An unemancipated person whose parent is a member of the armed forces and stationed in this state pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student. The student, (A) while in continuous attendance toward the degree for which the student is currently enrolled, or (B) while in residence after [his or her] the

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student's acceptance for matriculation at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor or advanced degree, shall not lose classification as an in-state student if [his or her] the student's parent is thereafter transferred on military orders;

(8) A student [that] who is from another state, territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be classified as an in-state student, if such student (A) attended for three years and graduated from a high school in this state, and (B) was sponsored, housed and supported during attendance at such school by a program, such as the "A Better Chance" program, established as a nonprofit organization that raises charitable funds on the local level for the purpose of giving students who are minority students, are from single parent homes or live in poverty, an opportunity to attend school in a different environment. For purposes of this subdivision, "minority student" means a student whose racial ancestry is defined as other than white by the Bureau of Census of the United States Department of Commerce; [and]

(9) In accordance with 8 USC 1621(d), a person, other than a nonimmigrant alien as described in 8 USC 1101(a)(15)(A) to 8 USC 1101(a)(15)(S), inclusive, and 8 USC 1101(a)(15)(V), shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes, (A) if such person (i) resides in this state, (ii) attended any educational institution in this state and completed at least two years of high school level education in this state, (iii) graduated from a high school in this state, or the equivalent thereof, and (iv) is registered as an entering student, or is enrolled at a public institution of higher education in this state, and (B) if such person is without legal immigration status, such person files an affidavit with such institution of higher education stating that [he or she] such person has filed an application to legalize [his or her] such person's immigration status, or will file such an application as soon as

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[he or she] such person is eligible to do so; [.] and

(10) (A) A veteran who lives in this state, regardless of such veteran's state of residence, shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes only. As used in this subdivision, "veteran" means any person discharged or released, under conditions other than dishonorable, from a period of ninety or more days of active service in the armed forces.

(B) A person who lives in this state, regardless of such person's state of residence, and is entitled to educational assistance pursuant to the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, 38 USC 3311(b)(8), as amended from time to time, shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes only.

(C) A person who lives in this state, regardless of such person's state of residence, and is entitled to educational assistance pursuant to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, 38 USC 3319, as amended from time to time, through transfer of such assistance by virtue of such person's relationship to a veteran or a member described in 38 USC 3319(b), as amended from time to time, who is serving on active duty, shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes only.

Sec. 2. Section 2 of public act 21-132 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a task force to study the costs and benefits of establishing a Postsecondary Prison Education Program Office within the Department of Correction. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1) any existing office dedicated to postsecondary prison education within the state and, if such office exists, such office's responsibilities, (2) the process and standards for approving education programs at correctional facilities, (3) the ability for virtual education programs at correctional facilities, (4) the

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administrative process that the department uses for students who submit complaints about the education programs, (5) the process and standards that the department uses to approve curriculum and course materials for students in correctional facilities, (6) whether the department participates in the state's education, workforce and employment longitudinal data system, (7) the space available in correctional facilities to provide prison education programming, (8) the demand for space in correctional facilities for prison education programming, and (9) the strategies utilized by other state or county correctional agencies to increase the number of individuals who will have access to prison education programs using federal Pell grant awards.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) [~~Three~~] Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

(2) [~~Three~~] Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(3) [~~Two~~] One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(4) [~~Two~~] One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(5) [~~Two~~] One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(6) [~~Two~~] One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(7) The undersecretary for criminal justice at the Office of Policy and Management, or the undersecretary's designee; and

(8) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee.

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(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, [2022] 2023, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, [2022] 2023, whichever is later.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to make recommendations for proposed changes to the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program established under section 10a-173 of the general statutes. The proposed changes to such program shall, at a minimum: (1) Provide need-based financial aid to Connecticut residents enrolled at public and independent institutions of higher education in a manner that promotes access and choice to postsecondary education in the state and focuses on the student, (2) ensure prospective and current students

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are notified of their initial eligibility for a grant based on the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and that an additional application to the Office of Higher Education is not required for such grant, (3) ensure participating public and independent institutions of higher education are aware of the initial student eligibility criteria and corresponding grant award amount for the following academic year on or before December first, annually, the year prior to the grant year, and (4) consider the feasibility of including the participation of private occupational schools in such program and estimate the cost of providing need and merit-based grants or need-based grants for the eligible educational costs of state residents attending such schools.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(7) The Chief Workforce Officer, or the officer's designee; and

(8) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education, or the executive director's designee.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

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(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report on its recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section, (1) "food insecurity" or "food insecure" means the lack of financial resources needed to consistently access enough food for an active and healthy life, and (2) "fruit and vegetable incentive program" means a program that offers participants matching funds to purchase fruits and vegetables in any increment relative to the cost of such fruits and vegetables.

(b) Not later than March 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, each public institution of higher education in the state shall administer a survey to each student enrolled at such institution for the purpose of collecting data on the number of students who are food insecure and the causes of and reasons for such food insecurity. Such survey shall include, but need not be limited to, questions regarding a student's (1) demographic

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background, including age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, income, education and employment; (2) specific barriers to food access; and (3) awareness or use of community or institutional resources to address food insecurity and any barriers to accessing such resources.

(c) Not later than October 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, each public institution of higher education shall evaluate any services and programs offered by such institution to address the needs of food-insecure students. Based on the results of the survey administered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, each institution shall amend any existing services or programs or establish a new service or program to address the needs of food-insecure students. Such service or program may include, but not be limited to, (1) assistance and support for students to enroll in the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, or any other state or federal program for nutrition assistance or financial aid, including programs for families, if such program is applicable to the student; (2) providing low-cost food or meal plan options on campus; (3) allowing students additional meals through additional card swipes on meal plans; (4) providing financial assistance or other financial student aid; (5) establishing or expanding a food pantry on campus; or (6) initiating a fruit and vegetable incentive program, or making such program available to students through agreement with a community nonprofit organization or governmental agency that provides such program. When amending or establishing any service or program pursuant to this subsection, each institution shall have the goal of providing such service or program to not less than ten per cent of the number of students identified as being food insecure in the survey administered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2024, and biennially thereafter, each public institution of higher education in the state shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,

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to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education, regarding any food insecurities among the students at such institution, including, but not limited to, (1) results from the survey administered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (2) services or programs to address the needs of food insecure students, including any amendments made to such services or programs pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (3) the number of students who utilized such services or programs during the preceding two years.

Sec. 5. Section 17b-105f of the general statutes is amended by adding subsections (e) and (f) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

(NEW) (e) (1) Not later than July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall consult with the Department of Social Services for the purpose of identifying any educational program offered at an institution of higher education governed by said boards that qualifies as an employment and training program that increases a student's employability and complies with the requirements for an exemption, as specified in 7 CFR 273.5(b)(11), as amended from time to time, from the supplemental nutrition assistance program eligibility rule in 7 CFR 273.5(a), as amended from time to time. In identifying such educational programs, the department and said boards shall seek to maximize the number and types of employment and training programs offered at the institution of higher education governed by said boards.

(2) Any independent institution of higher education in the state may, in such institution's discretion, consult with the Department of Social Services for the purposes set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(NEW) (f) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Social Services, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall each post, and regularly

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update, on their Internet web site, the list of educational programs offered at each institution of higher education governed by said boards that has been identified as an employment and training program pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) For the purpose of determining eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended from time to time, the Department of Social Services, to the extent permitted under federal law, shall consider any student enrolled in an institution of higher education in the state to be participating in a state or federally financed work-study program if such student receives approval of work-study as part of a financial aid package to attend such institution of higher education, regardless of whether such student has received his or her work-study program assignment.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) Each public institution of higher education shall annually notify students by any means of communication, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, regarding the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended from time to time, including, but not limited to, (1) the qualification requirements for such program, (2) the application procedure for such program, and (3) where to obtain assistance in completing an application for such program.

Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section, "child care center" means a facility that is licensed by the Office of Early Childhood as a child care center or a group child care home, both as defined in section 19a-77 of the general statutes.

(b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education, in consultation with the Office of Early Childhood, shall develop a plan to increase the number of child care centers on or near each campus of the regional community-technical colleges and the Connecticut State University

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System with the goals of (1) providing quality child care services for the staff, students and surrounding community of each campus, (2) addressing the child care needs of nontraditional students, and (3) fostering relationships between such colleges and universities and their surrounding communities. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the development, expansion and maintenance of child care centers that (A) are utilized by an early childhood education program for instructional purposes, or (B) provide evening and weekend child care services in accordance with college or university course schedules.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the plan developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. Such plan shall include an estimated budget and implementation timeline for the development of additional child care centers.