



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6563

January Session, 2023



AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDING PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OF ADOPTED YOUTH..

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Department" means the Department of Children and Families;
- 3 (2) "Postsecondary education program" means any program that
4 leads to an academic degree or certification in a vocation or employment
5 training; and
- 6 (3) "Postsecondary education funding program" means the program
7 set forth in department policy 28-1 under which it funds the
8 postsecondary education of a youth who is committed to the
9 department, remains committed at the age of eighteen and meets the
10 requirements established by the department in its policies and
11 regulations.
- 12 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall amend the
13 department policies and regulations regarding the postsecondary
14 education funding program to (1) increase the age until which a youth
15 can qualify for funding from the department under the postsecondary

16 education funding program from twenty-one to twenty-six years of age,
17 (2) increase the age until which a youth who is enrolled in a
18 postsecondary education program and continues to meet the
19 requirements established by the department is eligible for funding to
20 complete such postsecondary education program under the
21 postsecondary education funding program from twenty-three to
22 twenty-eight years of age, and (3) require any youth who is eligible for
23 funding under the postsecondary education funding program to
24 complete for each year such youth is enrolled in a postsecondary
25 education program, as a condition to receiving such funding, the Free
26 Application for Federal Student Aid and applications for any
27 appropriate scholarships and grants, including, but not limited to,
28 through any scholarship application portal administered by the
29 provider of such postsecondary education program. Nothing in this
30 section shall be construed to require the department to continue
31 providing case management services for any youth who begins
32 receiving funding under the postsecondary education funding program
33 when such youth is older than twenty-one years of age.

34 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2024,
35 the Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish a pilot
36 program to provide financial assistance for the postsecondary education
37 of any youth who (1) is adopted by a state resident through another
38 state's foster care program on or after January 1, 2005, (2) completes the
39 Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each year such youth is
40 enrolled in a postsecondary education program, as defined in section 1
41 of this act, and (3) meets and continues to meet the postsecondary
42 education assistance program requirements set forth in the Department
43 of Children and Families policy 25-2, except the requirement that such
44 youth be adopted through the department's foster care program. A
45 youth who qualifies for financial assistance pursuant to this subsection
46 may apply to the department in the form and manner prescribed by the
47 commissioner. The commissioner shall approve a youth's application to
48 receive such financial assistance until the completion of such youth's
49 postsecondary education program, within the limits of available

50 funding and on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of financial
51 assistance provided by the commissioner to a youth pursuant to this
52 subsection (A) shall include the cost of tuition, fees, room and board and
53 books, but may not exceed the maximum cost of attendance at a state
54 university within the Connecticut State University System for an in-
55 state, full-time residential student, and (B) may be paid on a semester,
56 trimester or quarterly basis as required by the postsecondary education
57 program in which such youth is enrolled.

58 (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Children and
59 Families shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
60 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of
61 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
62 higher education and employment advancement, and appropriations
63 and the budgets of the state agencies concerning the pilot program
64 established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such report shall
65 include, but need not be limited to, the (1) number of youth who
66 received financial assistance, (2) amount of such financial assistance,
67 and (3) feasibility of making such pilot program permanent.

68 Sec. 3. (Effective July 1, 2023) The sum of one hundred fifty thousand
69 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Children and Families from
70 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for the pilot
71 program established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	New section

KID Joint Favorable Subst.