



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 17

LCO No. 703



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMPLETION OF THE FREE APPLICATION
FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-221a of the 2020 supplement to the general
2 statutes is amended by adding subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2020*):

4 (NEW) (l) (1) For the graduating class of 2022, a local or regional
5 board of education may require each student, as a condition to
6 graduating from high school or receiving a diploma, to (A) complete
7 and submit to the United States Department of Education a Free
8 Application for Federal Student Aid; (B) complete and submit to a
9 public institution of higher education an application for institutional
10 financial aid for students without legal immigration status established
11 pursuant to section 10a-161d; or (C) complete and submit a waiver, on
12 a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to
13 section 2 of this act, signed by such minor student's parent or legal
14 guardian or such student if such student is a legally emancipated minor

15 or eighteen years of age or older, which request shall contain an
16 attestation of (i) understanding the purpose of the Free Application for
17 Federal Student Aid or the application for institutional financial aid for
18 students without legal immigration status, and (ii) the choice to not file
19 such application. Such local or regional board of education may grant
20 an exemption to any student upon such board's determination that such
21 student is unable to satisfy the requirements of this subdivision.

22 (2) Commencing with the classes graduating in 2023, and for each
23 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
24 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to
25 any student who has not (A) completed and submitted to the United
26 States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student
27 Aid, (B) completed and submitted to a public institution of higher
28 education an application for institutional financial aid for students
29 without legal immigration status established pursuant to section 10a-
30 161d, or (C) completed and submitted a waiver, on a form prescribed by
31 the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 2 of this act, signed
32 by such minor student's parent or legal guardian or such student if such
33 student is a legally emancipated minor or eighteen years of age or older,
34 which request shall contain an attestation of (i) understanding the
35 purpose of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the
36 application for institutional financial aid for students without legal
37 immigration status, and (ii) the choice to not file such application. Such
38 local or regional board of education may grant an exemption to any
39 student upon such board's determination that such student is unable to
40 satisfy the requirements of this subdivision.

41 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2020*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2021, the
42 Commissioner of Education shall create and distribute to each local and
43 regional board of education any forms, documents and waivers
44 necessary to implement the provisions of subsection (l) of section 10-
45 221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

46 (b) Not later than July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
47 Department of Education shall submit a report, in accordance with the

48 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
49 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
50 relating to education and higher education on the rate at which the
51 classes graduating in 2023, and each graduating class thereafter,
52 completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, application for
53 institutional financial aid for students without legal immigration status
54 or waiver request form in each school district and the number of
55 exemptions granted by each local and regional board of education
56 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (l) of section 10-221a of the
57 general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10-221a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To include completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the application for institutional financial aid for undocumented students, or a waiver form as a condition to high school graduation.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]