

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-35

AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ADOPTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' FOSTER CARE

Title: PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 2/25/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/4/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children
Rep. Michael A. Winkler, 56th Dist.
Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist.
Sen. Dan Champagne, 35th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would allow for children adopted on or after January 1, 2001 to be eligible for a post-secondary education expense assistance on behalf of the state of Connecticut. Currently, only children who were adopted after December 31, 2004 are eligible for the state of Connecticut expense assistance. Considering children who were born in 2001 should be around 20 years old in 2021, the approval of this bill would allow young adults to have their post-secondary education expenses assisted by the state as soon as possible.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Vannessa Dorantes, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families: Testified in support but added some comments regarding this bill. Currently, the expenses of the DCF with the foster care program higher education support are approximately \$25,000/year. The enactment of this bill could result in a significant unbudgeted cost. Therefore, if the bill requires DCF to provide financial assistance to young adults who attend college on or after the bill's effective date, the cost would be approximately \$6.7 million annually.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

No Support to this bill offered

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No Support to this bill offered

Reported by: Gabriela Dos Santos

Date: March 7th 2021