

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5035

AN ACT CONCERNING IN-STATE TUITION FOR VETERANS AND ELIGIBLE

**Title:** DEPENDENTS.

**Vote Date:** 3/3/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/17/2022

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

To allow veterans and eligible dependents to pay in-state tuition to attend colleges and universities in Connecticut (regardless of their legal residence), as well as to align state law with federal law.

Substitute language:

- Lines 84-85: technical change

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Terrence Cheng, President, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities \(CSCU\)](#): CSCU supports [H.B. 5035](#), as it will "bring Connecticut state law into alignment" with a new federal law, passed in January 2021. This law requires facilities approved for GI Bill benefits to waive the three-year period requirement to allow for in-state tuition and fee charges for beneficiaries.

[Timothy Larson, Executive Director, Office of Higher Education \(OHE\)](#): The OHE supports [H.B. 5035](#) because not only will it invest in developing and retaining employees in the state of Connecticut, but it will also ensure that Connecticut's veterans will be able to pursue a degree at a public university. Furthermore, [H.B. 5035](#) will "bring Connecticut in compliance with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which requires institutions to charge an in-state tuition rate for veterans regardless of the amount of time a veteran has lived in a state." Also, if Connecticut fails to comply with Title 38 of the US Code, it "could mean the loss of educational benefits to veterans attending" higher education institutions in the state.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

See Agency Response

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed for House Bill 5035

**Reported by: Austin Hyatt**

**Date: 3/9/2022**