



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5137

LCO No. 1199



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT STUDYING AND FUNDING THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than forty-five days after
2 the effective date of this section, the Chief Workforce Officer and the
3 executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall develop and
4 issue a request for proposals for a third party to make recommendations
5 for proposed changes to the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program
6 established under section 10a-173 of the general statutes. The Chief
7 Workforce Officer and the executive director shall consult with the
8 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and representatives
9 from public and independent institutions of higher education in the
10 state in developing such request for proposals. The third party shall be
11 a national organization with expertise in financial aid programs for
12 institutions of higher education.

13 (b) The proposed changes to such program shall, at a minimum: (1)
14 Provide need-based financial aid to Connecticut residents enrolled at

15 public and independent institutions in a manner that promotes access
16 and choice to postsecondary education in the state and focuses on the
17 student, (2) ensure prospective and current students are notified of their
18 initial eligibility for a grant based on the completion of the Free
19 Application for Federal Student Aid and that an additional application
20 to the Office of Higher Education is not required for such grant, and (3)
21 ensure participating public and independent institutions of education
22 are aware of the initial student eligibility criteria and corresponding
23 grant award amount for the following academic year on or before
24 December first, annually, the year prior to the grant year.

25 (c) Not later than December 1, 2022, the Chief Workforce Officer and
26 the executive director shall submit a report of the recommended
27 changes to the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program, in accordance
28 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
29 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
30 matters relating to higher education.

31 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of thirty-three million three
32 hundred eighty-eight thousand six hundred thirty-seven dollars is
33 appropriated to the Office of Higher Education from the General Fund,
34 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, for the Roberta A. Willis
35 Scholarship Program established under section 10a-173 of the general
36 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To study modifications to the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program and appropriate funds to the program.

[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.]