



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 85

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6563

House of Representatives, March 16, 2023

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDING PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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 offered by the department under which it funds the postsecondary
- 8 education of a youth who is committed to the department at the age of
- 9 eighteen or younger and meets the requirements established by the
- 10 department in its policies and regulations.

11 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall amend the
 12 department policies and regulations regarding the postsecondary
 13 education funding program to (1) increase the age until which a youth
 14 can voluntarily agree to receive and qualify for services and funding
 15 from the department under the postsecondary education funding
 16 program from twenty-one to twenty-six years of age, and (2) increase
 17 the age until which a youth who is enrolled in a postsecondary
 18 education program and continues to meet the requirements established
 19 by the department is eligible for funding to complete such
 20 postsecondary education program under the postsecondary education
 21 funding program from twenty-three to twenty-eight years of age.

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

HED Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	24,847,680	25,803,360

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which increases the maximum age that an individual that meets the Department of Children and Families-established requirements may apply for the Post-Secondary Education (PSE) program from 21 to 26 and increases from 23 to 28 the maximum age until which a student that is enrolled in the program may remain in it, results in a cost to the agency of approximately \$24,847,680 in FY 24 and \$25,803,3650 in FY 25. This estimate assumes that 25% of 176 eligible individuals between 21 and 26 will enter the program in FY 24 (44 students) and that 25% of 352 eligible individuals between 21 and 26 will enter the program in FY 25 (88 students). It is projected that 25% of 4,399 students between 23 and 28 will remain in the program (1,100 students in each fiscal year). The average per fiscal year cost of a school year in the program is approximately \$21,720 per student.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact identified above will continue into the future subject to inflation and program enrollment by the effected population.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6563*****AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDING PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill (1) increases the age of eligibility for the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) post-secondary education funding program and (2) requires the department to amend its rules and regulations to reflect these increases.

Under the bill, the "postsecondary education funding program" is DCF's program that provides funding to youths who are committed to DCF at age 18 or younger and meet the requirements of the department's policies and regulations.

The bill increases, from 21 to 26, the age until which a youth can voluntarily agree to receive and qualify for post-secondary education funding services.

It also increases, from 23 to 28, the age until which a youth enrolled in a post-secondary education program is eligible for funding from the department's funding program to complete the post-secondary education program, as long as he or she continues to meet DCF-established requirements.

Under the bill, a "post-secondary education program" is any program that leads to an academic degree or certification in a vocation or employment training.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 4 (02/28/2023)