



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6182

LCO No. 3868



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT EXTENDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES OF FOSTER YOUTH.***

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 set forth in department policy 28-1 under which it funds the
8 postsecondary education of a youth who is committed to the
9 department, remains committed at the age of eighteen and meets the
10 requirements established by the department in its policies and
11 regulations.
- 12 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall amend the
13 department policies and regulations regarding the postsecondary
14 education funding program to (1) increase the age until which a youth

15 can qualify for funding from the department under the postsecondary
 16 education funding program from twenty-one to twenty-six years of age,
 17 (2) increase the age until which a youth who is enrolled in a
 18 postsecondary education program and continues to meet the
 19 requirements established by the department is eligible for funding to
 20 complete such postsecondary education program under the
 21 postsecondary education funding program from twenty-three to
 22 twenty-eight years of age, and (3) require any youth who is eligible for
 23 funding under the postsecondary education funding program to
 24 complete for each year such youth is enrolled in a postsecondary
 25 education program, as a condition to receiving such funding, the Free
 26 Application for Federal Student Aid and applications for any
 27 appropriate scholarships and grants, including, but not limited to,
 28 through any scholarship application portal administered by the
 29 provider of such postsecondary education program. Nothing in this
 30 section shall be construed to require the department to continue
 31 providing case management services for any youth who begins
 32 receiving funding under the postsecondary education funding program
 33 when such youth is older than twenty-one years of age.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Children and Families to continue to provide financial aid for the postsecondary education expenses for foster youth until such youth reaches twenty-eight years of age.

Co-Sponsors: REP. WELANDER, 114th Dist.

H.B. 6182