



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1410

LCO No. 5510



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO SUPPORT PROMISE
PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "promise
2 program" means a scholarship program that, in addition to a
3 scholarship, provides services and resources, including, but not limited
4 to, mentoring, peer support networks and internships, to scholarship
5 recipients to ensure the postsecondary academic success of such
6 recipients.

7 (b) There is established a task force to study options for developing a
8 state-wide initiative to expand college access and support success of
9 students in the state. Such study shall include, but need not be limited
10 to, (1) an examination of existing scholarship programs in the state, (2)
11 research and documentation of the unmet needs of students in the state,
12 and (3) specification of strategies for expanding comprehensive
13 scholarship services provided by promise programs, including, but not
14 limited to, through establishment of a public-private partnership to

15 coordinate such services state-wide.

16 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

17 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
18 one of whom has expertise in college financial aid services and one of
19 whom represents a promise program in the city of Hartford;

20 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
21 whom has expertise in college admissions and one of whom represents
22 a promise program in the city of New Haven;

23 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
24 Representatives, who is a student or graduate of an institution of higher
25 education in the state and participates or participated in a promise
26 program;

27 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is student
28 or graduate of an institution of higher education in the state and is a
29 recipient of a federal Pell grant;

30 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
31 Representatives, who is a school guidance counselor at a high school in
32 an alliance district in an urban or suburban area of the state;

33 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
34 school guidance counselor at a high school in an alliance district in a
35 rural area of the state;

36 (7) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or the commissioner's
37 designee; and

38 (8) The executive director of the Connecticut Higher Education
39 Supplemental Loan Authority, or the executive director's designee.

40 (d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
41 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (c) of this section may be a member of

42 the General Assembly.

43 (e) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
44 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
45 be filled by the appointing authority.

46 (f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
47 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
48 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
49 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
50 days after the effective date of this section.

51 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
52 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
53 education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

54 (h) Not later than January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report
55 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
56 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
57 education and employment advancement, in accordance with the
58 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall
59 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2026,
60 whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	New section

Section 1	from passage	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish a task force to (1) examine existing scholarship programs in the state, (2) research and document the unmet needs of students in the state, and (3) specify strategies for expansion of comprehensive scholarship services provided by promise programs.

[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.]