



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1410

January Session, 2025



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;

33 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who
34 represents a promise program in the city of Waterbury;

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

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

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

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

45 (f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro

46 tempore of the Senate shall select two chairpersons of the task force from
47 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
48 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
49 days after the effective date of this section.

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

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

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Subsec. (f), "the chairpersons" was changed to "two chairpersons" for clarity.

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*