



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1410

Special Act No. 25-10

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:

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

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

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

(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,

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who represents a promise program in the city of Hartford;

(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who represents a promise program in the city of New Haven;

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

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

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a school guidance counselor at a high school in an alliance district;

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

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

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

(9) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, who has experience as a superintendent or other administrator of a school district;

(10) One appointed by the House of Representatives chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment

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advancement, who has expertise in first-year experience collegiate programs;

(11) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, who has expertise in college financial aid services; and

(12) One appointed by the House of Representatives ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, who has expertise in college admissions.

(d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (9), (10), (11) or (12) of subsection (c) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

(h) Not later than January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, in accordance with the

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provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

Governor's Action:

Approved June 24, 2025