
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 5

AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship need-based award amount to the maximum of the range currently permitted for the award (\$4,500).

By law, the Office of Higher Education (OHE) allocates funds to institutions, which then give students these need-based awards. The bill requires OHE to notify each higher education institution annually by November 1 of the amount of funds allocated to the institution for these awards in the following fiscal year. It also changes, from May 1 to April 1, the date by which institutions must return to OHE unused scholarship funds and specifies that OHE's required reallocation of these funds is for the next fiscal year.

Lastly, the bill deletes obsolete language and makes other technical changes, including removing the definition of and references to family contribution when calculating the allocation of funds to institutions for the need-based award, which reflects recent changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program

The Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program is administered by OHE and offers three types of awards to state residents who attend an in-state public or private higher education institution (excluding the community colleges): need-based, need-merit, and Charter Oak awards.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (02/27/2025)