

PA12-128

HB5276

Higher Education	649-656, 684-685	10
House	2189-2193	5
<u>Senate</u>	<u>4461-4462, 4497-4499</u>	<u>5</u>
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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT
PART 2
369 - 735**

2012

will be better.

NANCY BRADY: Okay.

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 5276, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITOL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT and SB 240, AN ACT ALLOWING THE RETENTION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE COST ALLOWANCE FROM THE CONNECTICUT INDEPENDENT COLLEGE STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMPLIANCE.

HB 5276 repeals section 10a-169(b) of the General Statutes which restricted awards of the Capitol Scholarship Program to students who had received awards in the fiscal year 2010-11. This restriction eliminated awards to the freshman classes of academic years 2012 and 2013 as well as any previous applicants who did not receive an award in that year.

The repeal allows the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs to make awards to all students eligible for the Capitol Scholarship within funding limitations. The program already has the means to adjust award levels and need maximums to accommodate as many students as possible without this restriction.

This restriction has unnecessarily disenfranchised the freshman class of 2012, totaling 1,837 students and nearly 2,000 eligible returning students who did not receive an award in 2011. This change will allow eligible returning students to be considered for an award along with the freshman class of 2013 and the freshman class of 2012 in their sophomore year.

The Capitol Scholarship program is Connecticut's only state funded student financial aid program with an academic merit component in addition to screening for financial aid. Applicants must be either in the top 20 percent of their class, or -- have SAT scores above 1800 to pass the academic screening. Recipients are then determined based on their family's ability to pay for college -- such as pay for college.

For 2011 and 2012, family's contribution threshold was set at \$12,000. Recipients may take the award to any Connecticut college or to a college located in one of seven states, which have reciprocal agreements with Connecticut. I believe 70 percent of the funding goes to students attending in state public institutions at an average award of \$1,600. Thirty four percent goes to in state private institutions with an average award of \$1,740. And 6 percent goes to out of state, which is capped at \$350 per recipient in 2012.

It is no (inaudible) -- that there is more money coming in from the reciprocal states than Connecticut is sending to them. In 2011, with a fully funded program, Connecticut dispersed \$723,000 and has received \$906,000. Over the years, this program has been a namesake for Connecticut's brightest and (inaudible) students. Sixty percent of awards and 70 percent of dollars go to students with a family income of less than \$60,000.

In addition, in an average 85 percent of first year recipients stay in school for four years of eligibility. The largest drop off is after the first year, so if we can keep them through that year, we can keep them. Finally the

academic screening make this program a natural for the addition of a performance based program.

SB 240 requests the pretension of up to \$30,000 from the Connecticut Independent College Student Grant to fund administration of audits. In accordance with 10a-38, the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education is charged with administering the Connecticut Independent College Student Grant to ensure the accountability of public funds expended. This proposal allows the state to set aside up to \$30,000 to fund the administration of compliance audits.

Although the office is charged with administration and accountability for this program, there is no administrative allowance to support this charge. In 2006, regular compliance audits were instituted with an independent auditor. Since that time, the audits have more than paid for themselves, returning nearly \$147,000 in refunds. None of the refunded money can be used to fund the audits. And the office has no other funding source for this administration.

This proposal will allow for the funding to pay for the independent auditor allowing the office to meet the requirements of the statute. Annual audits were a regular part of this program since its inception, but were discontinued in the mid nineties as a result to staffing reductions. Since the audits were reinstated in 2006, schools are audited once every four years due to staff and funding constraints.

This is the only accountability medium that exists for this program and is comparable to

March 1, 2012

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HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

11:00 A.M.

the annual audit by the state that the office undergoes for all financial aid programs. The schools are generally responsive to the audits, which review verification procedures, look for over-awards, insure academic eligibility and verify in-state residence.

Findings in all of these areas have been noted. We also discovered that these audits are helpful to the institutions as an instructional medium when they experience -- when they experience turn over in their financial aid staff. The audits are identifying best practices as well as ensuring the public funds are being used as expected.

I urge you to allow this very small administrative charge to the appropriation, which amounts to one quarter of 1 percent of the \$11,329,244 reduced budget, to continue the very important objective of insuring the appropriate use of public funds.

In addition we've included a couple of maps to the back -- the back of the testimony, which shows a Capitol Scholarship Awards in all the towns in Connecticut for 2011 and 2012 for your information. And if you have any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer them.

HB5276

SENATOR BYE: Thank you very much.

Questions?

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Thank you for coming here today. I -- I just have a question on a sentence in your testimony that I'm not quite clear what it

means. On the second page, your final comment on the -- the Capitol Scholarship Program. It says finally the academic screen makes this program a natural for the addition of a performance based component. Could you explain what you mean by the addition of a performance based component?

NANCY BRADY: What -- that speaks to the bill that you've raised --

REP. WILLIS: Okay.

NANCY BRADY: -- about performance based grants.

REP. WILLIS: Okay. That's what I wanted to clarify. Thank you very much.

SENATOR BYE: Okay. Thank you.

I have a couple of follow up questions. The first one is -- you know, last year the Capitol Scholars took a big hit. And think -- as I understand it, were funding it at about 50 percent of what it was funded at previously.

NANCY BRADY: That is correct.

SENATOR BYE: Is that your understanding?

NANCY BRADY: Yes, 50 percent.

SENATOR BYE: And part of the loss, I think was in -- you know, there are all different ways to spin it. But we also had big cuts in the Connecticut Independent College Grants at the same time. What's called the Kicks Program. And as I understand it, that was funded at about 76 percent. So Capitol Scholars took a disproportionate hit. Is that your

impression?

NANCY BRADY: Yes.

SENATOR BYE: I mean, when you look at them proportionately? Okay. One of the things that another Legislator asked me about Capitol Scholars from -- I was expressing my frustration -- was it's their impression that the Kicks Program helps more low income, urban students. Is -- do you ever analyze it that way? Or is it -- is that a question we could ask you to come back to this committee with an answer?

NANCY BRADY: Absolutely. I think you will find if you look at the maps that we've provided on the awards and the amount of awards over the last two years, that you'll see that the urban centers are heavily covered and so are the rural areas. The -- in fact, this -- I would say this program performs very, very well. And as a -- in educating the testimony, the 70 percent of the funding goes to families with incomes less than \$60,000.

We fund based on a (inaudible) family contribution which in -- we indicated is set for \$12,000. And we fund from zero up until we run out of money.

SENATOR BYE: Okay. If I could ask you to get back to this committee with some data around proportion of students who are from priority school districts in the Capitol Scholar Programs versus the Kicks Program?

NANCY BRADY: Certainly.

SENATOR BYE: Is that a simple way -- I'm just trying to think of a way that you could break

it down simply so I can answer some of those questions, when you're looking at where to put funding. Because some of the Capitol Scholars money, about 35 percent, is going to independent colleges in Connecticut, if I heard your testimony right?

NANCY BRADY: That is true. And it's entirely possible that -- that those students are also (inaudible) things. We have no way to --

SENATOR BYE: Okay. So they could be receiving both. That's important to know too. Okay. Well that's -- that's interesting to me as a Legislator to understand that piece of it.

The other question I have is you're asking for dollars so that you can do audits of the Kicks program. Is there some reason that the Kicks Program is more complicated to audit than say student loans or other scholarship programs that -- that may be haven't asked for or set aside specific set asides for audit compliance?

SB240

NANCY BRADY: The -- it isn't any more complicated than any other except that the -- we're charged with compliance and we don't have the funding to -- to audit. We aren't -- we don't audit. Well we have -- the Capitol Scholarship is audited by the State because we administer it. But CAPS program, we do not have the authority to audit that. We -- we aren't the administrator of the CAPS program. But Kicks, we are the administrator. And the statute requests that we insure compliance. And that's why we've always audited.

SENATOR BYE: So who audits the CAPS program?

NANCY BRADY: It's audited centrally through our

office. But aside from that.

SENATOR BYE: Okay. We're just trying to understand, you know, why it's --

NANCY BRADY: When we had full funding with a full -- a full complement of financial aid in the nineties, when it was a governing board and there was a bigger program. Both the CAPS program and the Kicks program were audited annually.

SENATOR BYE: Okay. Thank you.

Questions from other Committee members?

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you very much for your testimony. I appreciate especially the charts that have the town by town break down. But just looking at it quickly though, there's just a formatting change you might want to make. The Western Connecticut Counties have the 2011 figures in black and I guess the 2012 figures in red.

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NANCY BRADY: You caught it.

REP. ALBERTS: And you reversed it for Eastern Connecticut.

NANCY BRADY: We were trying to put this together very fast.

REP. ALBERTS: That's okay.

NANCY BRADY: So we had a slight miscommunication.

REP. ALBERTS: But -- but that I think when you



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 Office of Financial and Academic Affairs
 For Higher Education

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 in 2
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 in 20

Testimony
 by
 Jane A. Ciarleglio
 Executive Director
 before the
 Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
 11:00 a.m. – LOB Room 1E
 March 1, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 5276 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITOL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM and SB 240 AN ACT ALLOWING THE RETENTION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE COST ALLOWANCE FROM THE CONNECTICUT INDEPENDENT COLLEGE STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMPLIANCE.

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Over the years, this program has been a mainstay for Connecticut's brightest and neediest students. Sixty percent of awards and 70% of dollars go to students with a family income less than \$60,000. In addition, an average 85% of first-year recipients stay in school for the four years of eligibility. The largest drop off is after the first year, so, if we can get them through that, we can keep them. Finally, the academic screen makes this program a natural for the addition of a performance-based component.

SB 240 requests the retention of up to \$30,000 from the Connecticut Independent College Student Grant (CICSG) to fund the administration of audits. In accordance with 10a-38, the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education is charged with administering the Connecticut Independent College Student Grant to insure the accountability of public funds expended. This proposal allows the State to set aside up to \$30,000 to fund the administration of compliance audits.

Although the Office is charged with administration and accountability for this program, there is no administrative allowance to support this charge. In 2006, regular compliance audits were instituted with an independent auditor. Since that time, the audits have more than paid for themselves returning

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

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myself to Meryl Willett who is a Putnam resident and is a reporter for the Villager newspaper that covers five towns in Northeast Connecticut and also is a reporter for WINY, Meryl Willetts.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Great to see you, thanks so much.

REP. ROVERO (51st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

(Deputy Speaker Ryan in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 82.

THE CLERK:

On page three, Calendar 82, House Bill Number 5276, AN ACT CONCERNING CAPITOL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM, favorable report by the Committee on Higher Education.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Chair recognizes Representative Willis, Chairman of the Higher Education Committee.

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REP. WILLIS (64th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Good afternoon.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the Bill. Will you remark?

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Yes, thank you very much. This Bill would eliminate a provision in the statute that restricts the awards of the scholarship to students who did not receive the award the year prior or were incoming freshmen. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an Amendment LCO 2733. I move that the reading of the Amendment be waived and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 2733 which

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will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

House 2733, House "A" offered by
Representative Willis.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none, Representative Willis, you can proceed.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This simply corrects the -- where it states Board of Regents of Higher Ed., now it should read Office of Higher Education. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the Amendment? Will you remark on the Amendment. If not, I will try your minds, all those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Opposed Nay.

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The Ayes have it and the Amendment is
adopted.

Will you remark further on the Bill as
amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as
Amended? Representative LeGeyt of the 17th.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning
to wholeheartedly endorse this Bill. It makes a
very remote and focused fix in the statutes and
there's widespread agreement that it's the right
thing to do so this Bill ought to pass. Thank
you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further on the Bill as
amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as
amended? If not, will staff and guests please
come to the Well of the House, will the members
please take your seats and the machine will be
open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by
roll call, members to the Chamber. The House is
taking a roll call vote, members to the Chamber,

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please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to see if their vote is properly cast. If not -- if all members have voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5276 as amended by House "A".

Total Number voting	140
Necessary for passage	71
Those voting Yea	140
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	11

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 261.

THE CLERK:

On page 13, Calendar 261, House Bill Number 5491, AN ACT CONCERNING ADDENDUMS TO CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE STATE AND ANY MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IS LOCATED, favorable report

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SENATE**

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Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, as the next two items to mark would be calendar page 9, Calendar 406, House Bill 5276 and Calendar page 11, Calendar 432, House Bill 5376.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 9, Calendar 406, House Bill Number 5276, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITAL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM. It's amended by House Amendment Schedule "A," favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage with concurrence with the House.

Will you remark, ma'am?

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President.

This bill simply eliminates a moratorium for the fiscal year '12 of and '13 new students receiving the Capital Scholarship's Program.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

The bill does not expand the funding of it, but it does expand its reach and it's an important bill. It should move forward.

Thank you, .

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much.

Will you remark?

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move that we please this on consent, if there's no objection.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 11, Calendar 432, Substitute for House Bill Number 5378, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM SURCHARGE FOR ENHANCED 911 SERVICE, favorable report of the Committees on Public Safety, Finance and Energy and Technology.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

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(HB 5283)

On page 3, Calendar 240, House Bill 3283; page 3, Calendar 299, House Bill 5437; page 5, Calendar 349, Senate Bill 374; page 6, Calendar 375, House Bill 5440; page 6, 362, House Bill 5011.

On page 7, Calendar 376, House Bill 5279; on page 7, 387, House Bill 5290; on page 8, 394, House Bill 5032; on page 8, 396, House Bill 5230.

Also on page 8, Calendar 398, House Bill 5241; on page 8, Calendar 393, House Bill 5307; on page 9, Calendar 403, House Bill 5087; on page 9, Calendar 406, House Bill 5276; on page 9, 407, House Bill 5484; on page 11, Calendar 424, House Bill 5495; on page 12, Calendar 435, House Bill 5232; on page 13, Calendar 5 -- excuse me Calendar 450, House Bill 5447; on page 14, Calendar 455, House Bill 3 -- I'm sorry -- House Bill 5353.

On page 14, Calendar 453, House Bill 5543; on page 14, Calendar 459, House Bill 5271; on page 15, Calendar 464, House Bill 5344; on page 15, Calendar 465, House Bill 5034; on page 16, Calendar 469, House Bill 5038; on page 17, Calendar 475, House Bill 5550; on page 17, Calendar 474, House Bill 5233; on page 17, Calendar 477, House Bill 5421.

Page 18, 480, House Bill 5258; on page 18, Calendar 479, House Bill 5500; page 18, Calendar 482, House Bill 5106; on page 18, Calendar 483, House Bill 5355; on page 19, Calendar 489, House Bill 5248; on page 19, Calendar 488, House Bill 5321; on page 20, Calendar 496, House Bill 5412.

On page 21, Calendar 504, House Bill 5319; page 21, Calendar 505, House Bill 5328; on page 22, Calendar 508, House Bill 5365; on page 22, Calendar 510, House Bill 5170; on page 23, Calendar 514, House Bill 5540; on page 23, Calendar 517, House Bill 5521.

Page 24, Calendar 521, House Bill 5343; page 24, Calendar 518, House Bill 5298; page 24, Calendar 523, House Bill 5504; page 29, Calendar 355, Senate Bill 418; on page 13, Calendar 444, 5037; and Calendar 507, House Bill 5467.

THE CHAIR:

Senator -- Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:



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STATE CAPITOL
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ERNEST J. COTNOIR
ASSISTANT SENATE CLERK

TIMOTHY B. KEHOE
PERMANENT ASSISTANT
CLERK OF THE SENATE

Bills placed on the Consent Calendar on May 9, 2012

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State of Connecticut

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CLERK OF THE SENATE

Bills from Senate Agenda Number 3 from the May 9th Senate Session that were placed on the Consent Calendar

HB5304
HB 5342

rgd/tmj/gdm/gbr
SENATE

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May 9, 2012

Good evening, Madam President.

I just want to clarify. I thought I heard the Clerk call House Bill 5034? Is that on the consent calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Do you know what page that is, sir?

SENATOR SUZIO:

No I -- he was reading so fast, Madam, I couldn't get it.

THE CHAIR:

It's -- yes it's 53 -- I don't know.

SENATOR SUZIO:

5034.

THE CHAIR:

5034, yes sir.

SENATOR SUZIO:

I object to that being put on the consent calendar, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Okay, that will be removed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes, just seeing that -- ask to remove that item from the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

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At this time we'll call a roll call vote on the consent calendar.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman, we need your vote, sir.

Senator Kissel, Senator Kissel. Senator Kissel, will you vote on the consent calendar please?

All members have voted?

If all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you call the amendment -- I meant the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those Voting Yea	36
Those Voting Nay	0
Those Absent and Not Voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I believe the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 6 for today's session.