



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

**Raised Bill No. 5162**

LCO No. 1326



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:  
(CE)

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEARN HERE,  
LIVE HERE PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-4i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
4 in consultation with the Commissioner of Revenue Services and the  
5 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, [may] shall  
6 establish the Learn Here, Live Here program. Such program [may] shall  
7 provide an incentive for graduates of a public institution of higher  
8 education, private university or college, or health care training school in  
9 this state, or graduates from a technical education and career school, to  
10 buy a first home in the state. Persons who graduate on or after January  
11 1, [2014] 2021, from such institutions, universities, colleges or schools  
12 may have their income tax liability, up to a maximum of two thousand  
13 five hundred dollars annually, segregated into the Connecticut first-  
14 time homebuyers account established pursuant to section 32-4j,  
15 provided not more than one million dollars from all program

16 participants may be so segregated in any calendar year. After a period  
17 not exceeding ten years after graduation, any amounts so segregated  
18 may be withdrawn by a participant for the purchase of a first home in  
19 the state. The Commissioner of Economic and Community  
20 Development may make payments in accordance with this section from  
21 said fund to the participants. For the purposes of this section, "health  
22 care training school" means a medical or dental school, chiropractic  
23 college, school or college of optometry, school or college of chiropody  
24 or podiatry, school of occupational therapy, hospital-based  
25 occupational school, school or college of naturopathy, school of dental  
26 hygiene, school of physical therapy or any other school or institution  
27 giving instruction in the healing arts.

28 (b) (1) After a period not exceeding ten years after the date of  
29 graduation, a participant in the program established pursuant to  
30 subsection (a) of this section may apply to the Commissioner of  
31 Economic and Community Development for a payment to be issued, on  
32 behalf of such participant, and used as the down payment on a house,  
33 which must be the first house such participant has bought, either singly  
34 or jointly. Such payment may be in an amount equal to the amount of  
35 segregated funds deposited on behalf of such participant. If the payment  
36 is less than such amount, any excess amount shall be deposited in the  
37 General Fund.

38 (2) If a participant ceases to live in the state at any time up to one year  
39 after [such date] the date on which the Commissioner of Economic and  
40 Community Development issued the payment to the participant, such  
41 participant shall repay one hundred per cent of the amount paid out. If  
42 a participant ceases to live in the state at any time up to two years after  
43 such [date] payment, such participant shall repay eighty per cent of the  
44 amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in the state at any time  
45 up to three years after such [date] payment, such participant shall repay  
46 sixty per cent of the amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in  
47 the state at any time up to four years after such [date] payment, such  
48 participant shall repay forty per cent of the amount paid out. If a  
49 participant ceases to live in the state at any time up to five years after

50 such [date] payment, such participant shall repay twenty per cent of the  
51 amount paid out. After five years, there is no repayment obligation. Any  
52 amounts repaid under this subdivision shall be deposited in the General  
53 Fund.

54 (c) On or before December 1, [2012] 2020, the Commissioner of  
55 Economic and Community Development [may] shall develop, within  
56 available appropriations, a comprehensive public education program to  
57 educate recent graduates of a public institution of higher education,  
58 private university or college, or health care training school in the state,  
59 or of a technical education and career school, about the program  
60 established under this section for first-time home buyers. The public  
61 education program shall include, but not be limited to, information  
62 concerning life-time savings plans and information on the purchase of a  
63 home. [If the commissioner develops such public education program,  
64 the] The department shall begin to implement such program not later  
65 than January 1, [2014] 2021.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	32-4i

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish the Learn Here, Live Here program to help graduates of any institution of higher education or certain certificate programs of private occupational schools save toward a down payment on their first home in the state by segregating a portion of their state income tax payments for up to ten years after they graduate.

*[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.]*