

General Assembly

January Session, 2023

## Substitute Bill No. 8



## AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND GRADUATE RETENTION.

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

- 1 Section 1. Section 10a-174 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):
- 3 (a) As used in this section:
- 4 (1) "Award" means the greater of: (A) The unpaid portion, if any, of
- 5 a qualifying student's eligible institutional costs after subtracting his or
- 6 her financial aid, or (B) a minimum award of [two hundred fifty] one
- 7 <u>thousand</u> dollars for a full-time student or [one hundred fifty] <u>six</u>
- 8 <u>hundred</u> dollars for a part-time student;
- 9 (2) "Eligible institutional costs" means the tuition and required fees
- 10 incurred each semester by an individual student that are established
- 11 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education for the regional
- 12 community-technical colleges;
- 13 (3) "Financial aid" means the sum of all scholarships, grants and
- 14 federal, state and institutional aid received by a qualifying student.
- 15 "Financial aid" does not include any federal, state or private student
- loans received by a qualifying student;
- 17 (4) "Qualifying student" means any person who (A) graduated from

- 18 a public or nonpublic high school in the state, (B) enrolls as a full-time 19 or part-time student for the fall semester of 2020, or any semester 20 thereafter, [for the first time] at a regional community-technical college 21 in a program leading to a degree or certificate, [and continues to be 22 enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at a regional community-23 technical college, (C) is classified as an in-state student pursuant to 24 section 10a-29, (D) is making satisfactory academic progress while 25 enrolled at a regional community-technical college, (E) has completed 26 the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and (F) has accepted all 27 available financial aid;
- 28 (5) "Full-time student" means a student who is enrolled at a regional 29 community-technical college and (A) is carrying twelve or more credit 30 hours in a semester, or (B) has a learning disability documented with 31 the regional community-technical college in which he or she is enrolled 32 and is enrolled in the maximum number of credit hours that is feasible 33 for such student to attempt in a semester, as determined by such 34 student's academic advisor;
- (6) "Semester" means the fall or spring semester of an academic year.
  "Semester" does not include a summer semester or session; and
  - (7) "Part-time student" means a student who is enrolled at a regional community-technical college and is carrying not less than six but fewer than twelve credit hours in a semester.
- 40 (b) [Not later than January 1, 2020, the] The Board of Regents for 41 Higher Education shall (1) establish a debt-free community college 42 program to make awards to qualifying students each semester, (2) 43 adopt rules, procedures and forms necessary to implement the debt-44 free community college program, and (3) submit a report outlining 45 such rules, procedures and forms, in accordance with the provisions of 46 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly 47 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education.
  - (c) For the fall semester of 2020, and each semester thereafter, the

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- Board of Regents for Higher Education shall make awards to qualifying students within available appropriations. An award shall be available to a qualifying student for the first seventy-two credit hours earned by the qualifying student [during the first forty-eight months that such student is enrolled] at a regional community-technical college, provided the qualifying student meets and continues to meet the requirements of this section. The board shall not use an award to supplant any financial aid, including, but not limited to, state or institutional aid, otherwise available to a qualifying student.
  - [(d) (1) Any qualifying student who takes an administratively approved medical or personal leave of absence from a regional community-technical college may continue to qualify for the debt-free community college program upon resuming his or her enrollment as a student at a regional community-technical college, provided such student (A) continues to meet the requirements of this section upon reenrollment, and (B) the total amount of time of all approved leaves of absence does not exceed six months.
  - (2) Any qualifying student who is a member of the armed forces called to active duty during any semester may continue to qualify for the debt-free community college program upon resuming his or her enrollment as a student at a regional community-technical college, provided such student (A) continues to meet the requirements of this section upon reenrollment, and (B) reenrolls not later than four years after the date on which such student is released from active duty.]
  - [(e)] (d) Not later than March 1, 2021, and October 1, 2021, and each semester thereafter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement and appropriations and the budgets of the state agencies regarding the debt-free community college program, including, but not limited to, (1) the number of qualifying students enrolled at the regional community-technical colleges during each semester, (2) the number of qualifying

students receiving minimum awards and the number of qualifying students receiving awards for the unpaid portion of eligible institutional costs, (3) the average number of credit hours the qualifying students enrolled in each semester and the average number of credit hours the qualifying students completed each semester, (4) the average amount of the award made to qualifying students under this section for the unpaid portion of eligible institutional costs, and (5) the completion rates of qualifying students receiving awards under this section by degree or certificate program.

Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, any amount allocated to the regional community-technical college system under the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program, established pursuant to section 10a-173 of the general statutes, from the federal funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of Section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, shall be reallocated to the Connecticut State University System to be expended, in accordance with section 10a-173 of the general statutes, as grants under the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish, subject to available funding pursuant to section 4 of this act, the Student Loan Subsidy Program for the purpose of subsidizing interest rates on authority loans, as defined in subdivision (3) of section 10a-223 of the general statutes, to individuals employed in certain high-demand professions, as specified by the Chief Workforce Officer, and who meet the eligibility criteria established by the authority and the Chief Workforce Officer pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The authority and the Office of Workforce Strategy shall jointly establish the eligibility criteria and administrative guidelines for the Student Loan Subsidy Program. Such eligibility criteria and guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) applicant eligibility, (2) interest rate subsidies and principal limits on authority loans subject to

the Student Loan Subsidy Program, (3) the process for verifying the employment of the applicants, and (4) the requirement that an interest rate subsidy through the Student Loan Subsidy Program shall terminate for any subsidy recipient who ceases to meet the employment requirements of said program during the term of such

recipient's loan from the authority.

- (c) Not later than September 1, 2023, the Chief Workforce Officer shall identify, and annually update, professions that are in high demand by employers in the state for the purpose of qualifying individuals employed in such professions for the Student Loan Subsidy Program.
- Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) The Connecticut Higher 126 127 Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall maintain a separate, 128 nonlapsing account to hold funds for the Student Loan Subsidy 129 Program established pursuant to section 3 of this act. The account shall 130 contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, 131 including, but not limited to, state appropriations or proceeds from the 132 sale of bonds authorized under section 5 of this act. Moneys in the 133 account shall be expended by the authority for the purposes of the 134 Student Loan Subsidy Program and for reasonable and necessary 135 expenses for the administration of said program.
  - Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section and section 3 of this act, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding seven million dollars annually.
- (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority for the purpose of the Student Loan Subsidy Program established under section 3 of this act.

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- (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.
- Sec. 6. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (20) of subsection (a) of section 12-701 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):
  - (B) There shall be subtracted therefrom:
- 174 (i) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal 175 income tax purposes, any income with respect to which taxation by 176 any state is prohibited by federal law;
- 177 (ii) To the extent allowable under section 12-718, exempt dividends

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- paid by a regulated investment company;
- (iii) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes, the amount of any refund or credit for overpayment of income taxes imposed by this state, or any other state of the United States or a political subdivision thereof, or the District of Columbia;
- (iv) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes and not otherwise subtracted from federal adjusted gross income pursuant to clause (x) of this subparagraph in computing Connecticut adjusted gross income, any tier 1 railroad retirement benefits;
  - (v) To the extent any additional allowance for depreciation under Section 168(k) of the Internal Revenue Code for property placed in service after September 27, 2017, was added to federal adjusted gross income pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ix) of this subdivision in computing Connecticut adjusted gross income, twenty-five per cent of such additional allowance for depreciation in each of the four succeeding taxable years;
  - (vi) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes, any interest income from obligations issued by or on behalf of the state of Connecticut, any political subdivision thereof, or public instrumentality, state or local authority, district or similar public entity created under the laws of the state of Connecticut;
  - (vii) To the extent properly includable in determining the net gain or loss from the sale or other disposition of capital assets for federal income tax purposes, any gain from the sale or exchange of obligations issued by or on behalf of the state of Connecticut, any political subdivision thereof, or public instrumentality, state or local authority, district or similar public entity created under the laws of the state of Connecticut, in the income year such gain was recognized;
- 208 (viii) Any interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to

- purchase or carry obligations or securities the interest on which is subject to tax under this chapter but exempt from federal income tax, to the extent that such interest on indebtedness is not deductible in determining federal adjusted gross income and is attributable to a trade or business carried on by such individual;
- (ix) Ordinary and necessary expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year for the production or collection of income which is subject to taxation under this chapter but exempt from federal income tax, or the management, conservation or maintenance of property held for the production of such income, and the amortizable bond premium for the taxable year on any bond the interest on which is subject to tax under this chapter but exempt from federal income tax, to the extent that such expenses and premiums are not deductible in determining federal adjusted gross income and are attributable to a trade or business carried on by such individual;
- (x) (I) For taxable years commencing prior to January 1, 2019, for a person who files a return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than fifty thousand dollars, or as a married individual filing separately whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than fifty thousand dollars, or for a husband and wife who file a return under the federal income tax as married individuals filing jointly whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than sixty thousand dollars or a person who files a return under the federal income tax as a head of household whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than sixty thousand dollars, an amount equal to the Social Security benefits includable for federal income tax purposes;
- (II) For taxable years commencing prior to January 1, 2019, for a person who files a return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is fifty thousand dollars or more, or as a married individual filing separately whose federal adjusted gross income for

such taxable year is fifty thousand dollars or more, or for a husband and wife who file a return under the federal income tax as married individuals filing jointly whose federal adjusted gross income from such taxable year is sixty thousand dollars or more or for a person who files a return under the federal income tax as a head of household whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is sixty thousand dollars or more, an amount equal to the difference between the amount of Social Security benefits includable for federal income tax purposes and the lesser of twenty-five per cent of the Social Security benefits received during the taxable year, or twenty-five per cent of the excess described in Section 86(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(III) For the taxable year commencing January 1, 2019, and each taxable year thereafter, for a person who files a return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand dollars, or as a married individual filing separately whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand dollars, or for a husband and wife who file a return under the federal income tax as married individuals filing jointly whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than one hundred thousand dollars or a person who files a return under the federal income tax as a head of household whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than one hundred thousand dollars, an amount equal to the Social Security benefits includable for federal income tax purposes; and

(IV) For the taxable year commencing January 1, 2019, and each taxable year thereafter, for a person who files a return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is seventy-five thousand dollars or more, or as a married individual filing separately whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is seventy-five thousand dollars or more, or for a husband and wife who file a return under the federal income tax as married individuals filing jointly whose federal

- 275 adjusted gross income from such taxable year is one hundred 276 thousand dollars or more or for a person who files a return under the 277 federal income tax as a head of household whose federal adjusted 278 gross income for such taxable year is one hundred thousand dollars or 279 more, an amount equal to the difference between the amount of Social 280 Security benefits includable for federal income tax purposes and the 281 lesser of twenty-five per cent of the Social Security benefits received 282 during the taxable year, or twenty-five per cent of the excess described 283 in Section 86(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- 284 (xi) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal 285 income tax purposes, any amount rebated to a taxpayer pursuant to 286 section 12-746;
- (xii) To the extent properly includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of a designated beneficiary, any distribution to such beneficiary from any qualified state tuition program, as defined in Section 529(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, established and maintained by this state or any official, agency or instrumentality of the state;
  - (xiii) To the extent allowable under section 12-701a, contributions to accounts established pursuant to any qualified state tuition program, as defined in Section 529(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, established and maintained by this state or any official, agency or instrumentality of the state;
- 298 (xiv) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal 299 income tax purposes, the amount of any Holocaust victims' settlement 300 payment received in the taxable year by a Holocaust victim;
  - (xv) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes of an account holder, as defined in section 31-51ww, interest earned on funds deposited in the individual development account, as defined in section 31-51ww, of such account holder;

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(xvi) To the extent properly includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of a designated beneficiary, as defined in section 3-123aa, interest, dividends or capital gains earned on contributions to accounts established for the designated beneficiary pursuant to the Connecticut Homecare Option Program for the Elderly established by sections 3-123aa to 3-123ff, inclusive;

- (xvii) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes, any income received from the United States government as retirement pay for a retired member of (I) the Armed Forces of the United States, as defined in Section 101 of Title 10 of the United States Code, or (II) the National Guard, as defined in Section 101 of Title 10 of the United States Code;
- (xviii) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes for the taxable year, any income from the discharge of indebtedness in connection with any reacquisition, after December 31, 2008, and before January 1, 2011, of an applicable debt instrument or instruments, as those terms are defined in Section 108 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended by Section 1231 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to the extent any such income was added to federal adjusted gross income pursuant to subparagraph (A)(xi) of this subdivision in computing Connecticut adjusted gross income for a preceding taxable year;
  - (xix) To the extent not deductible in determining federal adjusted gross income, the amount of any contribution to a manufacturing reinvestment account established pursuant to section 32-9zz in the taxable year that such contribution is made;
  - (xx) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes, (I) for the taxable year commencing January 1, 2015, ten per cent of the income received from the state teachers' retirement system, (II) for the taxable years commencing January 1, 2016, to January 1, 2020, inclusive, twenty-five per cent of the income received from the state teachers' retirement system, and (III) for the

taxable year commencing January 1, 2021, and each taxable year thereafter, fifty per cent of the income received from the state teachers' retirement system or, for a taxpayer whose federal adjusted gross income does not exceed the applicable threshold under clause (xxi) of this subparagraph, the percentage pursuant to said clause of the income received from the state teachers' retirement system, whichever deduction is greater;

(xxi) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes, except for retirement benefits under clause (iv) of this subparagraph and retirement pay under clause (xvii) of this subparagraph, for a person who files a return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand dollars, or as a married individual filing separately whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand dollars, or as a head of household whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand dollars, or for a husband and wife who file a return under the federal income tax as married individuals filing jointly whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than one hundred thousand dollars, (I) for the taxable year commencing January 1, 2019, fourteen per cent of any pension or annuity income, (II) for the taxable year commencing January 1, 2020, twenty-eight per cent of any pension or annuity income, (III) for the taxable year commencing January 1, 2021, fortytwo per cent of any pension or annuity income, and (IV) for the taxable year commencing January 1, 2022, and each taxable year thereafter, one hundred per cent of any pension or annuity income;

(xxii) The amount of lost wages and medical, travel and housing expenses, not to exceed ten thousand dollars in the aggregate, incurred by a taxpayer during the taxable year in connection with the donation to another person of an organ for organ transplantation occurring on or after January 1, 2017;

(xxiii) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal

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- income tax purposes, the amount of any financial assistance received
- 372 from the Crumbling Foundations Assistance Fund or paid to or on
- behalf of the owner of a residential building pursuant to sections 8-442
- 374 and 8-443;
- 375 (xxiv) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal
- income tax purposes, the amount calculated pursuant to subsection (b)
- 377 of section 12-704g for income received by a general partner of a
- 378 venture capital fund, as defined in 17 CFR 275.203(l)-1, as amended
- 379 from time to time;
- 380 (xxv) To the extent any portion of a deduction under Section 179 of
- 381 the Internal Revenue Code was added to federal adjusted gross income
- 382 pursuant to subparagraph (A)(xiv) of this subdivision in computing
- 383 Connecticut adjusted gross income, twenty-five per cent of such
- 384 disallowed portion of the deduction in each of the four succeeding
- 385 taxable years;
- 386 (xxvi) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal 387 income tax purposes, for a person who files a return under the federal
- income tax as an unmarried individual whose federal adjusted gross
- income for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand dollars,
- 390 or as a married individual filing separately whose federal adjusted
- 391 gross income for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand 392 dollars, or as a head of household whose federal adjusted gross income
- dollars, or as a head of household whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand dollars, or for a
- for such taxable year is less than seventy-five thousand dollars, or for a husband and wife who file a return under the federal income tax as
- 395 married individuals filing jointly whose federal adjusted gross income
- 396 for such taxable year is less than one hundred thousand dollars, (I) for
- 397 the taxable year commencing January 1, 2023, twenty-five per cent of
- 398 any distribution from an individual retirement account other than a
- 399 Roth individual retirement account, (II) for the taxable year
- 400 commencing January 1, 2024, fifty per cent of any distribution from an
- 401 individual retirement account other than a Roth individual retirement
- 402 account, (III) for the taxable year commencing January 1, 2025,
- seventy-five per cent of any distribution from an individual retirement

- account other than a Roth individual retirement account, and (IV) for the taxable year commencing January 1, 2026, and each taxable year thereafter, any distribution from an individual retirement account other than a Roth individual retirement account; [and]
- 408 (xxvii) To the extent properly includable in gross income for federal 409 income tax purposes, for the taxable year commencing January 1, 2022, 410 the amount or amounts paid or otherwise credited to any eligible resident of this state under (I) the 2020 Earned Income Tax Credit 411 412 enhancement program from funding allocated to the state through the 413 Coronavirus Relief Fund established under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136, and (II) the 2021 414 415 Earned Income Tax Credit enhancement program from funding 416 allocated to the state pursuant to Section 9901 of Subtitle M of Title IX 417 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2; and
- 418 (xxviii) To the extent not deductible in determining federal adjusted 419 gross income, and to the extent allowable under section 7 of this act, 420 the amount of interest paid during the taxable year on a student loan.
- Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2024, and applicable to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2024) (a) For the purposes of this section:
  - (1) "Qualified student loan" means a loan taken out solely to pay qualified education expenses (A) for the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse or a person who was a dependent of the taxpayer at the time when the taxpayer took out the loan, (B) paid or incurred within a reasonable period of time before or after the taxpayer took out the loan, (C) from a private or governmental lender, and (D) for education provided during an academic period for an eligible student;
  - (2) "Qualified education expenses" means the total costs of attending an eligible institution of higher education, including graduate school, and includes amounts paid for the following items: (A) Tuition and fees; (B) room and board, provided the cost of room and board

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- qualifies only to the extent that it is not more than the greater of (i) the allowance for room and board, as determined by the eligible institution of higher education, that was included in the cost of attendance for a particular academic period and living arrangement of the student, or (ii) the actual amount charged if the student is residing in housing owned or operated by the eligible institution of higher education; (C) books, supplies and equipment; and (D) other necessary expenses, including, but not limited to, transportation;
  - (3) "Eligible institution of higher education" means any institution of higher education that is eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the United States Department of Education; and
  - (4) "Eligible student" means a student who is or was enrolled at least part time in a certificate or degree program at an eligible institution of higher education.
  - (b) The maximum annual modification under subparagraph (B)(xxviii) of subdivision (20) of subsection (a) of section 12-701 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall be equal to the amount of interest paid on a qualified student loan, but shall not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for each taxpayer, provided (1) the taxpayer's filing status is any filing status except married filing separately, (2) the taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income is not more than seventy-five thousand dollars for taxpayers whose filing status is single, head of household or qualifying widow or widower or not more than one hundred fifty thousand dollars for taxpayers whose filing status is married filing jointly, (3) no other person is claiming an exemption for the taxpayer on such other person's return, (4) the taxpayer is legally obligated to pay interest on a qualified student loan, and (5) the taxpayer paid interest on a qualified student loan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following				
sections:				
Section 1	July 1, 2023	10a-174		

Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 6	January 1, 2024	12-701(a)(20)(B)
Sec. 7	January 1, 2024, and applicable to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2024	New section

## Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 7(b), "subparagraph (B)(xxiii)" was changed to "subparagraph (B)(xxviii)" for accuracy.

**HED** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO