

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 576

LCO No. **4840**

Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by: (CE)

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM, INCREASING THE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON SUCH PROGRAM AND MAKING SUCH PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

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

- Section 1. Section 32-4i of the general statutes is repealed and the
 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 3 (a) [The] On or before October 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Economic 4 and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner 5 of Revenue Services and the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges 6 and Universities, [may] shall establish the Learn Here, Live Here 7 program. Such program [may] <u>shall</u> provide an incentive for graduates 8 of a high school, public institution of higher education, private 9 university or college, or health care training school in this state, or 10 graduates from a technical education and career school, to buy a first 11 home in the state. Persons (1) who graduate on or after January 1, [2014] 12 2026, from such high schools, institutions, universities, colleges or 13 schools, and (2) whose annual federal adjusted gross income is not more 14 than seventy-five thousand dollars may have their income tax liability, 15 up to a maximum of two thousand five hundred dollars annually,

segregated into the Connecticut first-time homebuyers account 16 17 established pursuant to section 32-4j, provided not more than [one] five 18 million dollars from all program participants may be so segregated in 19 any calendar year. After a period not exceeding ten years after 20 graduation, any amounts so segregated may be withdrawn by a 21 participant for the purchase of a first home in the state. The 22 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development may make 23 payments in accordance with this section from said fund to the 24 participants. For the purposes of this section, "health care training 25 school" means a medical or dental school, chiropractic college, school or 26 college of optometry, school or college of chiropody or podiatry, school 27 of occupational therapy, hospital-based occupational school, school or 28 college of naturopathy, school of dental hygiene, school of physical 29 therapy or any other school or institution giving instruction in the 30 healing arts.

31 (b) (1) After a period not exceeding ten years after the date of 32 graduation, a participant in the program established pursuant to 33 subsection (a) of this section may apply to the Commissioner of 34 Economic and Community Development for a payment to be issued, on 35 behalf of such participant, and used as the down payment on a house, 36 which must be the first house such participant has bought, either singly 37 or jointly. Such payment may be in an amount equal to the amount of 38 segregated funds deposited on behalf of such participant. If the payment 39 is less than such amount, any excess amount shall be deposited in the 40 General Fund.

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

49 amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in the state at any time 50 up to four years after such date, such participant shall repay forty per 51 cent of the amount paid out. If a participant ceases to live in the state at 52 any time up to five years after such date, such participant shall repay 53 twenty per cent of the amount paid out. After five years, there is no 54 repayment obligation. Any amounts repaid under this subdivision shall 55 be deposited in the General Fund.

56 (c) On or before December 1, [2012] 2025, the Commissioner of 57 Economic and Community Development [may] shall develop, within 58 available appropriations, a comprehensive public education program to 59 educate recent graduates of a high school, public institution of higher 60 education, private university or college, or health care training school in 61 the state, or of a technical education and career school, about the 62 program established under this section for first-time home buyers. The 63 public education program shall include, but not be limited to, 64 information concerning life-time savings plans and information on the 65 purchase of a home. [If the commissioner develops such public 66 education program, the department] The commissioner shall begin to 67 implement such program not later than January 1, [2014] 2026.

68 Sec. 2. Section 32-4k of the general statutes is repealed and the 69 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

70 As part of the Learn Here, Live Here program established pursuant 71 to section 32-4i, as amended by this act, for taxable years commencing 72 on or after January 1, [2014] 2026, the Commissioner of Revenue Services 73 shall segregate the income taxes paid by a participant in said program 74 during a period not exceeding ten taxable years following the year of 75 graduation. Upon the request of such participant, the commissioner 76 shall segregate an annual amount of such tax liability, up to a maximum 77 of two thousand five hundred dollars per year. The total amount 78 segregated for all program participants shall not exceed [one] five 79 million dollars in any calendar year. The commissioner shall deposit 80 such segregated amounts into the Connecticut first-time homebuyers

81 account established pursuant to section 32-4j.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following
sections:Section 1October 1, 202532-4iSec. 2October 1, 202532-4k

Statement of Purpose:

To: (1) Require the establishment of the Learn Here, Live Here program; (2) increase the annual income tax segregation under such program to not more than five million dollars; and (3) make such program available only to individuals whose annual federal adjusted gross income is not more than seventy-five thousand dollars.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.

<u>S.B. 576</u>