



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5159

LCO No. 900



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT FUNDING JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIPS FOR GRADUATES
OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "local news organization" means a news organization, as defined in
3 section 54-33i of the general statutes, that is located in the state.

4 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
5 thereafter, the Office of Higher Education shall establish a journalism
6 fellowship program to fund not fewer than twelve journalism
7 fellowships at one or more local news organizations. The office shall
8 specify the (1) minimum requirements for a fellowship funded under
9 such program, including, but not limited to, opportunities for (A) a
10 mentorship from experienced journalists and editors, (B) direct work
11 experience, and (C) professional networking, and (2) eligibility
12 requirements for individuals to qualify for such journalism fellowships,
13 including, but not limited to, (A) graduating from a journalism degree
14 program at a public institution of higher education in the state, and (B)

15 interviewing with and being approved by the local news organization
16 providing such fellowship. Fellowships shall be funded in an amount
17 prescribed by the Commissioner of Higher Education.

18 (c) On or before September 1, 2026, the Office of Higher Education
19 shall post in a conspicuous location on its Internet web site (1) a
20 description of the journalism fellowship program, including, but not
21 limited to, the amount of funding available for each fellowship under
22 such program, (2) the minimum requirements and eligibility
23 requirements specified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (3) the
24 list of fellowships with funding available under such program, and (4)
25 the application form for such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Office of Higher Education to establish a journalism fellowship program to fund not fewer than twelve journalism fellowship positions at local news organizations.

[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.]