

**Joint Committee on Higher Education Bill**  
**Summary**

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<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	S.946
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act creating a scholarship fund to increase the number of medical providers who are knowledgeable in autism
<b><u>SPONSORS</u></b>	Senator O'Connor
<b><u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u></b>	-
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	S.766 of the 2015/2016 Legislative Session was redrafted and reported favorably by the Joint Committee on Higher Education; sent to Senate Ways and Means; no further action taken. S.695 of the 2017/2018 Legislative Session was attached to S.698 which was redrafted by the Joint Committee on Higher Education and given a favorable report (S.2467); sent to Senate Ways and Means; no further action taken; S.766 of the 2019/2020 Legislative Session was placed in a study. S.853 of the 2021/2022 Legislative Session was placed in a study. S.842 of the 2023/2024 Legislative Session accompanied study order S.2646.
<b><u>SUMMARY</u></b>	This bill establishes a scholarship fund to increase the number of medical providers who are knowledgeable in autism. Three scholarships will be awarded annually: one to a student at UMass medical school, one to a student attending a public nursing program, and another to a student attending dentistry school, provided the student is studying issues related to autism and/or plans to work with individuals with autism upon graduation.

**SECTION-BY-SECTION**

Establishes a scholarship fund to increase the number of medical providers knowledgeable in autism. Eligible individuals must attend UMass medical school, state/public nursing schools or dentistry schools, and either study autism or plan to work with those with autism after graduation. Three scholarships will be awarded annually, one to the UMass medical school, one to a nursing program, and one to a dentistry school.