



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 251***

LCO No. 2213



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***AN ACT EXPANDING TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR CAREERS IN  
HEALTH CARE.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Higher Education,  
2 in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Labor  
3 Department, the Office of Workforce Strategy, The University of  
4 Connecticut, The University of Connecticut Health Center and the  
5 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, shall develop an initiative  
6 to address the state's health care workforce shortage. Such initiative  
7 shall seek to increase the number of health care workers in the state  
8 through the offering of expanded and enhanced educational programs  
9 at public institutions of higher education. The program shall include,  
10 but not be limited to, the following: (1) Expansion of existing health care  
11 related academic programs to promote increased enrollment and  
12 retention of students in such programs; (2) development of alternative  
13 academic programs that are designed to assimilate displaced workers  
14 and other individuals who seek to make a career change into the health  
15 care workforce; (3) recruitment and retention of underserved

16 populations in the health care workforce; (4) development of distance  
17 learning initiatives for individuals who seek to enter the health care  
18 workforce; and (5) development of on-the-job training initiatives that  
19 are designed to provide valuable work experience to those receiving the  
20 training and assist in alleviating health care workforce shortages,  
21 particularly in areas of the state with underserved populations.

22 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the executive director of the Office  
23 of Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
24 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the initiative developed  
25 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing  
26 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
27 relating to higher education and employment advancement, public  
28 health and labor and public employees.

29 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Housing and the  
30 executive director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall  
31 seek a partnership with a hospital located in the state to increase  
32 workforce housing options. Not later than January 1, 2023, the  
33 commissioner and the executive director shall submit, in accordance  
34 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report  
35 detailing the status of any such partnership and any recommendations  
36 on other methods to increase such housing options to the joint standing  
37 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
38 relating to housing.

39 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The Chief Workforce Officer, in  
40 consultation with members of the Connecticut Hospital Association and  
41 representatives of the nursing home industry, shall develop a plan to  
42 work with high schools in the state in order to encourage students to  
43 pursue careers in nursing. Not later than January 1, 2023, the Chief  
44 Workforce Officer shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of  
45 section 11-4a of the general statutes, such plan to the joint standing  
46 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
47 relating to higher education and employment advancement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To develop initiatives that address the critical shortage of nursing and health care professionals in the state.

*[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.]*