



Substitute House Bill No. 5441

Public Act No. 23-70

AN ACT CONCERNING CLINICAL PLACEMENTS FOR NURSING STUDENTS, REPORTING BY THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY, PROMOTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN AUTHORITY STUDENT LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAMS FOR VARIOUS PROFESSIONS.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to develop a plan for establishing clinical placements at state facilities for nursing students at public and independent institutions of higher education. The task force shall examine (1) the types of state facilities that can accommodate such clinical placements, including, but not limited to, state correctional facilities and facilities operated by the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Children and Families, and Developmental Services, (2) the number and types of clinical placements that may be established at each state facility, (3) the staffing requirements for providing such clinical placements and whether state facilities meet such staffing requirements, and (4) the total and per-student cost to state facilities to provide such clinical placements.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

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(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who is a nursing education program administrator at The University of Connecticut;

(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who is a nursing education program administrator at an independent institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-173 of the general statutes;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a nursing education program administrator at a state university within the Connecticut State University System;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a nursing education program administrator at a regional community-technical college;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a nursing education program administrator at an independent institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-173 of the general statutes;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a nursing education program administrator at The University of Connecticut Health Center;

(7) One appointed by the Commissioner of Correction, who is a licensed medical provider employed by the Department of Correction;

(8) One appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health, who is a registered nurse employed by the Department of Public Health;

(9) One appointed by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, who is a registered nurse employed by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;

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(10) One appointed by the Commissioner of Developmental Services, who is a registered nurse employed by the Department of Developmental Services; and

(11) One appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families, who is a registered nurse employed by the Department of Children and Families.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

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Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 4-124jj of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(b) Not later than October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, [until October 1, 2025,] the Chief Workforce Officer shall submit to the Governor and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, higher education and employment advancement, education, commerce, and labor and public employees a report regarding the workforce training programs funded through the Office of Workforce Strategy account. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, information on the number of individuals served, demographic information about such individuals and outcomes of such individuals after completion of a workforce training program.

Sec. 3. Section 38a-8 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (h) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(NEW) (h) The commissioner shall promote the development and growth of, and employment opportunities within, the insurance industry in the state.

Sec. 4. Section 10a-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(a) The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish, subject to available funding pursuant to section 10a-247a, as amended by this act, an Alliance District [Teacher] Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program for the purpose of subsidizing interest rates on authority loans, as defined in section 10a-223, to teachers, paraeducators and school counselors who are employed in a district designated as an alliance district pursuant to section 10-262u and who meet the eligibility criteria as established by the authority and the

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Commissioner of Education.

(b) The authority shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Commissioner of Education to establish the eligibility criteria and administrative guidelines for the Alliance District [Teacher] Educator and Counselor 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 Alliance District [Teacher] Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program, (3) the process for verifying the employment of applicants, and (4) the requirement that an interest rate subsidy through the Alliance District [Teacher] Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program shall terminate for any subsidy recipient who ceases to meet the employment requirements of such program during the term of such recipient's loan from the authority.

Sec. 5. Section 10a-247a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall maintain a separate, nonlapsing account to hold funds for the Alliance District [Teacher] Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program established pursuant to section 10a-247, as amended by this act. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, including, but not limited to, any state appropriation or the proceeds from the sale of bonds issued for the purpose of section 10a-247, as amended by this act. Moneys in the account shall be used (1) for the purposes of the Alliance District [Teacher] Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program and for reasonable and necessary expenses for the administration of such program, (2) for the issuance of authority loans to refinance one or more eligible loans, and (3) to maintain a reserve held by the authority to cover any losses incurred by the authority from the issuance of such authority loans. For the purposes of this section, "authority loans" and

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"eligible loans" have the same meaning as provided in section 10a-223.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Police officer" means a sworn member of a municipal police department;

(2) "Distressed municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 32-9p of the general statutes;

(3) "Authority loans" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-223 of the general statutes; and

(4) "Eligible loans" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-223 of the general statutes.

(b) On and after July 1, 2024, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish, subject to available funding pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, a Police Officer Loan Subsidy Program for the purpose of subsidizing interest rates on authority loans to police officers who are employed in a distressed municipality and who meet the eligibility criteria as established by the authority.

(c) The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall, in consultation with the Police Officer Standards Training Council, establish the eligibility criteria and administrative guidelines for the Police Officer 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 Police Officer Loan Subsidy Program, (3) the process for verifying the employment of applicants, and (4) the requirement that an interest rate subsidy through the Police Officer Loan Subsidy Program shall terminate for any subsidy recipient who ceases to meet the employment requirements of such program during the term of such

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recipient's loan from the authority.

(d) The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall maintain a separate, nonlapsing account to hold funds for the Police Officer Loan Subsidy Program. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, including, but not limited to, any state appropriation or the proceeds from the sale of bonds issued for the purpose of the program. Moneys in the account shall be used (1) for the purposes of the Police Officer Loan Subsidy Program and for reasonable and necessary expenses for the administration of such program, (2) for the issuance of authority loans to refinance one or more eligible loans, and (3) to maintain a reserve held by the authority to cover any losses incurred by the authority from the issuance of such authority loans.

Sec. 7. Section 1 of public act 23-60 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "authority loans" and "eligible loans" have the same meanings as provided in section 10a-223 of the general statutes.

(b) The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish, subject to available funding in the account established and maintained pursuant to section 2 of [this act] public act 23-60 a Nursing, [and] Mental Health Care and Emergency Medical Service Professionals Loan Subsidy Program for the purpose of subsidizing interest rates on authority loans issued to refinance eligible loans for health care professionals who (1) are actively employed in a clinical or an emergency medical service setting, (2) are (A) licensed pursuant to chapter 378, 378a, 383, 383a, 383b or 383c of the general statutes, or (B) certified as an emergency medical responder or emergency medical technician under the provisions of section 20-206ll or 20-206mm of the general statutes or as an advanced emergency medical technician by the

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Department of Public Health, and (3) meet the eligibility criteria established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(c) The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Commissioner of Education to establish eligibility criteria and administrative guidelines for the program established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Such eligibility criteria and guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) applicant eligibility criteria, (2) interest rate subsidies and principal limits on authority loans offered under the program, (3) a process for verifying that applicants are actively employed in a clinical or an emergency medical service setting, and (4) a requirement that an interest rate subsidy on an authority loan issued under the program be terminated if the subsidy recipient fails to meet the requirements of the program at any time during the term of such loan.

Sec. 8. Section 2 of public act 23-60 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish and maintain a separate, nonlapsing account to hold funds for the Nursing, [and] Mental Health Care and Emergency Medical Service Professionals Loan Subsidy Program established pursuant to section 1 of [this act] public act 23-60. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, including, but not limited to, any state appropriation and the proceeds from the sale of any bonds issued for the purpose of section 1 of [this act] public act 23-60. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (1) for the purposes of the Nursing, [and] Mental Health Care and Emergency Medical Service Professionals Loan Subsidy Program established pursuant to section 1 of [this act] public act 23-60 including, but not limited to, for reasonable expenses necessary to administer said program, (2) to issue authority loans under said program to refinance

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one or more eligible loans, and (3) to maintain a reserve, held by the authority, to cover any losses incurred by the authority in issuing authority loans under said program. For the purposes of this section, "authority loans" and "eligible loans" have the same meanings as provided in section 10a-223 of the general statutes.

Approved June 26, 2023