



**PA 23-60**—sHB 6689

*Banking Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING A CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION  
SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN AUTHORITY REFINANCE LOAN SUBSIDY  
FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

**SUMMARY:** This act requires the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) to establish a Nursing and Mental Health Care Professionals Loan Subsidy Program. The program’s purpose is to subsidize interest rates on CHESLA refinancing loans to certain Connecticut-licensed nurses, nurse’s aides, psychologists, marital and family therapists, clinical and master social workers, and professional counselors. The program is subject to funding available in an account the act requires CHESLA to establish. (PA 23-70 expands the program’s scope to include certain emergency medical service professionals (see BACKGROUND).)

Under the act, CHESLA must enter into a memorandum of agreement with the education commissioner to establish the program’s eligibility criteria and administrative guidelines. It must also create and maintain a separate, non-lapsing account to hold funds for the program required by law to be deposited there, including any state appropriation and the proceeds from bonds issued for the program’s purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES**

The act requires the loan subsidy program eligibility criteria and guidelines to at least include the following:

1. applicant eligibility criteria,
2. interest rate subsidies and principal limits,
3. a process to verify that applicants are actively employed in a clinical setting,  
and
4. a requirement that an interest rate subsidy on a loan issued under the program ends if a recipient no longer meets the program’s requirements during the loan’s term.

**PROGRAM ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES**

Under the act, CHESLA must spend funds in the program’s account to (1) refinance eligible loans, (2) cover reasonable and necessary expenses for the program’s administration, and (3) maintain a reserve to cover any losses from issuing program loans. “Eligible loans” are loans in repayment that CHESLA issued or were issued by another private or governmental lender to finance post-

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

secondary education.

### BACKGROUND

#### *Related Act*

PA 23-70, §§ 7 & 8, expands the program's scope to include certain emergency medical service professionals and correspondingly renames it.