



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 400**

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 5772

*House of Representatives, April 23, 2001*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING FREE TUITION AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall adopt  
4 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for  
5 determining financial need for tuition waivers granted pursuant to  
6 subsection (e) of section 10a-77, section 10a-99 and subsection (f) of  
7 section 10a-105. Such regulations shall prohibit the designation of  
8 graduate students as graduate assistants solely to provide tuition and  
9 fee waivers.

10 (b) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall adopt  
11 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to  
12 establish criteria for tuition waivers for prospective physician

13 assistants, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing  
14 assistants, medical technologists, medical laboratory technicians,  
15 cytotechnologists and histotechnologists granted pursuant to  
16 subdivision (7) of subsection (d) of section 10a-77, as amended by this  
17 act, subdivision (7) of subsection (d) of section 10a-99, as amended by  
18 this act, and subdivision (6) of subsection (e) of section 10a-105, as  
19 amended by this act. Such regulations shall include provisions  
20 requiring reimbursement of tuition fees for failure to fulfill the  
21 requirements for such tuition waivers.

22       Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is  
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

24       (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any  
25 of the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent  
26 child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has  
27 declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war  
28 while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child  
29 has been accepted for admission to such institution and is a resident of  
30 Connecticut at the time such child is accepted for admission to such  
31 institution, (2) for any veteran having served in time of war, as defined  
32 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, or who served in either a combat or  
33 combat support role in the invasion of Grenada, October 25, 1983, to  
34 December 15, 1983, the invasion of Panama, December 20, 1989, to  
35 January 31, 1990, or the peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, September  
36 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984, who has been accepted for admission to  
37 such institution and is a resident of Connecticut at the time such  
38 veteran is accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any  
39 resident of Connecticut sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at  
40 the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the  
41 course a sufficient number of students other than those persons  
42 eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in  
43 which such person intends to enroll and there is space available in  
44 such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any student

45 attending the Connecticut State Police Academy who is enrolled in a  
46 law enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination  
47 with a regional community-technical college which accredits courses  
48 taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the Connecticut  
49 Army or Air National Guard who (A) is a resident of Connecticut, (B)  
50 has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's  
51 designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (C) is  
52 enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or  
53 part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, [and]  
54 (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section  
55 7-294a, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, (C) municipal  
56 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in  
57 the line of duty, and (7) for any person enrolled or accepted for  
58 admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an  
59 undergraduate degree-granting program that will prepare such person  
60 to become a physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical  
61 nurse, certified nursing assistant, medical technologist, medical  
62 laboratory technician, cytotechnologist or histotechnologist, provided  
63 (A) such person shall furnish a written commitment to enter such  
64 profession after completion of such person's program of studies and to  
65 work in such profession in this state for a period of not less than two  
66 consecutive years after such completion, and (B) if such person fails to  
67 work in such profession in this state for a period of not less than two  
68 consecutive years after such completion, such person shall reimburse  
69 the full amount of the tuition waived. If any person who receives a  
70 tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also  
71 receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver  
72 shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement.  
73 Veterans described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and members  
74 of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection  
75 shall be given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers  
76 in registering for courses at regional community-technical colleges.

77 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is

78 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

79 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees at the  
80 Connecticut State University system (1) for any dependent child of a  
81 person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be  
82 missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in  
83 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted  
84 for admission to such institution and is a resident of Connecticut at the  
85 time such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) for  
86 any veteran having served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a)  
87 of section 27-103, or who served in either a combat or combat support  
88 role in the invasion of Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15,  
89 1983, the invasion of Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990,  
90 or the peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, September 29, 1982, to  
91 March 30, 1984, who has been accepted for admission to such  
92 institution and is a resident of Connecticut at the time such veteran is  
93 accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of  
94 Connecticut sixty-two years of age or older who has been accepted for  
95 admission to such institution, provided such person is enrolled in a  
96 degree-granting program or, provided, at the end of the regular  
97 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number  
98 of students other than those persons eligible for waivers pursuant to  
99 this subdivision to offer the course in which such person intends to  
100 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating  
101 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut Police  
102 Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said  
103 academy offered in coordination with the university which accredits  
104 courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the  
105 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) is a resident of  
106 Connecticut, (B) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such  
107 Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the  
108 guard, and (C) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution  
109 on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting  
110 program, [and] (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as

111 defined in section 7-294a, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j,  
112 (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-  
113 154, killed in the line of duty, and (7) for any person enrolled or  
114 accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time  
115 basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program that will prepare  
116 such person to become a physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed  
117 practical nurse, certified nursing assistant, medical technologist,  
118 medical laboratory technician, cytotechnologist or histotechnologist,  
119 provided (A) such person shall furnish a written commitment to enter  
120 such profession after completion of such person's program of studies  
121 and to work in such profession in this state for a period of not less than  
122 two consecutive years after such completion, and (B) if such person  
123 fails to work in such profession in this state for a period of not less  
124 than two consecutive years after such completion, such person shall  
125 reimburse the full amount of the tuition fees waived. If any person  
126 who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this  
127 subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer,  
128 such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational  
129 reimbursement. Veterans described in subdivision (2) of this  
130 subsection and members of the National Guard described in  
131 subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the same status as  
132 students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at  
133 Connecticut state universities.

134 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is  
135 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

136 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at  
137 The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person  
138 whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing  
139 in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed  
140 forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for  
141 admission to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of  
142 Connecticut at the time such child is accepted for admission to such

143 institution, (2) for any veteran having served in time of war, as defined  
144 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, or who served in either a combat or  
145 combat support role in the invasion of Grenada, October 25, 1983, to  
146 December 15, 1983, the invasion of Panama, December 20, 1989, to  
147 January 31, 1990, or the peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, September  
148 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984, who has been accepted for admission to  
149 said institution and is a resident of Connecticut at the time such  
150 veteran is accepted for admission to said institution, (3) for any  
151 resident of Connecticut sixty-two years of age or older who has been  
152 accepted for admission to said institution, provided such person is  
153 enrolled in a degree-granting program or, provided, at the end of the  
154 regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient  
155 number of students other than those persons eligible for waivers  
156 pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such person  
157 intends to enroll and there is space available in such course after  
158 accommodating all such students, (4) for any active member of the  
159 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) is a resident of  
160 Connecticut, (B) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such  
161 Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the  
162 guard, and (C) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution  
163 on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting  
164 program, [and] (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as  
165 defined in section 7-294a, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j,  
166 (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-  
167 154, killed in the line of duty, and (6) for any person enrolled or  
168 accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time  
169 basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program that will prepare  
170 such person to become a physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed  
171 practical nurse, certified nursing assistant, medical technologist,  
172 medical laboratory technician, cytotechnologist or histotechnologist,  
173 provided (A) such person shall furnish a written commitment to enter  
174 such profession after completion of such person's program of studies  
175 and to work in such profession in this state for a period of not less than

176 two consecutive years after such completion, and (B) if such person  
177 fails to work in such profession in this state for a period of not less  
178 than two consecutive years after such completion, such person shall  
179 reimburse the full amount of the tuition fees waived. If any person  
180 who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this  
181 subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer,  
182 such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational  
183 reimbursement. Veterans described in subdivision (2) of this  
184 subsection and members of the National Guard described in  
185 subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be given the same status as  
186 students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at The  
187 University of Connecticut.

188       Sec. 5. The sum of two million dollars is appropriated to the  
189 Department of Higher Education, from the General Fund surplus, for  
190 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, for tuition waivers for prospective  
191 physician assistants, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses,  
192 certified nursing assistants, medical technologists, medical laboratory  
193 technicians, cytotechnologists and histotechnologists granted pursuant  
194 to subdivision (7) of subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general  
195 statutes, as amended by this act, subdivision (7) of subsection (d) of  
196 section 10a-99 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and  
197 subdivision (6) of subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general  
198 statutes, as amended by this act.

199       Sec. 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

**PH**           *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Cost

**Affected Agencies:** Constituent Units of Public Higher Education

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

**State Impact:**

The bill requires the University of Connecticut (UCONN), the Connecticut State Universities (CSU) and the Regional Community-Technical Colleges (CTC) to waive tuition for students in certain undergraduate health care programs. The bill also provides that if a student fails to enter the field and work in the state for two years, that student will be required to pay back the full amount of the tuition waived. UCONN tuition is \$4,282, CSU is \$2,226 and CTC tuition is \$1,680 (these figures do not include any fees or room & board costs).

The bill appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Higher Education (DHE) from the FY 2000-2001 surplus to pay for these waivers. It should be noted that there is currently no funding in DHE's budget for this purpose. Depending upon which institutions those receiving waivers attend, approximately 600 - 800 students could receive waivers for a year. The bill does not specify whether the intent is to assist a single cohort of students through four years of education in a chosen health care profession or otherwise.

Furthermore, the bill is not specific as to any academic requirements necessary to acquire a grant under this program, nor is it clear as to any academic requirements necessary to maintain a grant. Finally, there would be additional administrative cost to DHE associated with collecting from students who do not honor their commitments under the program.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5772

***AN ACT CONCERNING FREE TUITION AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut State Universities, and the regional community-technical colleges to waive tuition for full- and part-time students in undergraduate degree-granting programs that prepare them for the following health occupations: physician assistant, registered or licensed practical nurse, certified nursing assistant, medical technologist, medical laboratory technician, cytotechnologist, and histotechnologist. It appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Higher Education from the FY 2000-01 surplus to pay for the waivers.

In order to receive the waiver, the student must commit in writing to enter the field and work in Connecticut for at least two consecutive years after graduation. If the student fails to do this, he must pay back the full amount of the tuition waived.

The bill requires the Board of Governors of Higher Education to adopt regulations establishing criteria for the tuition waivers, including requirements for repaying waived tuition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

**BACKGROUND*****Cytotechnologists and Histotechnologists***

Cytotechnologists prepare and examine slides of body cells for abnormalities such as cancer. Histotechnologists cut and stain tissue specimens for examination by pathologists.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25    Nay 0