



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 6874

LCO No. 3980



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:
(LAB)

AN ACT CONCERNING GRADUATE ASSISTANT BENEFITS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 5-259c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 Any part-time professional employee of the state system of public
4 higher education, and any graduate assistant employed in the state
5 system of public higher education, may elect to participate in the
6 group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan
7 established pursuant to subsection (a) of section 5-259. Each employee
8 who elects such coverage shall pay the premium for the form of
9 coverage elected under such plan.

10 Sec. 2. Section 10a-105 of the general statutes is repealed and the
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

12 (a) Subject to the provisions of sections 10a-8 and 10a-26, the Board
13 of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall fix fees for tuition
14 and shall fix fees for such other purposes as the board deems necessary

15 at The University of Connecticut, and may make refunds of the same.

16 (b) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall
17 establish and administer a fund to be known as The University of
18 Connecticut Operating Fund, and in addition, may establish a Special
19 External Gift Fund, and an endowment fund, as defined in section 10a-
20 109c, and such other funds as may be established pursuant to
21 subdivision (13) of subsection (a) of section 10a-109d. Appropriations
22 from general revenues of the state and, upon request by the university
23 and with an annual review and approval by the Secretary of the Office
24 of Policy and Management, the amount of the appropriations for fringe
25 benefits and workers' compensation applicable to the university
26 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 4-73, shall be transferred from the
27 Comptroller, and all tuition revenue received by the university in
28 accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, income
29 from student fees or related charges, the proceeds of auxiliary activities
30 and business enterprises, gifts and donations, federal funds and grants
31 for purposes other than research and all receipts derived from the
32 conduct by The University of Connecticut of its education extension
33 program and its summer school session, except funds received by The
34 University of Connecticut Health Center, shall be deposited in said
35 operating fund. If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
36 Management disapproves such transfer, he may require the amount of
37 the appropriation for operating expenses to be used for personal
38 services and fringe benefits to be excluded from said fund. The State
39 Treasurer shall review and approve the transfer prior to such request
40 by the university. All costs of waiving or remitting tuition pursuant to
41 subsection (g) of this section, except the cost of waiving or remitting
42 tuition for students enrolled in the schools of medicine or dental
43 medicine, shall be charged to said fund. Repairs, alterations or
44 additions to facilities supported by said fund costing one million
45 dollars or more shall require the approval of the General Assembly, or
46 when the General Assembly is not in session, of the Finance Advisory
47 Committee. Any balance of receipts above expenditures shall remain

48 in said fund, except such sums as may be required for deposit into a
49 debt service fund or the General Fund for further payment by the
50 Treasurer of debt service on general obligation bonds of the state
51 issued for purposes of The University of Connecticut.

52 (c) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall
53 establish and administer a fund to be known as The University of
54 Connecticut Health Center Operating Fund. Appropriations from
55 general revenues of the state except the amount of the appropriation
56 for operating expenses to be used for personal services and the
57 appropriations for fringe benefits pursuant to subsection (a) of section
58 4-73, all tuition revenue received by the health center in accordance
59 with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, income from
60 student fees or related charges, proceeds from auxiliary and business
61 enterprises, gifts and donations, federal funds and grants for purposes
62 other than research and other income relative to these activities shall
63 be deposited in said fund. All costs of waiving or remitting tuition
64 pursuant to subsection (g) of this section for students enrolled in the
65 schools of medicine or dental medicine shall be charged to said fund.
66 Repairs, alterations or additions to facilities supported by said fund
67 costing one million dollars or more shall require the approval of the
68 General Assembly, or when the General Assembly is not in session, of
69 the Finance Advisory Committee. Any balance of receipts above
70 expenditures shall remain in said fund, except such sums as may be
71 required for deposit into a debt service fund or the General Fund for
72 further payment by the Treasurer of debt service on general obligation
73 bonds of the state issued for purposes of The University of Connecticut
74 Health Center.

75 (d) Commencing December 1, 1981, and thereafter not later than
76 sixty days after the close of each quarter, the board of trustees shall
77 submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
78 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the
79 budgets of state agencies, the Office of Higher Education and the
80 Office of Policy and Management a report on the actual expenditures

81 of The University of Connecticut Operating Fund and The University
82 of Connecticut Health Center Operating Fund containing such relevant
83 information as the Office of Policy and Management may require in
84 the form prescribed by the board of regents in accordance with
85 subsection (a) of section 10a-8.

86 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at
87 The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person
88 whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing
89 in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed
90 forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for
91 admission to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of
92 Connecticut at the time such child is accepted for admission to said
93 institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section,
94 for any veteran who performed service in time of war, as defined in
95 subsection (a) of section 27-103, except that for purposes of this
96 subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in
97 attendance at a military service academy, who has been accepted for
98 admission to said institution and is domiciled in this state at the time
99 such veteran is accepted for admission to said institution, (3) for any
100 resident of Connecticut sixty-two years of age or older who has been
101 accepted for admission to said institution, provided (A) such person is
102 enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular
103 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number
104 of students other than those persons eligible for waivers pursuant to
105 this subdivision to offer the course in which such person intends to
106 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating
107 all such students, (4) for any active member of the Connecticut Army
108 or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant
109 General or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good
110 standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to
111 said institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or
112 graduate degree-granting program, (5) for any dependent child of a
113 (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or

114 auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or
115 member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D)
116 state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty,
117 (6) for any resident of the state who is the dependent child or surviving
118 spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state,
119 (7) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in
120 a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and
121 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (8) for any resident of the state
122 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was
123 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
124 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who
125 was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver
126 in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
127 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
128 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
129 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and members of the
130 National Guard described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be
131 given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in
132 registering for courses at The University of Connecticut.
133 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this
134 subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one
135 year.

136 (f) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (e) of this section has
137 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
138 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall
139 waive the payment of tuition at The University of Connecticut for such
140 veteran in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection. If any
141 such veteran certifies to said board that such veteran's application for
142 such federal educational assistance has been denied or withdrawn,
143 said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition in accordance
144 with subsection (d) of this section.

145 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"
146 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-

147 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to The
148 University of Connecticut on behalf of a veteran that represents
149 payment for tuition. Such portion shall be calculated by multiplying (i)
150 the total amount of such federal educational assistance to be paid to
151 The University of Connecticut on behalf of such veteran by (ii) an
152 amount obtained by dividing (I) the actual tuition charged by The
153 University of Connecticut to such veteran by (II) the sum of the actual
154 tuition and fees charged by The University of Connecticut to such
155 veteran.

156 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition in
157 excess of the veteran tuition benefit at The University of Connecticut
158 for such veteran.

159 (g) Said board shall set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue, an
160 amount not less than that required by the board of governors' tuition
161 policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section
162 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers, tuition
163 remissions, grants for educational expenses and student employment
164 for any undergraduate, graduate or professional student who is
165 enrolled as a full or part-time matriculated student in a degree-
166 granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and
167 who demonstrates substantial financial need. Said board may also set
168 aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal
169 to one per cent of said tuition revenue for financial assistance for
170 students who would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance
171 but who do have a financial need as determined by the university in
172 accordance with this subsection. In determining such financial need,
173 the university shall exclude the value of equity in the principal
174 residence of the student's parents or legal guardians, or in the student's
175 principal residence if the student is not considered to be a dependent
176 of his parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings of a
177 dependent student at the rate of thirty per cent.

178 (h) The University of Connecticut Operating Fund shall be

179 reimbursed for the amount by which tuition waivers granted under
180 subsection (e) of this section exceed two and one-half per cent of
181 tuition revenue through an annual state appropriation. The board of
182 trustees shall request such an appropriation and said appropriation
183 shall be based upon an estimate of tuition revenue loss using tuition
184 rates in effect for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will
185 apply.

186 (i) Said board shall grant remission or waiver of tuition, and shall
187 waive all student fees, for graduate assistants at the university.
188 Assistantship payments to graduate assistants shall not be considered
189 salaries and wages under the provisions of section 3-119, and shall be
190 paid according to a schedule prescribed by the university and
191 approved by the State Comptroller.

192 (j) Said board of trustees shall allow any student who is a member of
193 the armed forces called to active duty during any semester to enroll in
194 any course for which such student had remitted tuition but which was
195 not completed due to active duty status. Such course reenrollment
196 shall be offered to any qualifying student for a period not exceeding
197 four years after the date of release from active duty without additional
198 tuition, student fee or related charge, except if such student has been
199 fully reimbursed for the tuition, fees and charges for the course that
200 was not completed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	5-259c
Sec. 2	July 1, 2015	10a-105

Statement of Purpose:

To provide graduate assistants within the state system of public higher education with access to health insurance and to provide financial relief to graduate assistants by waiving certain student fees.

[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.]