



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 296**

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 5544

*House of Representatives, April 7, 2021*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. ELLIOTT of the 88th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING FEE WAIVERS FOR VETERANS ATTENDING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-77 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) Subject to the provisions of section 10a-26, the Board of [Trustees  
4 of the Community-Technical Colleges] Regents for Higher Education  
5 shall fix fees for tuition at the regional community-technical colleges and  
6 shall fix fees for such other purposes as the board deems necessary at  
7 the regional community-technical colleges, and may make refunds to  
8 the same.

9 (b) The Board of [Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges]  
10 Regents for Higher Education shall establish and administer a fund to  
11 be known as the Regional Community-Technical Colleges Operating  
12 Fund. Appropriations from general revenues of the state and, upon

13 request by the board and with an annual review and approval by the  
14 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the amount of the  
15 appropriations for fringe benefits and workers' compensation  
16 applicable to the community-technical colleges pursuant to subsection  
17 (a) of section 4-73, shall be transferred from the Comptroller, and all  
18 tuition revenue received by the regional community-technical colleges  
19 in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall  
20 be deposited in said fund. Income from student fees or related charges;  
21 the proceeds of auxiliary activities and business enterprises, gifts and  
22 donations; federal funds and grants for purposes other than research,  
23 and all receipts derived from the conduct by the colleges of their  
24 education extension programs and summer school sessions shall be  
25 credited to said fund but shall be allocated to the central office and  
26 institutional operating accounts which shall be established and  
27 maintained for the central office and each community-technical college.  
28 If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management disapproves  
29 such transfer, the secretary may require the amount of the appropriation  
30 for operating expenses to be used for personal services and fringe  
31 benefits to be excluded from said fund. The State Treasurer shall review  
32 and approve the transfer prior to such request by [the] said board. [of  
33 trustees.] The board shall establish an equitable policy for allocation of  
34 appropriations from general revenues of the state, fringe benefits  
35 transferred from the Comptroller and tuition revenue deposited in the  
36 Regional Community-Technical Colleges Operating Fund. At the  
37 beginning of each quarter of the fiscal year, the board shall allocate and  
38 transfer, in accordance with said policy, moneys for expenditure in such  
39 institutional operating accounts, exclusive of amounts retained for  
40 central office operations and reasonable reserves for future distribution.  
41 All costs of waiving or remitting tuition pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
42 section shall be charged to the Regional Community-Technical Colleges  
43 Operating Fund. Repairs, alterations or additions to facilities supported  
44 by operating funds and costing one million dollars or more shall require  
45 the approval of the General Assembly, or when the General Assembly  
46 is not in session, of the Finance Advisory Committee. Any balance of  
47 receipts above expenditures shall remain in said fund, except such sums

48 as may be required for deposit into a debt service fund or the General  
49 Fund for further payment by the Treasurer of debt service on general  
50 obligation bonds of the state issued for purposes of community-  
51 technical colleges.

52 (c) [Commencing December 1, 1984, and thereafter not] Not later than  
53 sixty days after the close of each quarter, the [board of trustees] Board  
54 of Regents for Higher Education shall submit to the joint standing  
55 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
56 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, the Office  
57 of Higher Education and the Office of Policy and Management a report  
58 on the actual expenditures of the Regional Community-Technical  
59 Colleges Operating Fund.

60 (d) Said board [of trustees] shall (1) waive the payment of tuition at  
61 any of the regional community-technical colleges [(1)] (A) for any  
62 dependent child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States  
63 has declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war  
64 while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child  
65 has been accepted for admission to such institution and is a resident of  
66 the state at the time such child is accepted for admission to such  
67 institution, [(2) subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section,  
68 for any (A) veteran who performed service in time of war, as defined in  
69 section 27-103, or (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in  
70 said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or  
71 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and who  
72 performed service in time of war, except that for purposes of this  
73 subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in  
74 attendance at a military service academy, which veteran or person has  
75 been accepted for admission to such institution and is domiciled in this  
76 state at the time such veteran or person is accepted for admission to such  
77 institution, (3)] (B) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or  
78 older, provided, at the end of the regular registration period, there are  
79 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those  
80 residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the  
81 course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space

82 available in such course after accommodating all such students, [(4)] (C)  
83 for any student attending the Connecticut State Police Academy who is  
84 enrolled in a law enforcement program at said academy offered in  
85 coordination with a regional community-technical college which  
86 accredits courses taken in such program, [(5)] (D) for any active member  
87 of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who [(A)] (i) has been  
88 certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee  
89 as a member in good standing of the guard, and [(B)] (ii) is enrolled or  
90 accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time  
91 basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, [(6)] (E) for any  
92 dependent child of a [(A)] (i) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a,  
93 or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, [(B)] (ii) firefighter, as  
94 defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, [(C)]  
95 (iii) municipal employee, or [(D)] (iv) state employee, as defined in  
96 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, [(7)] (F) for any resident of the  
97 state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified  
98 terrorist victim who was a resident of this state, [(8)] (G) for any  
99 dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a  
100 multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and  
101 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and [(9)] (H) for any resident of the  
102 state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was  
103 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed  
104 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was  
105 a resident of this state, and (2) waive the payment of tuition and student  
106 fees at any of the regional community-technical colleges, subject to the  
107 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any (A) veteran who  
108 performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, or (B)  
109 person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has  
110 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active  
111 service in the armed forces and who performed service in time of war,  
112 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall  
113 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,  
114 which veteran or person has been accepted for admission to such  
115 institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran or  
116 person is accepted for admission to such institution. If any person who

117 receives a tuition or student fee waiver in accordance with the  
118 provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement  
119 from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such  
120 educational reimbursement. Veterans and persons described in  
121 subdivision (2) of this subsection and members of the National Guard  
122 described in [subdivision (5)] subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this  
123 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving  
124 tuition waivers in registering for courses at regional community-  
125 technical colleges. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as  
126 used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for  
127 less than one year.

128 (e) [(1)] If any veteran described in subsection (d) of this section has  
129 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans  
130 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the [board of trustees] Board of  
131 Regents for Higher Education shall waive the payment of tuition and  
132 student fees at any of the regional community-technical colleges for  
133 such veteran [in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection] for  
134 any amount in excess of the federal educational assistance received by  
135 such veteran. If any such veteran certifies to said board that such  
136 veteran's application for such federal educational assistance has been  
137 denied or withdrawn, said board [of trustees] shall waive the payment  
138 of tuition and student fees in accordance with subsection (d) of this  
139 section.

140 [(2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"  
141 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11  
142 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to a regional  
143 community-technical college on behalf of a veteran that represents  
144 payment for tuition. Such portion shall be calculated by multiplying (i)  
145 the total amount of such federal educational assistance to be paid to a  
146 regional community-technical college on behalf of such veteran by (ii)  
147 an amount obtained by dividing (I) the actual tuition charged by such  
148 college to such veteran by (II) the sum of the actual tuition and fees  
149 charged by such college to such veteran.

150 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition in excess  
151 of the veteran tuition benefit at any of the regional community-technical  
152 colleges for such veteran.]

153 (f) Said board shall set aside from its anticipated regional community-  
154 technical college tuition revenue, an amount not less than that required  
155 by said board's tuition policy. Such funds shall be used to provide  
156 tuition waivers, tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and  
157 student employment for residents enrolled in regional community-  
158 technical colleges as full or part-time matriculated students in a degree-  
159 granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, who  
160 demonstrate substantial financial need. Said board may also set aside  
161 from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal to one  
162 per cent of said tuition revenue for financial assistance for students who  
163 would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance but who do have  
164 a financial need as determined by the college in accordance with this  
165 subsection. In determining such financial need, the college shall exclude  
166 the value of equity in the principal residence of the student's parents or  
167 legal guardians, or in the student's principal residence if the student is  
168 not considered to be a dependent of his parents or legal guardians and  
169 shall assess the earnings of a dependent student at the rate of thirty per  
170 cent.

171 (g) The Regional Community-Technical Colleges Operating Fund  
172 shall be reimbursed for the amount by which the tuition and student fee  
173 waivers granted under subsection (d) of this section exceed five per cent  
174 of tuition and student fee revenue through an annual state  
175 appropriation. The board of trustees shall request such an appropriation  
176 and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an estimate of tuition  
177 and student fee revenue loss using tuition rates and student fees in effect  
178 for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will apply.

179 (h) Said board [of trustees] shall allow any student who is a member  
180 of the armed forces called to active duty during any semester to enroll  
181 in any course for which such student had remitted tuition but which  
182 was not completed due to active duty status. Such course reenrollment

183 shall be offered to any qualifying student for a period not exceeding four  
184 years after the date of release from active duty without additional  
185 tuition, student fee or related charge, except if such student has been  
186 fully reimbursed for the tuition, fees and charges for the course that was  
187 not completed.

188 Sec. 2. Section 10a-99 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
189 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

190 (a) Subject to the provisions of section 10a-26, the Board of [Trustees  
191 of the Connecticut State University System] Regents for Higher  
192 Education shall fix fees for tuition and shall fix fees for such other  
193 purposes as the board deems necessary at the university, and may make  
194 refunds of the same.

195 (b) The Board of [Trustees of the Connecticut State University  
196 System] Regents for Higher Education shall establish and administer a  
197 fund to be known as the Connecticut State University System Operating  
198 Fund. Appropriations from general revenues of the state and upon  
199 request by the Connecticut State University System and with the annual  
200 review and approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
201 Management, the amount of the appropriations for fringe benefits  
202 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 4-73, shall be transferred from the  
203 State Comptroller and all tuition revenue received by the Connecticut  
204 State University System in accordance with the provisions of subsection  
205 (a) of this section shall be deposited in said fund. Income from student  
206 fees or related charges, the proceeds of auxiliary activities and business  
207 enterprises, gifts and donations, federal funds and grants, subject to the  
208 provisions of sections 10a-98 to 10a-98g, inclusive, and all receipts  
209 derived from the conduct by a state university of its education extension  
210 program and its summer school session shall be credited to said fund  
211 but shall be allocated to the central office and institutional operating  
212 accounts which shall be established and maintained for the central office  
213 and each state university. Any such gifts and donations, federal funds  
214 and grants for purposes of research shall be allocated to separate  
215 accounts within such central office and institutional operating accounts.

216 If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management disapproves  
217 such transfer, [he] the secretary may require the amount of the  
218 appropriation for operating expenses to be used for personal services  
219 and fringe benefits to be excluded from said fund. The State Treasurer  
220 shall review and approve the transfer prior to such request by [the  
221 university] said board. The board [of trustees] shall establish an  
222 equitable policy for allocation of appropriations from general revenues  
223 of the state, fringe benefits transferred from the State Comptroller and  
224 tuition revenue deposited in the Connecticut State University System  
225 Operating Fund. At the beginning of each quarter of the fiscal year, the  
226 board shall allocate and transfer, in accordance with said policy, moneys  
227 for expenditure in such institutional operating accounts, exclusive of  
228 amounts retained for central office operations and reasonable reserves  
229 for future distribution. All costs of waiving or remitting tuition pursuant  
230 to subsection (f) of this section shall be charged to the Connecticut State  
231 University System Operating Fund. Repairs, alterations or additions to  
232 facilities supported by the Connecticut State University System  
233 Operating Fund and costing one million dollars or more shall require  
234 the approval of the General Assembly, or when the General Assembly  
235 is not in session, of the Finance Advisory Committee. Any balance of  
236 receipts above expenditures shall remain in said fund, except such sums  
237 as may be required for deposit into a debt service fund or the General  
238 Fund for further payment by the Treasurer of debt service on general  
239 obligation bonds of the state issued for purposes of the Connecticut  
240 State University System.

241 (c) [Commencing December 1, 1984, and thereafter not] Not later than  
242 sixty days after the close of each quarter, the [board of trustees] Board  
243 of Regents for Higher Education shall submit to the joint standing  
244 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
245 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, the Office  
246 of Higher Education and the Office of Policy and Management a report  
247 on the actual expenditures of the Connecticut State University System  
248 Operating Fund.

249 (d) Said board shall (1) waive the payment of tuition fees at the



250 Connecticut State University System [(1)] (A) for any dependent child  
251 of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to  
252 be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in  
253 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted  
254 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time  
255 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, [(2)] subject to  
256 the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any (A) veteran who  
257 performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, or (B)  
258 person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has  
259 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active  
260 service in the armed forces and who performed service in time of war,  
261 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall  
262 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,  
263 which veteran or person has been accepted for admission to such  
264 institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran or  
265 person is accepted for admission to such institution, (3)] (B) for any  
266 resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been  
267 accepted for admission to such institution, provided [(A)] (i) such  
268 resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or [(B)] (ii) at the end  
269 of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a  
270 sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible for  
271 waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such  
272 resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such course  
273 after accommodating all such students, [(4)] (C) for any student  
274 attending the Connecticut Police Academy who is enrolled in a law  
275 enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination with the  
276 university which accredits courses taken in such program, [(5)] (D) for  
277 any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who  
278 [(A)] (i) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant  
279 General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and [(B)]  
280 (ii) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-  
281 time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-  
282 granting program, [(6)] (E) for any dependent child of a [(A)] (i) police  
283 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary  
284 police officer, [(B)] (ii) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member

285 of a volunteer fire company, [(C)] (iii) municipal employee, or [(D)] (iv)  
286 state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, [(7)]  
287 (F) for any resident of this state who is a dependent child or surviving  
288 spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state,  
289 [(8)] (G) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed  
290 in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10  
291 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and [(9)] (H) for any resident  
292 of the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person  
293 who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the  
294 armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and  
295 who was a resident of this state, and (2) waive the payment of tuition  
296 and student fees at the Connecticut State University System, subject to  
297 the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any (A) veteran who  
298 performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, or (B)  
299 person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has  
300 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active  
301 service in the armed forces and who performed service in time of war,  
302 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall  
303 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,  
304 which veteran or person has been accepted for admission to such  
305 institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran or  
306 person is accepted for admission to such institution. If any person who  
307 receives a tuition or student fee waiver in accordance with the  
308 provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement  
309 from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such  
310 educational reimbursement. Veterans and persons described in  
311 subdivision (2) of this subsection and members of the National Guard  
312 described in [subdivision (5)] subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this  
313 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving  
314 tuition waivers in registering for courses at Connecticut state  
315 universities. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used  
316 in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less  
317 than one year.

318 (e) [(1)] If any veteran described in subsection (d) of this section has  
319 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans

320 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the [board of trustees] Board of  
321 Regents for Higher Education shall waive the payment of tuition and  
322 student fees at the Connecticut State University System for such veteran  
323 [in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection] for any amount  
324 in excess of the federal educational assistance received by such veteran.  
325 If any such veteran certifies to said board that such veteran's application  
326 for such federal educational assistance has been denied or withdrawn,  
327 said board [of trustees] shall waive the payment of tuition and student  
328 fees in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

329 [(2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"  
330 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11  
331 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to the  
332 Connecticut State University System on behalf of a veteran that  
333 represents payment for tuition. Such portion shall be calculated by  
334 multiplying (i) the total amount of such federal educational assistance  
335 to be paid to the Connecticut State University System on behalf of such  
336 veteran by (ii) an amount obtained by dividing (I) the actual tuition  
337 charged by the Connecticut State University System to such veteran by  
338 (II) the sum of the actual tuition and fees charged by the Connecticut  
339 State University System to such veteran.

340 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition in excess  
341 of the veteran tuition benefit at the Connecticut State University System  
342 for such veteran.]

343 (f) Said board shall set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue, an  
344 amount not less than that required by the [board of governors'] board's  
345 tuition policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of  
346 section 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers,  
347 tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and student  
348 employment for any undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled  
349 as a full or part-time matriculated student in a degree-granting  
350 program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and who  
351 demonstrates substantial financial need. Said board may also set aside  
352 from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal to one

353 per cent of said tuition revenue for financial assistance for students who  
354 would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance but who do have  
355 a financial need as determined by the university in accordance with this  
356 subsection. In determining such financial need, the university shall  
357 exclude the value of equity in the principal residence of the student's  
358 parents or legal guardians, or in the student's principal residence if the  
359 student is not considered to be a dependent of his parents or legal  
360 guardians and shall assess the earnings of a dependent student at the  
361 rate of thirty per cent.

362 (g) The Connecticut State University System Operating Fund shall be  
363 reimbursed for the amount by which the tuition and student fee waivers  
364 granted under subsection (d) of this section exceed two and one-half per  
365 cent of tuition and student fee revenue through an annual state  
366 appropriation. The board [of trustees] shall request such an  
367 appropriation and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an  
368 estimate of tuition and student fee revenue loss using tuition rates and  
369 student fees in effect for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will  
370 apply.

371 (h) Said board [of trustees] shall allow any student who is a member  
372 of the armed forces called to active duty during any semester to enroll  
373 in any course for which such student had remitted tuition but which  
374 was not completed due to active duty status. Such course reenrollment  
375 shall be offered to any qualifying student for a period not exceeding four  
376 years after the date of release from active duty without additional  
377 tuition, student fee or related charge, except if such student has been  
378 fully reimbursed for the tuition, fees and charges for the course that was  
379 not completed.

380 Sec. 3. Subsections (d) to (h), inclusive, of section 10a-105 of the  
381 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
382 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

383 (d) [Commencing December 1, 1981, and thereafter not] Not later  
384 than sixty days after the close of each quarter, the board of trustees shall  
385 submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having

386 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state  
387 agencies, the Office of Higher Education and the Office of Policy and  
388 Management a report on the actual expenditures of The University of  
389 Connecticut Operating Fund and The University of Connecticut Health  
390 Center Operating Fund containing such relevant information as the  
391 Office of Policy and Management may require, [in the form prescribed  
392 by the board of regents in accordance with subsection (a) of section 10a-  
393 8.]

394 (e) Said board of trustees shall (1) waive the payment of tuition fees  
395 at The University of Connecticut [(1)] (A) for any dependent child of a  
396 person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be  
397 missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such  
398 armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for  
399 admission to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of the state  
400 at the time such child is accepted for admission to said institution, [(2)  
401 subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, for any (A)  
402 veteran who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-  
403 103, or (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section,  
404 who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable  
405 from active service in the armed forces and who performed service in  
406 time of war, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time  
407 of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service  
408 academy, which veteran or person has been accepted for admission to  
409 said institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran or  
410 person is accepted for admission to said institution, (3)] (B) for any  
411 resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been  
412 accepted for admission to said institution, provided [(A)] (i) such  
413 resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or [(B)] (ii) at the end  
414 of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a  
415 sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible for  
416 waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such  
417 resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such course  
418 after accommodating all such students, [(4)] (C) for any active member  
419 of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who [(A)] (i) has been  
420 certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee

421 as a member in good standing of the guard, and [(B)] (ii) is enrolled or  
422 accepted for admission to said institution on a full-time or part-time  
423 basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program, [(5)]  
424 (D) for any dependent child of a [(A)] (i) police officer, as defined in  
425 section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, [(B)] (ii)  
426 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire  
427 company, [(C)] (iii) municipal employee, or [(D)] (iv) state employee, as  
428 defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, [(6)] (E) for any  
429 resident of the state who is the dependent child or surviving spouse of  
430 a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state, [(7)] (F) for  
431 any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a  
432 multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and  
433 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and [(8)] (G) for any resident of the  
434 state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was  
435 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed  
436 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was  
437 a resident of this state, and (2) waive the payment of tuition and student  
438 fees at The University of Connecticut, subject to the provisions of  
439 subsection (f) of this section, for any (A) veteran who performed service  
440 in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, or (B) person with a  
441 qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a  
442 discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in  
443 the armed forces and who performed service in time of war, except that  
444 for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include  
445 time spent in attendance at a military service academy, which veteran  
446 or person has been accepted for admission to said institution and is  
447 domiciled in this state at the time such veteran or person is accepted for  
448 admission to said institution. If any person who receives a tuition or  
449 student fee waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection  
450 also receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such  
451 waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational  
452 reimbursement. Veterans and persons described in subdivision (2) of  
453 this subsection and members of the National Guard described in  
454 [subdivision (4)] subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection  
455 shall be given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers

456 in registering for courses at The University of Connecticut.  
457 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this  
458 subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one  
459 year.

460 (f) [(1)] If any veteran described in subsection (e) of this section has  
461 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans  
462 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall waive the  
463 payment of tuition and student fees at The University of Connecticut for  
464 such veteran [in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection] for  
465 any amount in excess of the federal educational assistance received by  
466 such veteran. If any such veteran certifies to said board that such  
467 veteran's application for such federal educational assistance has been  
468 denied or withdrawn, said board of trustees shall waive the payment of  
469 tuition in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

470 [(2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"  
471 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11  
472 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to The  
473 University of Connecticut on behalf of a veteran that represents  
474 payment for tuition. Such portion shall be calculated by multiplying (i)  
475 the total amount of such federal educational assistance to be paid to The  
476 University of Connecticut on behalf of such veteran by (ii) an amount  
477 obtained by dividing (I) the actual tuition charged by The University of  
478 Connecticut to such veteran by (II) the sum of the actual tuition and fees  
479 charged by The University of Connecticut to such veteran.

480 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition in excess  
481 of the veteran tuition benefit at The University of Connecticut for such  
482 veteran.]

483 (g) Said board of trustees shall set aside from its anticipated tuition  
484 revenue, an amount not less than that required by the board of  
485 governors' tuition policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection  
486 (a) of section 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers,  
487 tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and student  
488 employment for any undergraduate, graduate or professional student

489 who is enrolled as a full or part-time matriculated student in a degree-  
490 granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and  
491 who demonstrates substantial financial need. Said board may also set  
492 aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal to  
493 one per cent of said tuition revenue for financial assistance for students  
494 who would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance but who do  
495 have a financial need as determined by the university in accordance  
496 with this subsection. In determining such financial need, the university  
497 shall exclude the value of equity in the principal residence of the  
498 student's parents or legal guardians, or in the student's principal  
499 residence if the student is not considered to be a dependent of his  
500 parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings of a dependent  
501 student at the rate of thirty per cent.

502 (h) The University of Connecticut Operating Fund shall be  
503 reimbursed for the amount by which tuition and student fee waivers  
504 granted under subsection (e) of this section exceed two and one-half per  
505 cent of tuition and student fee revenue through an annual state  
506 appropriation. The board of trustees shall request such an appropriation  
507 and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an estimate of tuition  
508 and student fee revenue loss using tuition rates and student fees in effect  
509 for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will apply.

510 Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 31-11ss of the  
511 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
512 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

513 (2) In connection with providing the assistance described in  
514 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, each liaison designated  
515 pursuant to this subsection shall also assist a veteran served by the  
516 program to obtain funding for the cost of attending a qualifying  
517 advanced manufacturing certificate program. Such funding may  
518 include, but need not be limited to, (A) tuition and student fee waivers  
519 under sections 10a-77, as amended by this act, and 10a-99, as amended  
520 by this act, and (B) expenditures from the Workforce Training Authority  
521 Fund under section 31-11jj.



This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

|           |                     |                   |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10a-77            |
| Sec. 2    | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10a-99            |
| Sec. 3    | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10a-105(d) to (h) |
| Sec. 4    | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 31-11ss(c)(2)     |

**HED**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

| <b>Agency Affected</b>                | <b>Fund-Effect</b>          | <b>FY 22 \$</b>          | <b>FY 23 \$</b>          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Board of Regents for Higher Education | Tuition Fund - Revenue Loss | 1.7 million to 2 million | 1.7 million to 2 million |
| UConn                                 | Tuition Fund - Revenue Loss | 800,000 to 1 million     | 800,000 to 1 million     |

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which waives certain constituent unit fees for veterans, results in an annual revenue loss to the constituent units, beginning in FY 22, estimated at \$2.5 million to \$3 million. Of the total annual revenue loss, approximately \$1.7 million to \$2 million will be experienced by the Board of Regents, while the University of Connecticut will have an estimated revenue loss of \$800,000 to \$1 million.

The revenue loss estimates are based on annual veteran fee revenue data provided by the constituent units for FY 19 through FY 21. As the bill waives these fees for veterans, this revenue will be lost. At the four Connecticut State Universities, annually 385 to 471 veterans paid an estimated \$1.5 million to \$1.6 million in mandatory, programmatic, optional, and extension fees. At the 12 community colleges, annually 608 to 1,080 veterans paid an estimated \$290,000 to \$320,000 in these fees. Finally, at UConn, annually 224 to 242 veterans paid an estimated \$870,000 to \$920,000. The estimate considers enrollment volatility at the Board of Regents institutions.

The estimate assumes that all fees except room and board are waived by the bill. If the bill is interpreted to include room and board fees, then the revenue loss will increase substantially. For example, FY 21 data from the University of Connecticut indicates that the room and board revenue loss could reach approximately \$1.1 million if all eligible veterans choose to take advantage of the waiver.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to changes in fee levels and the number of enrolled veterans who are eligible for the fee waiver.

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5544*****AN ACT CONCERNING FEE WAIVERS FOR VETERANS ATTENDING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the state's public higher education tuition waiver program for eligible veterans to include a student fee waiver. It requires the regional community-technical colleges, the Connecticut State Universities (CSUs), and UConn to waive any student fee amount in excess of the federal educational assistance received by the veteran, similar to the eligible veteran tuition waiver in current law. (The bill does not specify what constitutes "student fees"; presumably, these are fees such as student activity fees.)

Additionally, the bill adds student fee waivers to the state reimbursement calculation for community colleges, CSUs, and UConn. Under current law, these institutions receive an annual state reimbursement appropriation for the amount that eligible veteran tuition waivers exceed (1) 5% of tuition revenue for the community colleges and (2) 2.5% of tuition revenue for the CSUs and UConn. The bill extends the state reimbursement amount to include student waivers and tuition waivers, when the amount of these waivers exceeds the above specified percentages of tuition and student fee revenue for the respective institutions.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**BACKGROUND*****Tuition Waivers for Veterans***

By law, the state's public colleges and universities must waive tuition

in excess of federal veterans’ benefit via the post-9/11 GI bill for eligible veterans who are accepted at an approved institution and live in the state at the time of the acceptance. The tuition waiver applies at the regional community-technical colleges, CSUS, and UConn and covers the cost of tuition for credit-bearing undergraduate and graduate programs. The law defines “tuition” as a direct charge for institutional programs, which is clearly delineated from other fees (CGS § 10a-26(a)(2)). It does not apply to other charges or fees, such as student activity fees and room and board (CGS §§ 10a-77(e), 10a-99(e) & 10a-105(f)).

This benefit applies to (1) wartime veterans and (2) veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable or for bad conduct and have a “qualifying condition” (i.e., a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, or who have disclosed a military sexual trauma experience) (CGS § 27-103).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22    Nay 0    (03/22/2021)