



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Proposed Bill No. 654

LCO No. 2324



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH-NEED CERTIFICATE AND TRAINING
PROGRAMS AND ESTABLISHING THE "NUTMEG INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM".**

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

1 That the general statutes be amended to (1) require the Office of
2 Workforce Competitiveness to designate certain certificate and training
3 programs as high-need based on the workforce needs in the state, (2)
4 allow the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority,
5 with state support, to issue loans to individuals for the completion of
6 such high-need certificate programs, (3) expand the tax credit
7 established pursuant to section 12-217qq of the general statutes to
8 include Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority
9 loans for the completion of such high-need certificate programs, (4)
10 establish a mentorship program for students participating in the debt-
11 free community college programs who are enrolled in such high-need
12 certificate programs, and (5) establish a state internship program, in
13 partnership with corporations in the state and the Board of Regents for
14 Higher Education, to be known as the "Nutmeg Internship Program"

15 which shall include a soft skills program, as defined in section 31-11mm
16 of the general statutes.

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) designate certain certificate and training programs as high-need programs, (2) allow the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority to issue loans to individuals for the completion of such high-need certificate programs, (3) allow employers who pay such Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority loans on behalf of employees to claim a tax credit, (4) establish a mentorship program for students in the debt-free community college program who enroll in such high-need certificate programs, and (5) establish a state internship program.