AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR NONPROFIT EMPLOYEES.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) (a) There is established a nonprofit employee loan reimbursement program to be administered by the Office of Higher Education.

(b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide a student loan reimbursement grant for persons who (1) attended an institution of higher education in the state, and (2) worked not less than five thousand hours or two and one-half years for a nonprofit organization in the state.

(c) Persons who qualify under subsection (b) of this section and meet any additional requirements established by the Office of Higher Education pursuant to this subsection shall be reimbursed on an annual basis for qualifying student loans. Such reimbursement shall not exceed five thousand dollars for each year of employment with a nonprofit organization in the state and for not more than a total of three years per
person. A person qualifying under subsection (b) of this section shall only be reimbursed if such person is employed by a nonprofit organization in the state at the time of application for loan reimbursement pursuant to this section. The Office of Higher Education may develop additional eligibility requirements for recipients. Such requirements may include income guidelines. Persons may apply for grants to the Office of Higher Education at such time and in such manner as the executive director of said office prescribes.

(d) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for expenditure during the next fiscal year.

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Office of Higher Education may use up to five per cent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this section for program administration, promotion and recruitment activities.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) (a) There is established a nonprofit health care employee loan reimbursement program to be administered by the Office of Higher Education.

(b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide a student loan reimbursement grant for persons who (1) attended an institution of higher education in the state, and (2) worked as a health care provider or in a health care supporting role, as determined by the executive director of the Office of Higher Education, for a nonprofit organization in the state during the public health emergency declared by Governor Ned Lamont related to the COVID-19 pandemic and for not less than one year after the cessation of such public health emergency.

(c) Persons who qualify under subsection (b) of this section and meet any additional requirements established by the Office of Higher Education pursuant to this subsection shall be reimbursed on a one-time basis for qualifying student loans. Such reimbursement shall not exceed five thousand dollars. A person qualifying under subsection (b) of this
section shall only be reimbursed if such person is employed as a health
care provider or in a health care supporting role, as determined by the
executive director of said office, by a nonprofit organization in the state
at the time of application for loan reimbursement pursuant to this
section. The Office of Higher Education may develop additional
eligibility requirements for recipients. Such requirements may include
income guidelines. Persons may apply for grants to the Office of Higher
Education at such time and in such manner as the executive director of
said office prescribes.

(d) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
expenditure during the next fiscal year.

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Office of Higher
Education may use up to five per cent of the funds appropriated for
purposes of this section for program administration, promotion and
recruitment activities.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 1, 2022</td>
<td>New section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 2</td>
<td>July 1, 2022</td>
<td>New section</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Purpose:**
To establish a loan forgiveness program for nonprofit employees.

[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.]