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## **OFA Bill Analysis**

### **HB 6901**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

The bill establishes a pilot program to reimburse certain professionals for student loan payments. The bill requires the Office of Higher Education to determine eligibility and award grant payments. To be eligible for a grant award, a professional must: (1) have attended a state college or university and graduated with a bachelor's degree or left in good standing prior to graduation; (2) currently be a resident of the state, and have been a resident of the state for at least five consecutive years after graduation; (3) earn the majority of their income from employment within Connecticut for the two years prior to program participation; (4) be employed full-time as a nurse, teacher or in the field of child care, mental health or social services; (5) meet various income eligibility; and (6) have a student loan.

Each participant is eligible for a loan payment reimbursement of up to five thousand dollars annually, with a maximum of four years of eligibility and up to twenty thousand dollars. Eligible participants are required to volunteer for an approved nonprofit organization in the state for at least fifty unpaid hours for each year of participation in the program.

The Office of Higher Education is required to report annually on the pilot program, beginning by January 1, 2025.

Additionally, the bill establishes a personal income tax deduction for amounts reimbursed under the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Appropriations Committee

Yea 43                      Nay 9