



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6841**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of  
2 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall appoint a firefighter  
3 recruitment and training coordinator in each emergency preparedness  
4 region designated by the Division of Emergency Management and  
5 Homeland Security within the Department of Emergency Services and  
6 Public Protection. Each such coordinator shall (1) recruit individuals  
7 for careers in firefighting or manage such recruitment programs, and  
8 (2) provide training assistance to fire departments and, upon request of  
9 a fire department, coordinate or conduct training programs.

10 Sec. 2. Section 7-323o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

12 (a) There is established the position of State Fire Administrator who  
13 shall be recommended by the Commission on Fire Prevention and  
14 Control and appointed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services  
15 and Public Protection and who shall: (1) Carry out the requirements of  
16 section 7-323n; (2) administer federal funds and grants allocated to the  
17 fire services of the state; (3) provide technical assistance and guidance  
18 to fire fighting forces of any state or municipal agency; (4) develop a

19 centralized information and audiovisual library regarding fire  
20 prevention and control; (5) accumulate, disseminate and analyze fire  
21 prevention data; (6) recommend specifications of fire service materials  
22 and equipment and assist in the purchasing thereof; (7) assist in  
23 mutual aid coordination; (8) coordinate fire programs with those of the  
24 other states; (9) assist in communications coordination; (10) establish  
25 and maintain a fire service information program; and (11) review the  
26 purchase of fire apparatus or equipment at state institutions, facilities  
27 and properties and, on and after July 1, 1985, coordinate the training  
28 and education of fire service personnel at such institutions, facilities  
29 and properties. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to  
30 apply to forest fire prevention and control programs administered by  
31 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant  
32 to sections 23-33 to 23-57, inclusive.

33 (b) (1) The State Fire Administrator shall develop, or enter into an  
34 agreement with a vendor to develop, facilities across the state that  
35 provide opportunities for individuals to train for and take the  
36 candidate physical ability test for firefighters throughout the year. The  
37 administrator shall seek to develop such facilities at multiple locations  
38 that are designed to improve opportunities for, and access to, training  
39 and test taking, and shall give a preference to locations at regional fire  
40 school sites. The administrator shall provide equipment for such  
41 training and test taking at any regional fire school or state facility that  
42 offers such training and test taking.

43 (2) The director of fire training within the Office of the State Fire  
44 Administrator shall act as coordinator of such training and oversee  
45 such training and testing facilities.

46 (c) The Office of the State Fire Administrator shall employ a full-  
47 time cadet or explorer program coordinator, who shall coordinate and  
48 oversee cadet or explorer programs, implement state standards and a  
49 best practices guide for such programs, encourage establishment and  
50 expansion of such programs throughout the state and encourage the  
51 expanded use of regional fire schools for such programs.

52 Sec. 3. Section 7-323p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

54 (a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
55 shall (1) maintain and operate a state fire school that shall serve as the  
56 training and education facility for the Commission on Fire Prevention  
57 and Control, [and] (2) provide training and educational services in  
58 accordance with the standards established pursuant to section 7-323l,  
59 and (3) provide instructors and facilities sufficient to conduct training  
60 for at least three classes of recruits at the state fire school each year.  
61 The use of any hazardous material, as defined in section 29-307a,  
62 except a virgin fuel, is prohibited in the simulation of any fire. The  
63 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, in  
64 consultation with the commission, fix fees for training and education  
65 programs and sessions and for such other purposes deemed necessary  
66 for the operation and support of the school. Such fees shall be used  
67 solely for training and education purposes.

68 (b) The department may establish and maintain a state fire school  
69 training and education extension account, which shall be a separate  
70 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any  
71 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The account  
72 shall be used for the operation of such training and education  
73 programs and sessions as said department may establish, for the  
74 purchase of such equipment as is required for use in the operation of  
75 such programs and sessions, and, within available funding, for (1)  
76 reimbursement to municipalities and municipal fire departments for  
77 one-half of the costs of Firefighter I certification and recruit training of  
78 municipal volunteer and paid fire service personnel, and (2)  
79 reimbursement to state agencies for one-half of the costs of Firefighter I  
80 certification and recruit training of state agency fire service personnel.  
81 All proceeds derived from the operation of the training and education  
82 programs and sessions shall be deposited in the General Fund and  
83 shall be credited to and become a part of the resources of the account.  
84 All direct expenses incurred in the conduct of the training, certification

85 and education programs and sessions shall be charged, and any  
86 payments of interest and principal of bonds or any sums transferable  
87 to any fund for the payment of interest and principal of bonds and any  
88 cost of equipment for such operations may be charged, against the  
89 account on order of the State Comptroller. Any balance of receipts  
90 above expenditures shall remain in the account to be used by the  
91 department for training and education programs and sessions, and for  
92 the acquisition, as provided by section 4b-21, alteration and repairs of  
93 real property for educational facilities, except such sums as may be  
94 required to be transferred from time to time to any fund for the  
95 redemption of bonds and payment of interest on bonds, provided  
96 repairs, alterations or additions to educational facilities costing fifty  
97 thousand dollars or less shall require the approval of the  
98 Commissioner of Administrative Services, and capital projects costing  
99 over fifty thousand dollars shall require the approval of the General  
100 Assembly or, when the General Assembly is not in session, of the  
101 Finance Advisory Committee.

102 (c) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
103 may establish and maintain a state fire school auxiliary services  
104 account, which shall be a separate account within the General Fund.  
105 The account shall be used for the operation, maintenance and repair of  
106 auxiliary service facilities and for such other auxiliary activities of the  
107 state fire school as said department determines. The proceeds of such  
108 activities shall be deposited in the General Fund and shall be credited  
109 to and become a part of the resources of the account. All direct  
110 expenses of operation, maintenance and repair of facilities, food  
111 services and other auxiliary activities shall be charged, and any  
112 payments of interest and principal of bonds or any sums transferable  
113 to any fund for the payment of interest and principal of bonds and any  
114 cost of equipment for such operations may be charged, against the  
115 account on order of the State Comptroller. Any balance of receipts  
116 above expenditures shall remain in the account to be used for the  
117 improvement and extension of such activities, except such sums as  
118 may be required to be transferred from time to time to any fund for the

119 redemption of bonds and payment of interest on bonds, provided  
120 repairs, alterations or additions to auxiliary service facilities costing  
121 fifty thousand dollars or less shall require the approval of the  
122 Commissioner of Administrative Services, and capital projects costing  
123 over fifty thousand dollars shall require the approval of the General  
124 Assembly or, when the General Assembly is not in session, of the  
125 Finance Advisory Committee. The department, with the approval of  
126 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Finance  
127 Advisory Committee, may borrow from the resources of the General  
128 Fund at any time such sum or sums as it deems advisable, to establish  
129 or continue auxiliary services activities, such sums to be repaid in  
130 accordance with such schedule as the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
131 and Management shall establish.

132 (d) The compensation provided by the department to a fire service  
133 instructor to provide fire service training shall be comparable to  
134 compensation provided by the Police Officer Standards and Training  
135 Council to a law enforcement instructor for police officer training.

136 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) There is established a  
137 paramedic candidate scholarship program administered by the  
138 Department of Public Health. The program shall provide scholarships  
139 to individuals receiving training to become licensed as a paramedic  
140 pursuant to section 20-206ll of the general statutes.

141 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the department shall develop a  
142 policy concerning the administration of the scholarship program. Such  
143 policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding  
144 (1) eligibility criteria, and (2) the payment and distribution of the  
145 scholarships.

146 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year  
147 thereafter, the department shall award scholarships in accordance with  
148 the provisions of this section and the policy developed pursuant to  
149 subsection (b) of this section.

150 (d) The department may accept gifts, grants and donations from any  
151 source, public or private, for the paramedic candidate scholarship  
152 program.

153 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) No fire department shall deny  
154 employment as a firefighter to a prospective employee solely on the  
155 basis of the prospective employee's status as a noncitizen of the United  
156 States, provided such prospective employee is lawfully admitted for  
157 permanent residence of the United States under federal law and  
158 regulations.

159 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Connecticut Housing  
160 Finance Authority shall develop and administer a program of  
161 mortgage assistance to uniformed members of paid or volunteer fire  
162 departments in the state. Such assistance shall be available to an  
163 eligible firefighter for the purchase of a house as such firefighter's  
164 principal residence in the community served by such firefighter. In  
165 making mortgage assistance available under the program, the  
166 authority shall utilize down payment assistance or any other  
167 appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of any mortgage assistance  
168 shall allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable portion of the equity  
169 gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

170 Sec. 7. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is  
171 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
172 *1, 2023*):

173 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any  
174 of the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent  
175 child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has  
176 declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war  
177 while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child  
178 has been accepted for admission to such institution and is a resident of  
179 the state at the time such child is accepted for admission to such  
180 institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section,  
181 for any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who performed service in

182 time of war, as defined in section 27-103, except that for purposes of  
183 this subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in  
184 attendance at a military service academy, which veteran has been  
185 accepted for admission to such institution and is domiciled in this state  
186 at the time such veteran is accepted for admission to such institution,  
187 (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older,  
188 provided, at the end of the regular registration period, there are  
189 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those  
190 residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the  
191 course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space  
192 available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for  
193 any student attending the Connecticut State Police Academy who is  
194 enrolled in a law enforcement program at said academy offered in  
195 coordination with a regional community-technical college which  
196 accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of  
197 the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been  
198 certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee  
199 as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or  
200 accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time  
201 basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, (6) for any  
202 dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or  
203 supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in  
204 section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal  
205 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in  
206 the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state who is a dependent  
207 child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a  
208 resident of this state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the  
209 state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection  
210 of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, [and] (9)  
211 for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving  
212 spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing active  
213 military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or after  
214 September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state, (10) for a  
215 uniformed member of a paid or volunteer fire department, who, as  
216 documented by the chief of such department, has served as such a

217 member in the state for not less than two years, (11) for any dependent  
218 child of a uniformed member of a paid or volunteer fire department,  
219 who, as documented by the chief of such department, has served as  
220 such a member in the state for not less than five years, and (12) for any  
221 student attending the state fire school, who is enrolled in a program at  
222 said school offered in coordination with a regional community-  
223 technical college that accredits courses taken in such program. If any  
224 person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions  
225 of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an  
226 employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such  
227 educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National  
228 Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the  
229 same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for  
230 courses at regional community-technical colleges. Notwithstanding the  
231 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in  
232 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

233 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is  
234 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
235 *1, 2023*):

236 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees at the  
237 Connecticut State University System (1) for any dependent child of a  
238 person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be  
239 missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in  
240 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted  
241 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the  
242 time such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject  
243 to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as  
244 defined in section 27-103, who performed service in time of war, as  
245 defined in section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection,  
246 "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a  
247 military service academy, which veteran has been accepted for  
248 admission to such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time  
249 such veteran is accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any



250 resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been  
251 accepted for admission to such institution, provided (A) such resident  
252 is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the  
253 regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient  
254 number of students other than those residents eligible for waivers  
255 pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident  
256 intends to enroll and there is space available in such course after  
257 accommodating all such students, (4) for any student attending the  
258 Connecticut Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement  
259 program at said academy offered in coordination with the university  
260 which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active  
261 member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has  
262 been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's  
263 designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is  
264 enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or  
265 part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting  
266 program, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined  
267 in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B)  
268 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire  
269 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in  
270 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state  
271 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist  
272 victim who was a resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a  
273 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near  
274 the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29,  
275 2005, [and] (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or  
276 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while  
277 performing active military duty with the armed forces of the United  
278 States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this  
279 state, (10) for a uniformed member of a paid or volunteer fire  
280 department, who, as documented by the chief of such department, has  
281 served as such a member in the state for not less than two years, (11)  
282 for any dependent child of a uniformed member of a paid or volunteer  
283 fire department, who, as documented by the chief of such department,  
284 has served as such a member in the state for not less than five years,

285 and (12) for any student attending the state fire school, who is enrolled  
286 in a program at said school offered in coordination with the university  
287 that accredits courses taken in such program. If any person who  
288 receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this  
289 subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer,  
290 such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational  
291 reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National Guard  
292 described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the same  
293 status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for  
294 courses at Connecticut state universities. Notwithstanding the  
295 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in  
296 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

297       Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is  
298 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
299 *1, 2023*):

300       (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at  
301 The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person  
302 whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing  
303 in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed  
304 forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for  
305 admission to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of the  
306 state at the time such child is accepted for admission to said institution,  
307 (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, for any  
308 veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who performed service in time of  
309 war, as defined in section 27-103, except that for purposes of this  
310 subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in  
311 attendance at a military service academy, which veteran has been  
312 accepted for admission to said institution and is domiciled in this state  
313 at the time such veteran is accepted for admission to said institution,  
314 (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has  
315 been accepted for admission to said institution, provided (A) such  
316 resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of  
317 the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a

318 sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible for  
319 waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such  
320 resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such course  
321 after accommodating all such students, (4) for any active member of  
322 the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been  
323 certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee  
324 as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or  
325 accepted for admission to said institution on a full-time or part-time  
326 basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program, (5)  
327 for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-  
328 294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as  
329 defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C)  
330 municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154,  
331 killed in the line of duty, (6) for any resident of the state who is the  
332 dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who  
333 was a resident of the state, (7) for any dependent child of a resident of  
334 the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the  
335 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29,  
336 2005, [and] (8) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or  
337 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while  
338 performing active military duty with the armed forces of the United  
339 States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this  
340 state, (9) for a uniformed member of a paid or volunteer fire  
341 department, who, as documented by the chief of such department, has  
342 served as such a member in the state for not less than two years, and  
343 (10) for any dependent child of a uniformed member of a paid or  
344 volunteer fire department, who, as documented by the chief of such  
345 department, has served as such a member in the state for not less than  
346 five years. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance  
347 with the provisions of this subsection also receives educational  
348 reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the  
349 amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of  
350 the National Guard described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall  
351 be given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in  
352 registering for courses at The University of Connecticut.

353 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this  
354 subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one  
355 year.

356 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) As used in this section:

357 (1) "Accrued service award" means the total value, as of a given  
358 date, of a participant's program account.

359 (2) "Bona fide volunteer" has the same meaning as in Section 457(e)  
360 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
361 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended  
362 from time to time.

363 (3) "Commission" means the State Retirement Commission.

364 (4) "Eligible firefighter" means a firefighter who (A) is a bona fide  
365 volunteer performing qualified services in a volunteer fire company or  
366 department, and (B) is not otherwise earning credit for such qualified  
367 service as a participant in any other length of service award program,  
368 pension system operating pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision  
369 (5) of subsection (c) of section 7-148 of the general statutes or any other  
370 comparable program.

371 (5) "Participant" means an eligible firefighter who participates in the  
372 program.

373 (6) "Program account" means a separate account maintained for  
374 each participant reflecting applicable contributions, applicable  
375 forfeitures, investment income or loss and administrative and  
376 investment expenses allocated to each participant and paid from the  
377 Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award Program Trust Fund,  
378 established under subsection (c) of this section.

379 (7) "Qualified service" has the same meaning as provided in Section  
380 457(e)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
381 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended

382 from time to time.

383 (b) The State Retirement Commission, in consultation with the  
384 Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the State Fire  
385 Administrator, shall establish a volunteer firefighter length of service  
386 award program. The State Retirement Commission may contract with  
387 third parties to provide services for such program.

388 (c) There is established a Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service  
389 Award Program Trust Fund. The fund shall contain any moneys  
390 required or permitted by law to be deposited in the fund and may  
391 apply for and accept gifts, grants or donations from public or private  
392 sources to enable the trust fund to carry out its objectives. Investment  
393 earnings credited to the assets of the fund shall become part of the  
394 assets of the fund. The fund shall be held in trust separate and apart  
395 from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in  
396 the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the  
397 fund for the fiscal year next succeeding. The fund shall be used to  
398 make payments as provided in this section and for administrative  
399 expenses related to the provisions of this section.

400 (d) Not later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, each  
401 volunteer fire company or department shall submit to the commission  
402 a list of eligible firefighters and the amount of service credit each such  
403 firefighter has earned with such department, on a form and in a  
404 manner as determined by the commission.

405 (e) (1) Not later than April 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
406 commission shall determine which eligible firefighters satisfy the  
407 service credit requirements established pursuant to regulations  
408 adopted in accordance with subsection (k) of this section to be  
409 participants in the program, and the amount of credits applicable to  
410 each such participant.

411 (2) An eligible firefighter may decline to become a participant in the  
412 program if such firefighter files with the commission, prior to such

413 firefighter satisfying such service credit requirements to become a  
414 participant in the program, an irrevocable waiver of participation that  
415 is signed by the eligible firefighter and the chief of the volunteer fire  
416 company or department of which such firefighter is a member.

417 (3) A participant shall receive service credit for service as an eligible  
418 firefighter before, on and after the effective date of this section. Service  
419 credit earned by a participant shall never be forfeited.

420 (f) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
421 commission shall credit a length of service award, in an amount  
422 determined by the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (k) of  
423 this section, to the program account of each participant who the  
424 commission determines qualifies for a length of service award  
425 pursuant to the service credit requirements established by such  
426 regulations. No such award may exceed the limit provided in Section  
427 457(e)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
428 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended  
429 from time to time.

430 (g) (1) A participant's accrued service award becomes vested once  
431 such participant has five years of service credit, as determined  
432 pursuant to regulations adopted under subsection (k) of this section.

433 (2) If a participant has not been an eligible firefighter for thirty-six  
434 consecutive months and such participant's accrued service award has  
435 not become vested, such accrued service award shall be forfeited and  
436 deposited in the Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award  
437 Program Trust Fund.

438 (h) The commission shall pay each participant such participant's  
439 accrued service award when the participant:

440 (1) Becomes vested pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and has  
441 attained the age of sixty-five years or over;

442 (2) Has twenty years of service credit, provided the participant may,

443 prior to attaining such twenty years of service credit, file a written  
444 election with the commission to defer payment of the accrued service  
445 award until the participant attains the age of sixty-five;

446 (3) Is vested and has not been an eligible firefighter for at least  
447 thirty-six consecutive months; or

448 (4) Has been determined to be totally and permanently disabled by  
449 the United States Social Security Administration, the Workers'  
450 Compensation Commission or any other entity approved by the State  
451 Retirement Commission.

452 (i) If a participant is paid such participant's accrued service award  
453 pursuant to subsection (h) of this section and subsequently qualifies  
454 for a length of service award at any other time pursuant to the  
455 provisions of this section and regulations adopted pursuant to  
456 subsection (k) of this section, the commission shall pay such service  
457 award directly to such participant.

458 (j) If a participant dies prior to receiving such participant's accrued  
459 service award pursuant to subsection (h) of this section or a length of  
460 service award pursuant to subsection (i) of this section, the commission  
461 shall pay such award to any beneficiary the participant has designated  
462 on a form and in a manner prescribed by the commission.

463 (k) Not later than January 1, 2024, the State Retirement Commission,  
464 in consultation with the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control  
465 and the State Fire Administrator, shall adopt regulations, in  
466 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to  
467 implement the volunteer firefighter length of service award program.  
468 Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions  
469 regarding (1) earning service credits and determining the amount of  
470 awards, which may include a point-based system that requires earning  
471 points for responding to calls, attending meetings and trainings or  
472 other factors, (2) documentation for earning such credits, including a  
473 system to permit volunteer fire companies and departments to comply

474 with the requirements of subsection (d) of this section, and (3)  
475 contesting determinations of service credits awarded to a participant.

476 Sec. 11. Section 3-13c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
477 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

478 Trust funds as used in sections 3-13 to 3-13e, inclusive, and 3-31b  
479 shall be construed to include Connecticut Municipal Employees'  
480 Retirement Fund A, Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement  
481 Fund B, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, Family and Medical Leave  
482 Insurance Trust Fund, State's Attorneys' Retirement Fund, Teachers'  
483 Annuity Fund, Teachers' Pension Fund, Teachers' Survivorship and  
484 Dependency Fund, School Fund, State Employees Retirement Fund,  
485 the Hospital Insurance Fund, Policemen and Firemen Survivor's  
486 Benefit Fund, Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award Program  
487 Trust Fund, any trust fund described in subdivision (1) of subsection  
488 (b) of section 7-450 that is administered, held or invested by the State  
489 Treasurer and all other trust funds administered, held or invested by  
490 the State Treasurer.

491 Sec. 12. (*Effective from passage*) The State Retirement Commission  
492 shall develop a new tier or classification within the municipal  
493 employees' retirement system for public safety professionals. Such tier  
494 or classification shall (1) take into consideration the tiered  
495 classifications of firefighters developed pursuant to section 13 of this  
496 act, and (2) permit an individual employed as a firefighter to retire  
497 from such position with one participating municipality and accept  
498 employment as a firefighter with another participating municipality  
499 and be eligible for retirement benefits from such other municipality.  
500 The commission may consult with the Commission on Fire Prevention  
501 Control, the State Fire Administrator and any other entities deemed  
502 appropriate in developing such new tier or classification. Not later  
503 than January 1, 2024, the commission shall report to the joint standing  
504 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matter  
505 relating to public safety and security, in accordance with the  
506 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the terms



507 and benefits that will be applicable to such tier or classification and  
508 legislation necessary to implement such tier or classification.

509 Sec. 13. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commission on Fire  
510 Prevention and Control shall conduct a study of the different levels of  
511 training and certification of firefighters and the benefits available to  
512 firefighters and make recommendations regarding benefits to provide  
513 incentives to encourage individuals to begin a career in firefighting  
514 and encourage firefighters to continue in their careers in firefighting.  
515 As part of such study, the commission shall:

516 (1) Develop a tiered classification of firefighters based on various  
517 factors the commission deems relevant, which may include, but need  
518 not be limited to, a firefighter's certification and level of training, years  
519 of experience, responsibilities, including any supervisory, executive,  
520 support or administrative responsibilities and status as an employed  
521 or volunteer firefighter, and the commission may include one of more  
522 classifications for individuals training to become a firefighter;

523 (2) Identify existing benefits available to firefighters, including the  
524 volunteer firefighter length of service award program established  
525 under section 10 of this act and the retirement tier developed pursuant  
526 to section 12 of this act, propose changes to any such benefits and  
527 identify new benefits that could encourage recruitment and retention  
528 of employed and volunteer firefighters;

529 (3) Consider as a factor for a firefighter's eligibility for any one or  
530 more benefits identified under subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
531 whether the firefighter (A) adheres to standard 1582 of the National  
532 Fire Protection Association on comprehensive occupational medical  
533 program for fire departments, or any subsequent standard by such  
534 association that is applicable to fire departments, and (B) does not use  
535 any tobacco products; and

536 (4) Consider whether eligibility for any one or more benefits  
537 identified under subdivision (2) of this subsection should be

538 determined based on a firefighter's inclusion in a specific classification  
539 tier, as developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in  
540 order to provide incentives that encourage individuals to begin a  
541 career in firefighting and encourage firefighters to continue in their  
542 careers in firefighting.

543 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the commission shall report the  
544 results of the study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
545 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
546 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and  
547 security.

548 Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Department of Public Health  
549 shall establish a pilot program to provide emergency services  
550 organizations, as defined in section 19a-904 of the general statutes,  
551 with (1) equipment capable of identifying individuals at high risk of  
552 cardiac arrest, (2) an early detection system capable of identifying  
553 individuals who are at low risk of cardiac arrest before such  
554 individuals experience critical cardiac issues, or (3) both such  
555 equipment and system. Not later than October 1, 2023, the department  
556 shall (A) post in a conspicuous place on the department's Internet web  
557 site a description of the program, including, but not limited to,  
558 eligibility criteria and the application process for such program, and  
559 (B) notify each emergency services organization of the opportunity to  
560 apply for participation in such program.

561 (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall, in  
562 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
563 report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
564 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security on the  
565 result of such pilot program and recommendations as to whether to  
566 continue or expand such program.

567 Sec. 15. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
568 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency Services and  
569 Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal years ending

570 June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, for the purpose of providing funds, in  
 571 addition to any reimbursement provided pursuant to subsection (b) of  
 572 section 7-323p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to reduce  
 573 the cost to trainees and fire departments of attendance at the state fire  
 574 school.

575       Sec. 16. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 576 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency Services and  
 577 Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal years ending  
 578 June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, for the purpose of providing funds to  
 579 reduce the cost to trainees and fire departments of attendance at  
 580 regional fire schools.

581       Sec. 17. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The sum of seven hundred fifty  
 582 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Public Health  
 583 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, for the  
 584 purposes of providing scholarships pursuant to section 4 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	7-323o
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	7-323p
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	3-13c
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*