



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 6901***

LCO No. 5451



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:  
(APP)

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) On or before October 1,  
2 2023, the executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall  
3 establish a pilot program to reimburse certain professionals for student  
4 loan payments. The Office of Higher Education shall approve the  
5 participation of any person in the student loan reimbursement pilot  
6 program who (1) attended a state college or university and graduated  
7 with a bachelor's degree or left such college or university in good  
8 standing before graduation; (2) is currently a resident of the state, and  
9 has been a resident of the state for not less than five consecutive years  
10 after graduation from a state college or university, as shown on the  
11 person's Connecticut income tax return; (3) earns the majority of such  
12 person's income through employment in the state, as evidenced on such  
13 person's Connecticut income tax return, for two years prior to  
14 participation in the program; (4) is employed full-time as a nurse,  
15 teacher or in the field of child care, mental health or social services; (5)  
16 has (A) a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than one

17 hundred thousand dollars and files a return under the federal income  
18 tax as an unmarried individual or a married individual filing separately,  
19 or (B) a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than one  
20 hundred twenty-five thousand dollars and files a return under the  
21 federal income tax as a head of household, a married individual filing  
22 jointly or a surviving spouse, as defined in Section 2(a) of the Internal  
23 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal  
24 revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time; and  
25 (6) has a student loan. For the purposes of this section "state college or  
26 university" means any public or private college or university in the state.

27 (b) Persons who qualify under subsection (a) of this section may  
28 apply to the Office of Higher Education to participate in the student loan  
29 reimbursement pilot program at such time and in such manner as the  
30 executive director of said office prescribes.

31 (c) Each person approved to participate in the student loan  
32 reimbursement pilot program shall annually submit receipts of  
33 payment on student loans to the Office of Higher Education in the  
34 manner prescribed by the executive director. The Office of Higher  
35 Education shall (1) reimburse such person for such student loan  
36 payments an amount of not more than five thousand dollars, annually,  
37 provided no person shall participate in the student loan reimbursement  
38 pilot program for more than four years or receive more than twenty  
39 thousand dollars in aggregate reimbursement for student loan  
40 payments, and (2) require such person to volunteer for an approved  
41 nonprofit organization in the state for not less than fifty unpaid hours  
42 for each year of participation in the student loan reimbursement  
43 program. For purposes of this section, volunteer hours may include  
44 service on the board of directors for a nonprofit organization or military  
45 service.

46 (d) Reimbursement payments under the program shall not be  
47 considered income for purposes of the state's personal income tax law.

48 (e) The Office of Higher Education may use up to two and one-half

49 per cent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this section, annually,  
50 for program administration, promotion and recruitment activities.

51 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the  
52 executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall report, in  
53 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
54 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
55 cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment  
56 advancement and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies on  
57 the operation and effectiveness of the pilot program and any  
58 recommendations to expand the pilot program.

59 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is  
60 appropriated to the Office of Higher Education from the General Fund,  
61 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for the student loan  
62 reimbursement pilot program, as described in section 1 of this act.

63 (b) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of section 1 of  
64 this act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available  
65 for expenditure during the next fiscal year.

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>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a loan reimbursement pilot program for Connecticut residents in certain professions who graduated from a state college or university.

*[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.]*