General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7098

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **5497**

Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION REFUNDS FOR FORMER STONE ACADEMY STUDENTS.

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

Section 1. Section 67 of public act 23-204 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Office of Higher Education shall pay from the private career school student protection account a stipend to each person who (1) graduated from the practical nurse education program at Stone Academy, also known as Career Training Specialists, LLC, during the period commencing November 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2023, (2) has taken or passed the examination for licensure as a licensed practical nurse, and (3) meets any requirements established by the executive director of the Office of Higher Education. The amount that may be paid by the office pursuant to this subsection shall be determined by the executive director, but shall not exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars in the aggregate.

(b) The Office of Higher Education shall pay from the private career

school student protection account a refund of tuition, pursuant to the process established under section 10a-22v of the general statutes, to each applicant who (1) was enrolled in, but did not graduate from, the practical nurse education program at Stone Academy, also known as Career Training Specialists, LLC, during the period commencing November 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2023, **[**and**]** (2) completed a course or unit of instruction at Stone Academy that **[**was not in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations concerning such course or unit of instruction**]** has not been accepted at another practical nurse education program as transfer credits, (3) has not previously received a refund of such tuition, and (4) has not participated in a (A) teach-out, as defined in section 10a-22m of the general statutes, or (B) proctored comprehensive predictor examination administered on or after the effective date of this section by an institution identified by the Office of Higher Education. If the executive director of the Office of Higher Education finds that the applicant is entitled to a refund of tuition pursuant to this subsection, the executive director shall determine the amount of an appropriate refund which shall not exceed the tuition paid for such course or unit of instruction. Such refund of tuition shall be paid in the manner and subject to the terms specified in section 10a-22v of the general statutes, except such applicant may apply for such refund of tuition on or before June 30, 2026. As used in this subsection, "proctored comprehensive predictor examination" is an examination that assesses a nursing student's readiness to pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses.

(c) The state may take appropriate action, including, but not limited to, an action in Superior Court, against said private career school or its owner or owners to reimburse the private career school student protection account for the stipends, refunds and administrative costs that are paid from the account pursuant to this section and to reimburse the state for the reasonable and necessary expenses in undertaking such action. The state shall reimburse the private career school student protection account up to an amount equal to such stipends, refunds and administrative costs from any funds it collects through such action.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any right or remedy available to the state arising from the operations of said private career school.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	PA 23-204, Sec. 67

HED *Joint Favorable*