



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 257

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6439

House of Representatives, March 26, 2025

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. FOSTER of the 57th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING A FEE WAIVER AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS
OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section, sections 10a-77, as amended by
4 this act, 10a-99, as amended by this act, and 10a-105, as amended by this
5 act, and this part: (1) A "full-time student" means a student who has been
6 registered and who has been accepted for matriculation at a constituent
7 unit of the state system of higher education in a course of study leading
8 to an associate, bachelor or advanced degree or whose course of
9 instruction or credit hour load indicates pursuit toward a degree; (2)
10 "tuition" means a direct charge for institutional programs, which is
11 clearly delineated from any other fees.

12 (b) In order to defray part of the cost of the higher education

13 institutional programs at the constituent units of the state system of
14 higher education, tuition shall be charged as provided in said sections
15 10a-77, as amended by this act, 10a-99, as amended by this act, and 10a-
16 105, as amended by this act, for each full-time student or shall be
17 prorated in the case of a student carrying less than seventy-five per cent
18 of the credit hours defined as a full-time load by the institution. Any
19 person enrolled in and paying extension fees for a course in an
20 educational extension program, [or] including for a course in a summer
21 or winter school session or intersession, shall not be charged tuition for
22 such course.

23 (c) Fees charged for educational extension programs, [and for]
24 including for summer or winter school sessions or intersessions, under
25 sections 10a-77, as amended by this act, 10a-99, as amended by this act,
26 and 10a-105, as amended by this act, shall not be deemed to be tuition
27 within the meaning of this section.

28 Sec. 2. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 10a-77 of the general
29 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
30 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

31 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any of
32 the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent child
33 of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to
34 be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in
35 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted
36 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time
37 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the
38 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in
39 section 27-103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in
40 section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in
41 time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military
42 service academy, which veteran has been accepted for admission to such
43 institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is
44 accepted for admission to such institution. Said board shall also waive
45 for any such veteran the payment of any extension fees under section

46 10a-26, as amended by this act, for educational extension programs, (3)
47 for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at
48 the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the
49 course a sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible
50 for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which
51 such resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such
52 course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any student
53 attending the Connecticut State Police Academy who is enrolled in a law
54 enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination with a
55 regional community-technical college which accredits courses taken in
56 such program, (5) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or
57 Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General
58 or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of
59 the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such
60 institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-
61 granting program. Said board shall also waive for any such member the
62 payment of any extension fees under section 10a-26, as amended by this
63 act, for educational extension programs, (6) for any dependent child of
64 a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or
65 auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or
66 member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D)
67 state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7)
68 for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving
69 spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of this state, (8)
70 for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a
71 multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and
72 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for any resident of the state
73 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was
74 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
75 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was
76 a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in
77 accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
78 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
79 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
80 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this

81 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
82 tuition waivers in registering for courses at regional community-
83 technical colleges. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as
84 used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for
85 less than one year.

86 (e) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (d) of this section has
87 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans
88 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall waive the
89 payment of tuition and extension fees at any of the regional community-
90 technical colleges for such veteran in accordance with subdivision (2) of
91 this subsection. If any such veteran certifies to said board that such
92 veteran's application for such federal educational assistance has been
93 denied or withdrawn, said board of trustees shall waive the payment of
94 tuition and extension fees in accordance with subsection (d) of this
95 section.

96 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"
97 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
98 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to a regional
99 community-technical college on behalf of a veteran that represents
100 payment for tuition and extension fees. Such portion shall be calculated
101 by multiplying (i) the total amount of such federal educational
102 assistance to be paid to a regional community-technical college on
103 behalf of such veteran by (ii) an amount obtained by dividing (I) the sum
104 of the actual tuition and extension fees charged by such college to such
105 veteran by (II) the sum of the actual tuition, extension fees and other fees
106 charged by such college to such veteran.

107 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition and
108 extension fees in excess of the veteran tuition benefit at any of the
109 regional community-technical colleges for such veteran.

110 (f) Said board shall set aside from its anticipated regional community-
111 technical college tuition revenue, an amount not less than that required
112 by said board's tuition policy. Such funds shall be used to provide
113 tuition waivers, tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and

114 student employment for residents enrolled in regional community-
115 technical colleges as full or part-time matriculated students in a degree-
116 granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, who
117 demonstrate substantial financial need. Said board may also set aside
118 from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal to one
119 per cent of [said] such tuition revenue for financial assistance for
120 students who would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance
121 but who do have a financial need as determined by the college in
122 accordance with this subsection. In determining such financial need, the
123 college shall exclude the value of equity in the principal residence of the
124 student's parents or legal guardians, or in the student's principal
125 residence if the student is not considered to be a dependent of his
126 parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings of a dependent
127 student at the rate of thirty per cent.

128 (g) The Regional Community-Technical Colleges Operating Fund
129 shall be reimbursed for the amount by which the tuition and extension
130 fee waivers granted under subsection (d) of this section exceed five per
131 cent of tuition and extension fee revenue through an annual state
132 appropriation. The board of trustees shall request such an appropriation
133 and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an estimate of tuition
134 and extension fee revenue loss using tuition and extension fee rates in
135 effect for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will apply.

136 Sec. 3. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 10a-99 of the general
137 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
138 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

139 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
140 undergraduate and graduate degree programs at the Connecticut State
141 University System (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the
142 armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or
143 to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after
144 January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to such
145 institution and is a resident of the state at the time such child is accepted
146 for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the provisions of

147 subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-
148 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
149 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
150 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
151 which veteran has been accepted for admission to such institution and
152 is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for
153 admission to such institution. Said board shall also waive for any such
154 veteran the payment of any extension fees under section 10a-26, as
155 amended by this act, for educational extension programs, (3) for any
156 resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been
157 accepted for admission to such institution, provided (A) such resident
158 is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular
159 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number
160 of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to
161 this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to
162 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating
163 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut Police
164 Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said
165 academy offered in coordination with the university which accredits
166 courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the
167 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by
168 the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee as a member
169 in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for
170 admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an
171 undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program. Said board shall
172 also waive for any such member the payment of any extension fees
173 under section 10a-26, as amended by this act, for educational extension
174 programs, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined
175 in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B)
176 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire
177 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in
178 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state
179 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist
180 victim who was a resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a
181 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the

182 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,
183 and (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
184 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
185 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or
186 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any
187 person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions
188 of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an
189 employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such
190 educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National
191 Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the
192 same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for
193 courses at Connecticut state universities. Notwithstanding the
194 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in
195 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

196 (e) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (d) of this section has
197 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans
198 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall waive the
199 payment of tuition and extension fees at the Connecticut State
200 University System for such veteran in accordance with subdivision (2)
201 of this subsection. If any such veteran certifies to said board that such
202 veteran's application for such federal educational assistance has been
203 denied or withdrawn, said board of trustees shall waive the payment of
204 tuition and extension fees in accordance with subsection (d) of this
205 section.

206 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"
207 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
208 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to the
209 Connecticut State University System on behalf of a veteran that
210 represents payment for tuition and extension fees. Such portion shall be
211 calculated by multiplying (i) the total amount of such federal
212 educational assistance to be paid to the Connecticut State University
213 System on behalf of such veteran by (ii) an amount obtained by dividing
214 (I) the sum of the actual tuition and extension fees charged by the
215 Connecticut State University System to such veteran by (II) the sum of

216 the actual tuition, extension fees and other fees charged by the
217 Connecticut State University System to such veteran.

218 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition and
219 extension fees in excess of the veteran tuition benefit at the Connecticut
220 State University System for such veteran.

221 (f) Said board shall set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue, an
222 amount not less than that required by the board of governors' tuition
223 policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10a-
224 6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers, tuition
225 remissions, grants for educational expenses and student employment
226 for any undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled as a full or
227 part-time matriculated student in a degree-granting program, or
228 enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and who demonstrates
229 substantial financial need. Said board may also set aside from its
230 anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal to one per cent
231 of [said] such tuition revenue for financial assistance for students who
232 would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance but who do have
233 a financial need as determined by the university in accordance with this
234 subsection. In determining such financial need, the university shall
235 exclude the value of equity in the principal residence of the student's
236 parents or legal guardians, or in the student's principal residence if the
237 student is not considered to be a dependent of his parents or legal
238 guardians and shall assess the earnings of a dependent student at the
239 rate of thirty per cent.

240 (g) The Connecticut State University System Operating Fund shall be
241 reimbursed for the amount by which the tuition and extension fee
242 waivers granted under subsection (d) of this section exceed two and
243 one-half per cent of tuition and extension fee revenue through an annual
244 state appropriation. The board of trustees shall request such an
245 appropriation and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an
246 estimate of tuition and extension fee revenue loss using tuition and
247 extension fee rates in effect for the fiscal year in which such
248 appropriation will apply.

249 Sec. 4. Subsections (e) to (h), inclusive, of section 10a-105 of the
250 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
251 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

252 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
253 any undergraduate or graduate degree program at The University of
254 Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed
255 forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have
256 been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after January
257 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to The University
258 of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time such child is
259 accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the provisions
260 of subsection (f) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-
261 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
262 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
263 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
264 which veteran has been accepted for admission to said institution and is
265 domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for admission
266 to said institution. Said board shall also waive for any such veteran the
267 payment of any extension fees under section 10a-26, as amended by this
268 act, for educational extension programs, (3) for any resident of the state
269 sixty-two years of age or older who has been accepted for admission to
270 said institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-
271 granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period,
272 there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other
273 than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to
274 offer the course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is
275 space available in such course after accommodating all such students,
276 (4) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National
277 Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such
278 Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard,
279 and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to said institution on a full-
280 time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-
281 granting program. Said board shall also waive for any such member the
282 payment of any extension fees under section 10a-26, as amended by this
283 act, for educational extension programs, (5) for any dependent child of

284 a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or
285 auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or
286 member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D)
287 state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (6)
288 for any resident of the state who is the dependent child or surviving
289 spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state, (7)
290 for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a
291 multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and
292 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (8) for any resident of the state
293 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was
294 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
295 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was
296 a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in
297 accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
298 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
299 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
300 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (4) of this
301 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
302 tuition waivers in registering for courses at The University of
303 Connecticut. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used
304 in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less
305 than one year.

306 (f) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (e) of this section has
307 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans
308 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall waive the
309 payment of tuition and extension fees at The University of Connecticut
310 for such veteran in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection. If
311 any such veteran certifies to said board that such veteran's application
312 for such federal educational assistance has been denied or withdrawn,
313 said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition and extension
314 fees in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

315 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"
316 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
317 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to The

318 University of Connecticut on behalf of a veteran that represents
319 payment for tuition and extension fees. Such portion shall be calculated
320 by multiplying (i) the total amount of such federal educational
321 assistance to be paid to The University of Connecticut on behalf of such
322 veteran by (ii) an amount obtained by dividing (I) the sum of the actual
323 tuition and extension fees charged by The University of Connecticut to
324 such veteran by (II) the sum of the actual tuition, extension fees and
325 other fees charged by The University of Connecticut to such veteran.

326 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition and
327 extension fees in excess of the veteran tuition benefit at The University
328 of Connecticut for such veteran.

329 (g) Said board of trustees shall set aside from its anticipated tuition
330 revenue, an amount not less than that required by the board of
331 governors' tuition policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection
332 (a) of section 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers,
333 tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and student
334 employment for any undergraduate, graduate or professional student
335 who is enrolled as a full or part-time matriculated student in a degree-
336 granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and
337 who demonstrates substantial financial need. Said board may also set
338 aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal to
339 one per cent of [said] such tuition revenue for financial assistance for
340 students who would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance
341 but who do have a financial need as determined by the university in
342 accordance with this subsection. In determining such financial need, the
343 university shall exclude the value of equity in the principal residence of
344 the student's parents or legal guardians, or in the student's principal
345 residence if the student is not considered to be a dependent of his
346 parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings of a dependent
347 student at the rate of thirty per cent.

348 (h) The University of Connecticut Operating Fund shall be
349 reimbursed for the amount by which tuition and extension fee waivers
350 granted under subsection (e) of this section exceed two and one-half per

351 cent of tuition and extension fee revenue through an annual state
352 appropriation. The board of trustees shall request such an appropriation
353 and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an estimate of tuition
354 and extension fee revenue loss using tuition and extension fee rates in
355 effect for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will apply.

356 Sec. 5. Section 10a-143 of the general statutes is amended by adding
357 subsections (h) and (i) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

358 (NEW) (h) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall waive
359 the payment of course enrollment fees at Charter Oak State College (1)
360 subject to the provisions of subsection (i) of this section, for any veteran,
361 as defined in section 27-103, who performed service in time of war, as
362 defined in section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection,
363 "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a
364 military service academy, which veteran has been accepted for
365 admission to Charter Oak State College and is domiciled in this state at
366 the time such veteran is accepted for admission to said institution, and
367 (2) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National
368 Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such
369 Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard,
370 and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to Charter Oak State
371 College on a full-time or part-time basis in a degree-granting program.
372 If any such veteran or member of the National Guard who receives a
373 course enrollment fee waiver in accordance with the provisions of this
374 subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer,
375 such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational
376 reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National Guard
377 described in this subsection shall be given the same status as students
378 not receiving course enrollment fee waivers in registering for courses at
379 Charter Oak State College. Notwithstanding the provisions of section
380 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes
381 domicile for less than one year.

382 (NEW) (i) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (h) of this section
383 has applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11

384 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the Board of Regents for
 385 Higher Education shall waive the payment of course enrollment fees at
 386 Charter Oak State College for such veteran in accordance with
 387 subdivision (2) of this subsection. If any such veteran certifies to said
 388 board of regents that such veteran's application for such federal
 389 educational assistance has been denied or withdrawn, said board of
 390 regents shall waive the payment of course enrollment fees in accordance
 391 with subsection (h) of this section.

392 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"
 393 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
 394 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to Charter Oak
 395 State College on behalf of a veteran that represents payment for course
 396 enrollment fees. Such portion shall be calculated by multiplying (i) the
 397 total amount of such federal educational assistance to be paid to Charter
 398 Oak State College on behalf of such veteran by (ii) an amount obtained
 399 by dividing (I) the actual course enrollment fees charged by Charter Oak
 400 State College to such veteran by (II) the sum of the actual course
 401 enrollment fees and other fees charged by Charter Oak State College to
 402 such veteran.

403 (B) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall waive the
 404 payment of course enrollment fees in excess of the veteran tuition
 405 benefit at Charter Oak State College for such veteran.

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

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-26
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-77(d) to (g)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-99(d) to (g)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-105(e) to (h)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-143(h) and (i)

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Board of Regents	OF - Revenue Loss	Potential Significant	Potential Significant
UConn	OF - Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Note: OF=Other Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a revenue loss to the constituent units of higher education annually beginning in FY 26. It does so by requiring the units to waive certain fees paid by veterans and National Guard members, specifically: (1) fees for educational extension programs, including summer and winter school sessions; and (2) course enrollment fees at Charter Oak State College. The revenue loss would be dependent upon the number of veterans who took advantage of the additional fee waivers and the amount of the additional fees waived.

Across all Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, there are estimated to be 1,650 eligible students (1,230 veterans and 420 National Guard members) who could take advantage of the additional waivers. All fees impacted by the bill vary by institution and number of credit hours. The overall scope of the revenue loss at CSCU is unknown and may be significant.

To illustrate: Of the four Connecticut State Universities, the highest FY 26 undergraduate, in-state extension fee is \$695 per credit hour. If all eligible CSU students received a waiver in that amount for one three-

credit course, the revenue loss to the CSUs would be approximately \$1.4 million annually. At CT State, the FY 26 undergraduate, in-state extension fee is \$208 per credit hour. If all eligible CT State students received this waiver for one three-credit course, the revenue loss would be approximately \$129,800 annually. The total revenue loss to CSCU in this illustration would be \$1.6 million annually.

The bill's provision concerning the course enrollment fee waiver at Charter Oak State College (COSC) has no fiscal impact. COSC no longer charges a course enrollment fee.

The bill results in a minimal revenue loss annually beginning in FY 26 to UConn. There are currently no veterans attending UConn extension programs. To the extent that any veterans begin attending, there is a minimal revenue loss to UConn. The bill's provision waiving summer course fees has no fiscal impact to UConn as the university already provides such a waiver.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of waiver recipients and extension fee increases.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6439*****AN ACT CONCERNING A FEE WAIVER AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the higher education tuition waiver program to cover certain extension fees for eligible National Guard members and veterans with wartime service (see BACKGROUND).

It requires the regional community-technical colleges, the Connecticut State University System, and UConn to waive fees for educational extension programs, including for courses taken during summer and winter school sessions or intersessions. Current law requires these institutions to waive eligible veterans' and National Guard members' tuition, which does not include these fees.

The bill makes various conforming changes, including incorporating these extension fee waivers into the calculation of waiver amounts that the state must annually reimburse to these institutions' operating funds through an appropriation. Under current law, the reimbursement amount is based only on tuition waivers.

The bill also establishes a course enrollment fee waiver for eligible National Guard members and veterans with wartime service who attend Charter Oak State College, with generally the same eligibility requirements as the tuition waiver program. Charter Oak State College no longer charges course enrollment fees and instead charges tuition per credit, among other fees. (It is unclear whether the bill's course enrollment fee waiver requirement would extend to tuition and these other fees.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Veterans' Service in Time of War

By law, to be eligible for state benefits (including tuition waivers) that require service in a time of war, a veteran must generally have served at least 90 cumulative days during a statutorily defined period of war, which are described in the table below. A veteran who served fewer days may qualify if he or she (1) was separated from service earlier because of either a service-connected U.S. Veterans' Administration-rated disability or an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or (2) served for the duration of a period of war that lasted fewer than 90 days (CGS § 27-103(a)(3)).

The table below shows post-1940 periods of war and service conditions for purposes of veterans' benefits (CGS § 27-103(a)(4)).

Table: Post-1940 "Periods of War"

Operation	Covered Period	Service Condition
World War II	12/7/41—12/31/46*	Active service during the covered period
Korean conflict	6/27/50—1/31/55	Active service during the covered period
Lebanon conflict	7/1/58—11/1/58 or 9/29/82—3/30/84	Combat or combat-support role in Lebanon during the covered periods
Vietnam era	2/28/61—7/1/75	Active service during the covered period
Grenada invasion	10/25/83—12/15/83	Combat or combat-support role in Grenada during the covered period
Operation Earnest Will (escort of Kuwaiti tankers flying U.S. flag in the Persian Gulf)	7/24/87—8/1/90	Combat or combat-support role in the operation during the covered period
Panama invasion	12/20/89—1/31/90	Combat or combat-support role in the invasion during the covered period
Persian Gulf War	8/2/90 until a date prescribed by the President or law	Active service during the covered period
Afghanistan	10/24/01—8/30/21	Active service during the covered period
Iraq	3/19/03—12/31/11 or 6/1/14—12/9/21	Active service during the covered period

*For certain property tax exemptions, the end date is considered 12/31/47 (CGS § 12-86).

Related Bill

SB 376, reported favorably by the Veterans' and Military Affairs

Committee, eliminates service in time of war as an eligibility requirement for, among other things, veterans' tuition waivers.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)