



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 411

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7131

House of Representatives, April 1, 2025

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS IN PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than October 1,
2 2025, and annually thereafter, the Office of Workforce Strategy shall (1)
3 identify several public or private sources of financial aid that are
4 available to students in each paramedic certificate program approved
5 by the Office of Emergency Medical Services, (2) post a list of such
6 financial aid sources on its Internet web site, and (3) distribute such list
7 to each such paramedic certificate program.

8 (b) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall develop and implement a
9 financial aid program for students enrolled in a paramedic certificate
10 program approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Not
11 later than January 1, 2026, the office shall submit, in accordance with the
12 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
13 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

14 relating to higher education and employment advancement a report on
15 such financial aid program, including, but not limited to, the amount of
16 aid each student may receive pursuant to such program and any
17 legislative recommendations for the implementation of such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
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HED *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 \$
Office of Workforce Strategy	GF - Cost	110,000	110,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	40,710	40,710
Office of Workforce Strategy	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in an annual cost of \$150,710 to the state by requiring the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) to develop and implement a financial aid program for students in paramedic certificate programs. The programmatic cost of the financial aid program is dependent upon the parameters that OWS creates for the program and is therefore unknown.

Administration

OWS will require one full time position to manage the program at an annual cost of \$140,710 (\$100,000 in salary and \$40,710 in fringe). Additionally, there is an anticipated cost of \$10,000 annually required for marketing the program to potential students, including websites and advertising expenses.

Programmatic Costs

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

The programmatic cost to the financial aid program is unknown as it is dependent upon the parameters that OWS will create for the program. Furthermore, the bill does not identify a funding source for the program. Based on paramedic licensing data from the Department of Public Health, it is estimated that a range of 100 to 200 students graduate from paramedic programs annually.

For illustrative purposes, if 10% of paramedic students received full tuition payments from program annually, the cost to such financial aid packages could be up to \$100,000 annually, based on current tuition rates in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system.²

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

² CT State 2024-2025 tuition rates: <https://ctstate.edu/admissions-registration/investing-in-a-ct-state-education>

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7131*****AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS IN
PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) to identify, post on the OWS website, and provide to Office of Emergency Medical Services-approved paramedic certificate programs a list of sources of public or private financial aid for their students by October 1, 2025.

It also requires OWS to develop and implement a financial aid program for these students and report to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2026, on the program, including the aid amount students may receive under it and recommendations for legislation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 1 (03/13/2025)