

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1261

AN ACT EXPANDING THE ALLIANCE DISTRICT EDUCATOR AND
COUNSELOR LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM AND THE HIGH PRIORITY

Title: OCCUPATION LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 2/27/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/11/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Raised Bill SB-1261 dictates that the Alliance District Educator Counselor Loan Subsidy Program is expanded to include high priority employment types under its purview, to be paid for under the existing bonding initiatives allowed within the High Priority Occupation Loan Subsidy Program.

In effect, this bill will mend the gap faced by multiple employers who look for substantive loan assistance for the state's Alliance District's educators and councilors, addressing the fears many school districts and educators have regarding the heightened costs of retaining and training educators within the state's institutions of higher education.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Proposed Substitute Bill SB-1261 makes a few wording changes in the first three sections. It also creates a completely new fourth section repealing section 10a-232 of the general statutes which requires insuring financial institutions who receive debt servicing for their insurance of bonds taken under this bill's purview being rated AA or better, replaced with a clause clarifying that the financial institution must possess, or have possessed a rating of AA or better at the time that such surety or other methods are implemented.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[CHESLA, Executive Director, Jeanette Weldon](#): Supports this bill because it would further the ability of CHESLA to help develop, retain, and recruit a robust workforce within the state. Also, in section 3 particularly, the language would allow them to reallocate funding to aid in sublimation of loans, pursuant to the regulations of, and cooperation with, the Office of Workforce Strategy, via a new streamlined single regulation tying the benefits of those occupations covered under both PA 23-60 and PA 23-70.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[New Haven Federation of Teachers, President, Leslie Blatteau](#): Supports this bill because it would expand access to more individuals working in Alliance School Districts to these loan subsidies, therefore lessening the deficit of eligible educators in this state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Tom Atwood

Date: 3/17/2025