

General Assembly

Committee Bill No. 6074

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **4054** 

Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by: (HED)

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.

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

Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10a-19m of the general statutes is
 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall award grants to 5 persons approved to participate in the student loan reimbursement 6 program on a first-come, first-served basis, provided such person meets 7 the requirements of this subsection.

8 (2) Each participant in the program shall volunteer for a nonprofit 9 organization that is registered with the Department of Consumer 10 Protection or a municipal government in the state for not less than fifty 11 unpaid hours for each year of participation in the student loan 12 reimbursement program. For purposes of this section, "volunteer hours" 13 shall include, but need not be limited to, service on the board of directors 14 for a nonprofit organization, [and] military service <u>and volunteering for</u> 15 a religious organization or as a firefighter or emergency medical services

16 personnel, as defined in section 19a-175. A participant may combine the

- 17 volunteer hours for one or more organizations to fulfill the requirement
- 18 of this subdivision.

19 (3) Each participant in the program shall annually submit to the 20 Office of Higher Education, in the manner prescribed by the 21 commissioner, a (A) statement from a student loan servicer that includes 22 the amounts for the outstanding loan balance for such student loan and 23 the total of the year-to-date payments made on such student loan, and 24 (B) form documenting the number of volunteer hours completed by 25 such participant that is (i) signed by such participant's supervisor or 26 other employee of the nonprofit organization or municipal government 27 for which such participant volunteered, or, for military service, such 28 participant's commanding officer, and (ii) notarized.

(4) The Office of Higher Education shall reimburse each program
participant who meets the requirements of this section for student loan
payments an amount of not more than five thousand dollars, annually,
provided no person shall participate in the student loan reimbursement
program for more than four years or receive more than twenty thousand
dollars in aggregate reimbursement for student loan payments.

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

| Section 1 | from passage  | 10a-19m(c)   |
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## Statement of Purpose:

To specify that the volunteer service requirement for the student loan reimbursement program includes volunteering for one or more nonprofit organizations or religious organizations or volunteering as a firefighter or emergency medical personnel.

<sup>[</sup>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.]

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Co-Sponsors: REP. PARIS, 145th Dist.

<u>H.B. 6074</u>