



General Assembly

## ***Substitute Bill No. 6439***

*January Session, 2025*



### ***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 Section 10a-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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29 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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.*

**HED** *Joint Favorable*