



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Proposed Bill No. 6557

LCO No. 2669



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA, 105th Dist.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS
PROGRAM AND RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCENTIVE
PROGRAM FOR LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINERS.***

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

- 1 That title 19a of the general statutes be amended to establish (1) a
- 2 licensed athletic trainer student loan forgiveness program to forgive (A)
- 3 up to twenty-five thousand dollars of graduate school loans for each
- 4 athletic trainer who (i) is not participating in another state or federal
- 5 loan forgiveness or loan reimbursement program at the graduate level,
- 6 (ii) obtains and maintains licensure as an athletic trainer by the
- 7 Department of Public Health, and (iii) agrees to work in the state for a
- 8 minimum of five years of full-time work or a minimum of eight years of
- 9 part-time work as an athletic trainer, and (B) up to thirty-five thousand
- 10 dollars of graduate school loans for each athletic trainer who (i) is not
- 11 participating in another state or federal loan forgiveness or loan
- 12 reimbursement program at the graduate level, (ii) obtains and maintains
- 13 licensure as an athletic trainer by the Department of Public Health, and
- 14 (iii) agrees to work in the state for a minimum of five years of full-time
- 15 work or a minimum of eight years of part-time work as an athletic

16 trainer working in a rural or other underserved areas, and (2) a
17 recruitment and retention incentive program that (A) reduces licensure
18 fees, (B) provides scholarship funding to increase recruitment to athletic
19 training graduate programs, (C) provides grants of not more than thirty
20 thousand dollars disbursed over a four-year period for athletic trainers
21 that relocate to the state, (D) provides grants of not more than forty
22 thousand dollars disbursed over a four-year period for athletic trainers
23 that relocate to the state and practice in rural and underserved areas, (E)
24 develop recommendations for the number of athletic trainers that
25 should be employed at a work place based on the number of physically
26 active individuals participating in physical activity at such work place,
27 and (F) establishes a grant fund for an athletic training organization
28 located in the state that represents the athletic training profession within
29 the state to provide mentorship opportunities for recently licensed
30 athletic trainers and stakeholder education to enhance recruitment and
31 retention of students and professionals.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish retention and recruitment incentives for athletic trainers to address the shortage of athletic trainers in the state.