



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7010

LCO No. 4565



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING PARAEDUCATORS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 203 of public act 23-204, as amended by section 124
2 of public act 24-81, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as provided in section
6 38a-1080 of the general statutes, and

7 (2) "Partnership plan" has the same meaning as provided in section 3-
8 123aaa of the general statutes.

9 (b) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, [and June 30, 2025] to
10 June 30, 2026, inclusive, the Comptroller shall establish a program to
11 provide a subsidy, within available appropriations, to each
12 paraeducator who (1) opens a health savings account, pursuant to
13 Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
14 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended

15 from time to time, or is eligible for Medicare and enrolls in a high
16 deductible health plan, and (2) is employed by a local or regional board
17 of education. Such subsidy shall be in an amount up to a certain
18 percentage, as specified by the Comptroller, of the deductible for the
19 health plan in which such paraeducator is enrolled, minus the amount
20 of any employer contributions to a health savings account or health
21 reimbursement account, and not exceeding an amount specified by the
22 Comptroller. No paraeducator may receive more than one subsidy in
23 any fiscal year pursuant to this section. The Comptroller may work with
24 the local or regional board of education that employs such paraeducator
25 to distribute such subsidy.

26 (c) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026,
27 the Comptroller shall establish a program to provide a subsidy, from
28 any funds appropriated for such purpose, to each local or regional board
29 of education that provides coverage to paraeducators and their
30 dependents under a health benefit plan or a partnership plan for such
31 fiscal year or any portion thereof. Such subsidy shall be (1) in an amount
32 not more than ten per cent of the aggregate premium cost, inclusive of
33 the employee and employer shares, paid by such board of education for
34 coverage under such health benefit plan or partnership plan, divided by
35 the number of paraeducators employed by such board of education and
36 enrolled in health coverage, and (2) used to offset the employee's share
37 of such premium that is deducted from the payroll check of each
38 paraeducator employed by such board of education during any pay
39 period during such fiscal year. The provisions of this subsection shall
40 not apply to a local or regional board of education that provides
41 coverage under a high deductible health plan, as that term is used in
42 subsection (f) of section 38a-520 of the general statutes.

43 (d) The Comptroller and the Commissioner of Education shall enter
44 into a memorandum of understanding, in accordance with the
45 provisions of section 4-97b of the general statutes, to allow the
46 Comptroller to utilize the sum of \$5,000,000 that is appropriated to the
47 Department of Education for assistance to paraeducators pursuant to

48 section 1 of public act 23-204 to implement the provisions of this section.

49 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Notwithstanding any
50 provision of the general statutes, each local and regional board of
51 education shall pay for each paraeducator employed by such board the
52 full employee contribution required pursuant to the municipal
53 employees' retirement system or any other retirement system in which
54 such board participates, provided such payment shall not exceed the
55 amount of the full employee contribution required pursuant to the
56 municipal employees' retirement system.

57 (b) The Comptroller shall annually pay to each local or regional board
58 of education not less than fifty per cent of the cost to such board for the
59 payment of the employee contribution for retirement benefits pursuant
60 to subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	PA 23-204, Sec. 203
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) continue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Comptroller's subsidy program for the health care savings account or health care coverage of paraeducators, (2) require boards of education to pay the full employee contribution to the municipal employees' retirement system for paraeducators, and (3) require the Comptroller to annually reimburse such boards fifty per cent of the amount of such payments.

[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.]