



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7098

LCO No. 5497



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION REFUNDS FOR FORMER STONE
ACADEMY STUDENTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 67 of public act 23-204 is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Office of Higher Education shall pay from the private career
4 school student protection account a stipend to each person who (1)
5 graduated from the practical nurse education program at Stone
6 Academy, also known as Career Training Specialists, LLC, during the
7 period commencing November 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2023,
8 (2) has taken or passed the examination for licensure as a licensed
9 practical nurse, and (3) meets any requirements established by the
10 executive director of the Office of Higher Education. The amount that
11 may be paid by the office pursuant to this subsection shall be
12 determined by the executive director, but shall not exceed one hundred
13 fifty thousand dollars in the aggregate.

14 (b) The Office of Higher Education shall pay from the private career

15 school student protection account a refund of tuition, pursuant to the
16 process established under section 10a-22v of the general statutes, to each
17 applicant who (1) was enrolled in, but did not graduate from, the
18 practical nurse education program at Stone Academy, also known as
19 Career Training Specialists, LLC, during the period commencing
20 November 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2023, [and] (2) completed a
21 course or unit of instruction at Stone Academy that [was not in
22 compliance with applicable statutes and regulations concerning such
23 course or unit of instruction] has not been accepted at another practical
24 nurse education program as transfer credits, (3) has not previously
25 received a refund of such tuition, and (4) has not participated in a (A)
26 teach-out, as defined in section 10a-22m of the general statutes, or (B)
27 proctored comprehensive predictor examination administered on or
28 after the effective date of this section by an institution identified by the
29 Office of Higher Education. If the executive director of the Office of
30 Higher Education finds that the applicant is entitled to a refund of
31 tuition pursuant to this subsection, the executive director shall
32 determine the amount of an appropriate refund which shall not exceed
33 the tuition paid for such course or unit of instruction. Such refund of
34 tuition shall be paid in the manner and subject to the terms specified in
35 section 10a-22v of the general statutes, except such applicant may apply
36 for such refund of tuition on or before June 30, 2026. As used in this
37 subsection, "proctored comprehensive predictor examination" is an
38 examination that assesses a nursing student's readiness to pass the
39 National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses.

40 (c) The state may take appropriate action, including, but not limited
41 to, an action in Superior Court, against said private career school or its
42 owner or owners to reimburse the private career school student
43 protection account for the stipends, refunds and administrative costs
44 that are paid from the account pursuant to this section and to reimburse
45 the state for the reasonable and necessary expenses in undertaking such
46 action. The state shall reimburse the private career school student
47 protection account up to an amount equal to such stipends, refunds and

48 administrative costs from any funds it collects through such action.
49 Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any right or remedy
50 available to the state arising from the operations of said private career
51 school.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 23-204, Sec. 67
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Statement of Purpose:

To refund the tuition paid by a former practical nurse education program student enrolled at Stone Academy during the period commencing November 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2023, but did not graduate.

[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.]