



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 1450***

LCO No. 5654



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF THE  
HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.***

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

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2       (1) "Federally qualified health center" has the same meaning as
- 3       provided in Section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC
- 4       1396d(l)(2)(B), as amended from time to time;
- 5       (2) "Health care provider" means a health care provider licensed by
- 6       the Department of Public Health; and
- 7       (3) "Primary care" means the medical fields of family medicine,
- 8       general pediatrics, primary care, internal medicine, primary care
- 9       obstetrics or primary care gynecology, without regard to board
- 10      certification.
- 11      (b) The Department of Public Health shall establish, within available
- 12      appropriations, a health care provider loan reimbursement program.
- 13      The health care provider loan reimbursement program shall provide

14 loan reimbursement grants to health care providers who are employed  
15 on a full-time basis as health care providers in the state.

16 (c) The Commissioner of Public Health shall (1) develop eligibility  
17 requirements for recipients of such loan reimbursement grants, which  
18 requirements may include, but need not be limited to, income  
19 guidelines, (2) award not less than twenty per cent of such loan  
20 reimbursement grants to persons employed full-time as primary care  
21 providers, and (3) award at least twenty per cent of such loan  
22 reimbursement grants to persons employed full-time as health care  
23 providers (A) in a rural community in the state, or (B) by a federally  
24 qualified health center in the state. The commissioner shall consider  
25 health care workforce shortage areas when developing such eligibility  
26 requirements. A person who qualifies for a loan reimbursement grant  
27 shall be reimbursed on an annual basis for qualifying student loan  
28 payments in amounts determined by the commissioner. A health care  
29 provider shall only be reimbursed for loan payments made while such  
30 person is employed full-time in the state as a health care provider. Any  
31 person may apply for a loan reimbursement grant to the Department of  
32 Public Health at such time and in such manner as the commissioner  
33 prescribes.

34 (d) The Department of Public Health may (1) accept gifts, grants and  
35 donations, from any source, public or private, for the health care  
36 provider loan reimbursement program, and (2) adopt regulations, in  
37 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to  
38 implement the provisions of this section.

39 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No private or state-administered  
40 loan reimbursement program offering loan reimbursement grants to  
41 physicians or advanced practice registered nurses employed in the state  
42 shall include as part of the eligibility criteria for such program a  
43 requirement that a physician or advanced practice registered nurse be  
44 employed by a nonprofit employer to receive a loan reimbursement  
45 grant under the program.

46       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

47       (1) "Nurse's aide" means a nurse's aide registered pursuant to chapter  
48       378a of the general statutes; and

49       (2) "Emergency medical technician" means a person who is certified  
50       to practice as an emergency medical technician under the provisions of  
51       section 20-206ll or 20-206mm of the general statutes.

52       (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Public Health,  
53       in collaboration with a nonprofit organization providing education,  
54       community and home-based services in the state, shall establish a  
55       virtual education program to provide home-based virtual education to  
56       persons seeking certification as a nurse's aide or emergency medical  
57       technician in the state. The virtual education program shall offer courses  
58       that satisfy the training and competency evaluation requirements  
59       prescribed by the commissioner for (1) registration as a nurse's aide, and  
60       (2) certification as an emergency medical technician. The Commissioner  
61       of Public Health shall establish eligibility criteria for such program and  
62       may solicit and accept private funds to implement such pilot program.

63       (c) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Public Health  
64       shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
65       general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
66       Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health,  
67       regarding the outcome of such program.

68       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) Each home health agency and  
69       hospice agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490 of the  
70       general statutes, shall ensure that every home that an agency employee  
71       visits for the purpose of providing care to a patient of the agency is  
72       equipped with a working smoke detector. If an employee of a home  
73       health agency or hospice agency reports to the agency that a patient's  
74       home does not contain a working smoke detector, the agency shall  
75       arrange for the installation of a working smoke detector in the home.

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

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To recruit and retain health care providers in the state.

*[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.]*