



***Substitute Senate Bill No. 1450***

***Public Act No. 25-162***

***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:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Federally qualified health center" has the same meaning as provided in Section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396d(l)(2)(B), as amended from time to time;

(2) "Health care provider" means a health care provider licensed by the Department of Public Health; and

(3) "Primary care" means the medical fields of family medicine, general pediatrics, primary care, internal medicine, primary care obstetrics or primary care gynecology, without regard to board certification.

(b) The Department of Public Health shall establish, within available appropriations, a health care provider loan reimbursement program. The health care provider loan reimbursement program shall provide loan reimbursement grants to health care providers who are employed on a full-time basis as health care providers in the state. As used in this subsection, "employed" does not include an individual who is self-

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employed as a health care provider or a sole proprietor of a professional health care practice.

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

(d) The Department of Public Health may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

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

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

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(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Public Health, in collaboration with a Connecticut-based educational provider or educational technology provider, shall establish, within available appropriations, a virtual education pilot program to provide home-based virtual education to persons seeking certification as a nurse's aide or emergency medical technician in the state. Such virtual education program shall offer courses that satisfy the training and competency evaluation requirements prescribed by the commissioner for (1) registration as a nurse's aide, and (2) certification as an emergency medical technician. The Commissioner of Public Health shall establish eligibility criteria for such program and may solicit and accept private funds to implement such pilot program.

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

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate the requirements for nurse's aides and emergency medical technicians to receive in-person, supervised practical training pursuant to 42 CFR 483.152, section 19-13-D8t(l)(1)(A) of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies and subsection (d) of section 20-206mm of the general statutes, respectively.

Sec. 3. Section 10-21q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in collaboration with the Chief Workforce Officer, utilize the plan required of the Office of Workforce Strategy pursuant to section 2 of special act 22-9 in (1) the promotion of the health care professions as career options to students in middle and high school, including, but not limited to, through career

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day presentations regarding health care career opportunities in the state, the development of partnerships with health care career education programs in the state and the creation of counseling programs directed to high school students to inform such students about, and recruit them to, the health care professions, and (2) job shadowing and internship experiences in health care fields for high school students.

(b) Not later than September 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Education shall provide each local and regional board of education with the plan described in subsection (a) of this section, and through the Governor's Workforce Council Education Committee, support implementation of such plan.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Education shall amend the plan described in subsection (a) of this section to include the specific promotion of the professions of radiologic technology, nuclear medicine technology and respiratory care through (1) career day presentations regarding career opportunities in such health care professions, partnerships with education programs in radiologic technology, nuclear medicine technology and respiratory care in the state and the creation of counseling programs directed to high school students to inform such students about, and recruit them to, such health care professions, and (2) job shadowing and internship experiences in such health care professions for high school students.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Public Health shall establish, within available appropriations, a grant program to recruit athletic trainers to work in the state. The grant program shall provide a grant, in an amount determined by the commissioner, to each athletic trainer who (1) relocates to the state, (2) obtains licensure as an athletic trainer from the Department of Public Health, and (3) practices as an athletic trainer in the state, for the costs associated with relocating to the state.

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(b) The commissioner shall (1) prescribe forms and criteria for an athletic trainer to apply and qualify for grant funds under the grant program, and (2) require each athletic trainer who receives a grant to report to the commissioner on the use of the funds for the costs associated with relocating to the state.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the impact of the grant program on recruiting athletic trainers to work in the state.

Governor's Action:  
Approved July 1, 2025