



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 10440



Offered by:

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To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1450

File No. 611

Cal. No. 666

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

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

4 (1) "Federally qualified health center" has the same meaning as  
5 provided in Section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC  
6 1396d(l)(2)(B), as amended from time to time;

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

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

13 (b) The Department of Public Health shall establish, within available  
14 appropriations, a health care provider loan reimbursement program.  
15 The health care provider loan reimbursement program shall provide  
16 loan reimbursement grants to health care providers who are employed  
17 on a full-time basis as health care providers in the state. As used in this  
18 subsection, "employed" does not include an individual who is self-  
19 employed as a health care provider or a sole proprietor of a professional  
20 health care practice.

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

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

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

43 (1) "Nurse's aide" means a nurse's aide registered pursuant to chapter  
44 378a of the general statutes; and

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

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

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

65 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate the  
66 requirements for nurse's aides and emergency medical technicians to  
67 receive in-person, supervised practical training pursuant to 42 CFR  
68 483.152, section 19-13-D8t(l)(1)(A) of the regulations of Connecticut state  
69 agencies and subsection (d) of section 20-206mm of the general statutes,  
70 respectively.

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

73 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in collaboration with the  
74 Chief Workforce Officer, utilize the plan required of the Office of  
75 Workforce Strategy pursuant to section 2 of special act 22-9 in (1) the

76 promotion of the health care professions as career options to students in  
77 middle and high school, including, but not limited to, through career  
78 day presentations regarding health care career opportunities in the  
79 state, the development of partnerships with health care career education  
80 programs in the state and the creation of counseling programs directed  
81 to high school students to inform such students about, and recruit them  
82 to, the health care professions, and (2) job shadowing and internship  
83 experiences in health care fields for high school students.

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

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

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

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

113 (c) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the  
114 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
115 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the  
116 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
117 health regarding the impact of the grant program on recruiting athletic  
118 trainers to work in the state."

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>	10-21q
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section