



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 9105



Offered by:

REP. PARIS, 145th Dist.

REP. KAVROS DEGRAW, 17th Dist.

REP. NUCCIO, 53rd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6074

File No. 911

Cal. No. 252

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM."

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

3 "Section 1. Section 10a-19m of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

5 (a) On or before January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Higher
6 Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to
7 reimburse certain persons for student loan payments. The Office of
8 Higher Education may approve the participation of any person in the
9 student loan reimbursement program who (1) (A) attended a public or
10 independent institution of higher education in the state and graduated
11 with [an associate or a bachelor's] a degree, (B) holds an occupational or
12 professional license or certification issued pursuant to title 20 [, or] upon
13 successful completion of an accredited certificate program, (C) is

14 granted a hardship waiver by the commissioner, pursuant to a waiver
15 application submitted by such person in the form and manner
16 prescribed by the commissioner, or (D) was enrolled in the practical
17 nurse education program at Stone Academy during the period
18 commencing November 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2023, whether
19 or not such person completed such program, in an aggregate amount
20 not to exceed the amount appropriated for the student loan
21 reimbursement program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; (2) is a
22 resident of the state, as defined in section 12-701, and has been a resident
23 of the state for not less than five years, as determined by the
24 commissioner; (3) has (A) a [Connecticut] federal adjusted gross income
25 of not more than one hundred [twenty-five] fifty thousand dollars and
26 files a return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual
27 or a married individual filing separately, or (B) a [Connecticut] federal
28 adjusted gross income of not more than [one hundred seventy-five] two
29 hundred thousand dollars and files a return under the federal income
30 tax as a head of household, a married individual filing jointly or a
31 surviving spouse, as defined in Section 2(a) of the Internal Revenue
32 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code
33 of the United States, as amended from time to time; and (4) has a student
34 loan.

35 (b) Persons who qualify under subsection (a) of this section may
36 apply to the Office of Higher Education to participate in the student loan
37 reimbursement program at such time and in such manner as the
38 commissioner of said office prescribes. [Not later than January 1, 2025,
39 the] The commissioner shall post on said office's Internet web site the
40 (1) qualifications for a hardship waiver described in subparagraph (C)
41 of subdivision (1) of said subsection, and (2) forms required to apply for
42 the student loan reimbursement program and a hardship waiver. The
43 application for the student loan reimbursement program shall include,
44 but not be limited to, an option for a person to disclose such person's
45 demographic information.

46 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall award grants to

47 persons approved to participate in the student loan reimbursement
48 program on a first-come, first-served basis, provided such person meets
49 the requirements of this subsection.

50 (2) (A) Each participant in the program shall volunteer for (i) a
51 nonprofit organization that is [registered with the Department of
52 Consumer Protection or] exempt from taxation pursuant to Section
53 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
54 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended
55 from time to time, (ii) a municipal government in the state, or (iii) the
56 armed forces of the United States for not less than fifty unpaid hours for
57 each year of participation in the student loan reimbursement program.
58 For purposes of this section, "volunteer hours" shall include, but need
59 not be limited to, (I) service on the board of directors [for] of a nonprofit
60 organization, [and] (II) military service, (III) volunteering for a religious
61 organization or as a firefighter or emergency medical services
62 personnel, as defined in section 19a-175, or (IV) hours of unpaid work
63 completed as a student for any certificate or degree program that
64 requires the completion of such hours as a part of such program,
65 provided such unpaid student work hours shall be applicable for one
66 year after completing such hours or for the first year of participation in
67 the program, whichever is later. A participant may combine the
68 volunteer hours for one or more organizations to fulfill the requirement
69 of this subdivision.

70 (B) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Office of Higher Education
71 shall establish and post on its Internet web site qualifications for a
72 hardship waiver to exempt participants from the volunteer hours
73 requirement of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and the forms
74 required to apply for such hardship waiver. The Commissioner of
75 Higher Education shall grant a hardship waiver for volunteer hours (i)
76 for each qualified participant, as determined by the commissioner, who
77 applies for such hardship waiver, and (ii) automatically for each
78 participant who was approved for the program pursuant to
79 subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

80 (3) Each participant in the program shall annually submit to the
81 Office of Higher Education, in the manner prescribed by the
82 commissioner, [a] (A) a statement from a student loan servicer that
83 includes the amounts for the outstanding loan balance for such student
84 loan and the total of the year-to-date payments made on such student
85 loan, [and] (B) a form documenting the number of volunteer hours
86 completed by such participant that is (i) signed by such participant's
87 supervisor or other employee of the nonprofit organization or
88 municipal government for which such participant volunteered, [or, for
89 military service, such participant's commanding officer,] and (ii)
90 notarized, provided a participant may submit other documentation, as
91 prescribed by the office, to show completion of military service or
92 unpaid student work hours, and (C) for volunteer hours at a nonprofit
93 organization, evidence of current certification from the Internal
94 Revenue Service that such nonprofit organization is exempt from
95 taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
96 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the
97 United States, as amended from time to time.

98 (4) The Office of Higher Education shall reimburse each program
99 participant who meets the requirements of this section for student loan
100 payments in an amount of not more than five thousand dollars,
101 annually, provided no person shall participate in the student loan
102 reimbursement program for more than four years or receive more than
103 twenty thousand dollars in aggregate reimbursement for student loan
104 payments.

105 (d) The Office of Higher Education may use up to two and one-half
106 per cent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this section, annually,
107 for program administration, promotion and recruitment activities.

108 (e) Not later than July 1, 2026, and each January and July thereafter,
109 the Commissioner of Higher Education shall report, in accordance with
110 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the
111 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
112 education and employment advancement and appropriations and the

113 budgets of state agencies on the operation and effectiveness of the
114 program and any recommendations to expand the program.

115 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the Office
116 of Higher Education for the student loan reimbursement program,
117 established pursuant to section 10a-19m of the general statutes, as
118 amended by this act, shall not lapse on June 30, 2025, and such funds
119 shall be carried forward and made available during the fiscal year
120 ending June 30, 2026, for the same purpose."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-19m
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section