



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 9519



Offered by:

REP. HADDAD, 54<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. SLAP, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Section 10a-19m of the general statutes is repealed and the  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] (C) is  
13 granted a hardship waiver by the commissioner, pursuant to a waiver  
14 application submitted by such person in the form and manner

15 prescribed by the commissioner, or (D) was enrolled in the practical  
16 nurse education program at Stone Academy during the period  
17 commencing November 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2023, and such  
18 person (i) did not complete such program, (ii) has not participated in a  
19 (I) teach-out, as defined in section 10a-22m, or (II) proctored  
20 comprehensive predictor examination administered by an institution of  
21 higher education identified by the Office of Higher Education, and (iii)  
22 submits evidence that (I) such person filed a closed school loan  
23 discharge application not later than six months prior to applying for the  
24 student loan reimbursement program, and (II) such person's student  
25 loan was not discharged as a result of such application; (2) is a resident  
26 of the state, as defined in section 12-701, and has been a resident of the  
27 state for not less than five years, as determined by the commissioner; (3)  
28 has (A) a [Connecticut] federal adjusted gross income of not more than  
29 one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars and files a return under the  
30 federal income tax as an unmarried individual or a married individual  
31 filing separately, or (B) a [Connecticut] federal adjusted gross income of  
32 not more than one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and files a  
33 return under the federal income tax as a head of household, a married  
34 individual filing jointly or a surviving spouse, as defined in Section 2(a)  
35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding  
36 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to  
37 time; and (4) has a student loan.

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

49 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall award grants to  
50 persons approved to participate in the student loan reimbursement  
51 program on a first-come, first-served basis, provided such person meets  
52 the requirements of this subsection.

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

76 (B) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall grant a hardship  
77 waiver for volunteer hours (i) for each participant who applies for such  
78 hardship waiver and has a medical condition or disability that prevents  
79 such participant from completing volunteer hours pursuant to the  
80 written determination of such participant's treating health care  
81 provider, and (ii) automatically for each participant who was approved

82 for the program pursuant to subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of  
83 subsection (a) of this section.

84 (3) Each participant in the program shall annually submit to the  
85 Office of Higher Education, in the manner prescribed by the  
86 commissioner, [a] (A) a statement from a student loan servicer that  
87 includes the amounts for the outstanding loan balance for such student  
88 loan and the total of the year-to-date payments made on such student  
89 loan, [and] (B) a form documenting the number of volunteer hours  
90 completed by such participant that is (i) signed by such participant's  
91 supervisor or other employee of the nonprofit organization or  
92 municipal government for which such participant volunteered, [or, for  
93 military service, such participant's commanding officer,] and (ii)  
94 notarized, provided a participant may submit other documentation, as  
95 prescribed by the office, to show completion of military service or  
96 unpaid student work hours, and (C) for volunteer hours at a nonprofit  
97 organization, including, but not limited to, a religious organization,  
98 evidence of current certification from the Internal Revenue Service that  
99 such nonprofit organization is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section  
100 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
101 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended  
102 from time to time.

103 (4) The Office of Higher Education shall reimburse each program  
104 participant who meets the requirements of this section for student loan  
105 payments paid by such participant during the preceding calendar year,  
106 but in an amount of not more than five thousand dollars, annually,  
107 provided no person shall participate in the student loan reimbursement  
108 program for more than four years or receive more than twenty thousand  
109 dollars in aggregate reimbursement for student loan payments.

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

113 (e) Not later than July 1, 2026, and each January and July thereafter,

114 the Commissioner of Higher Education shall report, in accordance with  
115 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the  
116 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
117 education and employment advancement and appropriations and the  
118 budgets of state agencies on the operation and effectiveness of the  
119 program and any recommendations to expand the program.

120 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the Office  
121 of Higher Education for the student loan reimbursement program,  
122 established pursuant to section 10a-19m of the general statutes, as  
123 amended by this act, shall not lapse on June 30, 2025, and such funds  
124 shall be carried forward and made available during the fiscal year  
125 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