



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 10328



Offered by:

REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY, 133rd Dist.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA, 105th Dist.

SEN. MARX, 20th Dist.

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 a virtual education
51 pilot program to provide home-based virtual education to persons
52 seeking certification as a nurse's aide or emergency medical technician
53 in the state. Such virtual education program shall offer courses that
54 satisfy the training and competency evaluation requirements prescribed
55 by the commissioner for (1) registration as a nurse's aide, and (2)
56 certification as an emergency medical technician. The Commissioner of
57 Public Health shall establish eligibility criteria for such program and
58 may solicit and accept private funds to implement such pilot program.

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

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

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 Section 10-21q of the general statutes is repealed and the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

72 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in collaboration with the
73 Chief Workforce Officer, utilize the plan required of the Office of
74 Workforce Strategy pursuant to section 2 of special act 22-9 in (1) the
75 promotion of the health care professions as career options to students in

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

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

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

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

107 (b) The commissioner shall (1) prescribe forms and criteria for an

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

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