



2025 Acts Affecting Higher Education

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Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting higher education enacted during the 2025 regular legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Children and Acts Affecting Education, are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) or special act (SA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden. Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the [General Assembly's website](#) or the Connecticut State Library.

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Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) Accounts

Contribution Tax Credit

This session, the legislature established a new business tax credit for contributions employers make to qualifying employees' Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) account. The credit equals 25% of the employer's contribution and is capped at \$500 per employee per income or tax year. Taxpayers may apply the credit against the corporation business, insurance premium, or personal income tax (but not the withholding tax) ([PA 25-168](#), § 374, effective July 1, 2025, and applicable to income and tax years starting on or after January 1, 2025).

Program Changes

A new law makes several changes to the CHET program, primarily to:

1. align the program's statutes with federal law and current practice;
2. explicitly allow CHET account owners to make federally tax-exempt rollover distributions from their CHET accounts;
3. explicitly authorize the treasurer to retain investment advisors to make CHET trust fund investments on his behalf;
4. eliminate the statutory framework for the CHET Baby Scholars Fund program; and
5. eliminate the ability for taxpayers to contribute any portion of their state income tax refund to the Baby Scholars Fund and instead allow them to contribute their refunds to the Connecticut Baby Bonds Trust ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 375-383, effective July 1, 2025).

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU)

Finish Line Scholars Program

This session, the legislature passed a law that requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to establish a finish line scholars program to award grants (starting in the fall 2026 semester and within available appropriations) to students who received a Mary Ann Handley program award (formerly PACT) to attend community college and who then enroll in a bachelor's program at Charter Oak State College or the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU). Award amounts must be the same as under the Mary Ann Handley program, and the award cannot be used to replace a student's financial aid. The award must be available until an eligible student earns (1) 72 credits or (2) a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first ([PA 25-168](#), § 69, effective July 1, 2025).

Law Enforcement and Social Work Programs

A new law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), to establish a (1) social work and law enforcement project at Southern Connecticut State University, and (2) crime scene processing, forensic evidence, and criminal investigations police training center at Central Connecticut State University ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 137 & 138, effective July 1, 2025).

Monitoring CSCU Expenditures and Sustainability

A new law establishes a subcommittee of the Higher Education Financial Sustainability Advisory Board to monitor CSCU expenditures and sustainability plans and requires the board to make recommendations to the General Assembly on these plans ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 216 & 217, effective July 1, 2025).

Plan for Inclusive Educational Opportunities

A new law requires the BOR, in consultation with the departments of Developmental Services, Education, and Social Services, to develop a plan for inclusive educational programs at universities within the state university system for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are at least age 18. The BOR must submit its plan to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2027 ([PA 25-168](#), § 139, effective July 1, 2025).

Reporting on Child Care Centers

By October 1, 2025, and quarterly after, a new law requires the CSCU chancellor, in consultation with the Office of Early Childhood commissioner, to submit a report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee describing their coordinated efforts to construct, improve, or equip child care centers on or near college and university campuses in the state ([PA 25-174](#), § 134, effective July 1, 2025).

Reporting on Five-Year Capital Plan

By January 1, 2026, and annually after, new legislation requires the CSCU chancellor to submit to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee a five-year capital plan for the CSCU system and a description of the efforts undertaken in the prior year to increase enrollment ([PA 25-174](#), § 133, effective October 1, 2025).

Data Sharing

Expenditures

A new law specifies that UConn, the state universities, Connecticut State Community College, and Charter Oak State College must submit expense information requested by the comptroller for inclusion on the comptroller's online database of expenditures. This includes data related to contracts, grants, payroll, and pensions, but does not require creation of unavailable data or technology systems or require disclosure of information protected by law. Existing law requires budgeted agencies and quasi-public agencies to submit this information ([PA 25-71](#), § 4, effective July 1, 2025).

Federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

A new law codifies into state law a requirement that UConn and CSCU (and their central or system offices) submit data to IPEDS, which they currently do. IPEDS is a U.S. Department of Education system that compiles data from higher education institutions that participate in federal student financial aid programs ([PA 25-119](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025).

Firearm Seizure and Recovery Federal eTrace Requirement

A new law requires law enforcement agencies, including police departments of state colleges and universities, to opt into sharing information on recovered firearms through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' electronic tracking system (eTrace) ([PA 25-157](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2025).

Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD)

A new law requires UConn and CSCU to provide data, on request and in compliance with the federal Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), to CJPPD when necessary for the division's duties (the division works with various state agencies to promote a more effective and cohesive criminal justice system) ([PA 25-119](#), § 3, effective July 1, 2025).

P20 WIN

A new law makes numerous changes to the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network, or CP20 WIN, which is a state data system that matches data from state agencies and other organizations to inform policies and practices for education, workforce, and supportive service efforts. The changes include renaming the network as the Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network, or P20 WIN, to match existing practice; codifying OPM

as its administrator; and requiring regional workforce development boards, UConn, and CSCU to submit certain data to the network ([PA 25-119](#), §§ 2 & 5-7, effective July 1, 2025).

Early College Courses

Requirements for Courses

This session, the legislature passed a law on the notification, availability, and operation of various types of early college courses, including dual, postsecondary-credit, and concurrent enrollment courses. Among other things, the new law requires:

1. the state Department of Education (SDE) to annually notify parents of public school students about the availability of early college courses and develop a model agreement between secondary schools and postsecondary institutions for providing these courses to students, and
2. higher education institutions that offer a concurrent enrollment course as of July 1, 2025, or that add new courses after that date, to obtain accreditation for it from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships within three years (unless SDE grants an extension) ([PA 25-99](#), §§ 5-7, effective July 1, 2025, except the SDE notification provision is effective January 1, 2026).

Private Institutions

Authority to Grant Degrees

New laws authorize the International Institute for Astronautical Sciences and Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts to confer degrees and grant diplomas and certificates ([SA 25-4](#) & [SA 25-5](#), effective upon passage).

Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS)

Agreements

This session, the legislature passed a law allowing the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) executive director to enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit career schools and certain nonprofit training institutes ([PA 25-143](#), § 18, effective July 1, 2025).

Private Career School Certification Process

This session, the legislature passed a law making changes to the private career school certification process, including (1) increasing, from 60 to 90 days, the length of time the Office of Higher Education (OHE) commissioner can extend a private career school's authorization for good cause, and (2) prohibiting private career schools from renewing their certificate to operate if they have not

enrolled any students continually during the previous two calendar years ([PA 25-99](#), §§ 2 & 3, effective July 1, 2025).

Reviewing Change of Ownership Requests for an Institution of Higher Education

This session, the legislature passed a law that requires OHE to review requests and applications for a change in a higher education institution's ownership. The legislation defines "change of ownership" as a transaction, such as a sale, merger, or transfer, that results in a change of control over the institution. This includes the transfer of a substantial portion of the institution's educational assets (but not transfers that are exclusively granting a security interest in those assets), as well as a change in the status of an institution as a public, nonprofit, or for-profit institution ([PA 25-99](#), § 4, effective July 1, 2025).

Security Protocols

A new law expands the requirement for submitting security protocol plans to DESPP to cover all independent institutions of higher education. These security protocols must (1) address how to recognize students and others who may be at risk of harm to themselves or others, (2) be reviewed biennially, and (3) be submitted to DESPP if there are revisions. The institutions must also establish trained threat assessment teams for each campus. These provisions previously applied only to nonprofit institutions with degree-granting authority that had their main campus in Connecticut and a primary function other than preparing students for religious vocation ([PA 25-22](#), § 97, effective upon passage).

Stone Academy Tuition Refunds

This session, the legislature established new eligibility criteria for former Stone Academy students to receive tuition refunds from the private career school student protection account. This applies if they did not already receive a refund from the account under a prior application period that closed earlier this year. Under the new law, students can apply until June 30, 2026, if they were enrolled in, but did not graduate from, Stone Academy's practical nurse education program between November 1, 2021, and February 28, 2023, and did not:

1. receive transfer credit for a Stone Academy course or unit at another practical nurse education program;
2. participate in a teach-out (instruction that completes a course or program after a private school closes); or

3. after the act's passage, take a proctored comprehensive predictor examination given by an OHE-identified institution (this exam assesses a student's readiness for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses) ([PA 25-88](#), effective upon passage).

Public Higher Education Institutions

Early Voting Locations

A new law requires registrars of voters to designate an additional early voting location on a campus of a constituent unit of higher education (UConn, the state universities, Connecticut State Community College, and Charter Oak State College), if at least 1,000 students live on campus or in institution-owned, -operated, or -affiliated housing. Like other early voting locations, the added location must be (1) able to connect to the Centralized Voter Registration System; (2) certified by the secretary of the state; and (3) accessible to voters with physical disabilities ([PA 25-168](#), § 293, effective July 1, 2025).

Energy-Savings Performance Contracts

A new law allows a constituent unit of higher education to establish its own energy-savings performance contract process, rather than using the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) standardized process. Previously, municipalities and state agencies (including constituent units) could participate in DEEP's process, but only municipalities could opt out and establish their own process. An energy-savings performance contract is a contract with an energy service provider to evaluate, recommend, and implement energy savings measures that includes annual savings that at least equal the annual contract payments made over the life of the contract.

Under the new law, a constituent unit establishing its own process must follow many of the same provisions required for DEEP's process. But, for constituent units that enter these contracts under their own process, the new law allows contracts to extend for up to 30 years, while existing law only allows municipalities and state agencies to enter these contracts for up to 20 years ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 141 & 142, effective July 1, 2025).

Management and Fiscal Policies, Audits, and Executive Residency

A new law requires the BOR and UConn Board of Trustees to adopt or update their management and fiscal accountability policies to cover the following topics by January 1, 2026: (1) use of purchasing cards and state vehicles, (2) residency requirements for certain executive positions, and (3) training on business functions and compliance practices. The new law also requires the BOR to appoint a compliance officer by January 1, 2026, to conduct regular audits and report to the BOR ([PA 25-71](#), §§ 1-3, effective July 1, 2025).

Police Officer Career Pathways

A new law requires the BOR, UConn Board of Trustees, and POST to jointly develop, and report to the Public Safety and Security Committee on, a career pathway to help police officers earn higher education degrees, including a schedule of credits that officers may receive for the training they receive as police officers ([PA 25-174](#), § 197, effective upon passage).

Students in Prison

A new law requires the UConn Board of Trustees and BOR, in consultation with OPM, to examine and, by January 1, 2026, update their policies and procedures on accounts receivable holds to ensure that students in prison can enroll in postsecondary programs without delay ([PA 25-119](#), § 4, effective July 1, 2025).

Transitional College Readiness and Remedial Support Programs

This session, the legislature passed a law requiring the BOR to continue offering in the 2025-2026 academic year every transitional college readiness, embedded remedial support, and intensive remedial support program that they offered at public higher education institutions in the fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters ([PA 25-99](#), § 8, effective July 1, 2025).

Scholarships

Roberta B. Willis Scholarships

A new law limits the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program to a need-based grant and a need and merit-based grant by eliminating the program's Charter Oak grant (a need-based grant to students enrolled in a degree program at Charter Oak State College). It also requires OHE to notify higher education institution annually by November 1 of the estimated amount of funds allocated to the institution for need-based awards in the following fiscal year ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 262 & 263, effective July 1, 2026, except the notification provision is effective July 1, 2025).

Task Force on College Access Expansion

This session, the legislature created a 12-member task force to study options for developing a statewide initiative to expand college access and support success of students. The study must include (1) an examination of existing scholarship programs in the state; (2) research on the current unmet student need; and (3) strategies for expanding scholarship services provided by promise programs, including through establishing a public-private partnership to coordinate statewide services ([SA 25-10](#), effective from passage).

Student Athletes

Compensation

A new law:

1. authorizes a higher education institution, or an entity acting on its behalf, to compensate a student athlete through an endorsement contract or a revenue sharing agreement under a policy adopted by the institution; and
2. moves up the time period when student athletes can receive compensation through endorsement contracts or employment unrelated to an intercollegiate athletic program, and obtain representation, by allowing them to do so once they have agreed to attend a higher education institution and participate in sports, instead of only once they are enrolled and participating ([PA 25-1](#), §§ 12 & 13, effective upon passage).

Student Loans

DPH Loan Reimbursement Program

A new law requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to create, within available appropriations, a student loan reimbursement program for health care providers employed full-time in the state, with some of the awards targeted to primary care providers and those employed in rural communities or at federally qualified health centers. The commissioner must determine the program's award amounts and eligibility requirements ([PA 25-162](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025).

Loan Subsidy Program for Certain Alliance District School Employees

A new law expands eligibility to participate in the alliance district educator and counselor loan subsidy program and renames it the alliance district loan subsidy program. Under the existing program, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) provides subsidized interest rates on CHESLA loans that refinance the private student loans of teachers, paraeducators, and school counselors employed in an alliance district. The new law specifies that these school employees must be employed by a local or regional board of education or a technical education and career school to be eligible. It also expands the program to make it available to other individuals who are employed in high priority occupations (as designated by SDE and CHESLA) by a local or regional board of education or a technical education and career school in an alliance district ([PA 25-105](#), effective July 1, 2025).

OHE Student Loan Reimbursement Program

This session, the legislature made various changes to OHE's student loan reimbursement program, including:

1. expanding eligibility to individuals holding a degree from any level;
2. expanding eligibility to certain former Stone Academy students who were enrolled in the practical nurse education program between November 1, 2021, and February 28, 2023;
3. making various changes to the volunteer service requirements;
4. changing the income criteria to reflect federal adjusted gross income rather than Connecticut adjusted gross income; and
5. specifying that OHE's reimbursement of program participants relates to the participant's student loan payments during the preceding calendar year ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 214 & 215, effective July 1, 2025, except a provision on carrying forward funding is effective upon passage).

Private Student Loan Industry Regulations

A new law makes several changes that affect licensees and registrants involved with private student loans. Among other things, it:

1. extends existing requirements on private student education loan servicers so that they also apply to private education lenders, private education loan creditors, and any other person servicing a private student education loan;
2. expands the types of activities that require someone to obtain a private student loan servicer license and federal student loan servicer registration;
3. extends some of the state's banking enforcement laws so that they apply to registrations issued by the Department of Banking instead of just licenses; and
4. authorizes the banking commissioner to bar violators of the law governing private education lenders and private education loan creditors from engaging in any regulated banking activity for up to 10 years instead of just from acting as those lenders or creditors ([PA 25-115](#), various sections, effective October 1, 2025).

Student Loan Program for High Value Certificate and Paramedic Certificate Program Students

A new law:

1. requires the chief workforce officer, by September 1, 2025, to evaluate DPH-approved paramedic certificate programs and identify those that qualify as high-value certificate programs;
2. makes students in these identified programs eligible for loans from CHESLA;
3. requires CHESLA, within available funding, to create a high-value certificate loan program to provide loans to students in high-value certificate programs, including students in the identified paramedic programs; and
4. requires the Office of Workforce Strategy, starting by October 1, 2025, to annually identify, post on its website, and provide to DPH-approved paramedic certificate programs a list of public or private financial aid sources for their students ([PA 25-158](#), effective July 1, 2025).

Tuition and Fee Waivers

Nursing Home Residents

A new law generally requires waiving tuition fees for a course at Connecticut State Community College for individuals who are residents of a nursing home for at least 30 days, regardless of age. There must be enough other students enrolled in the course to offer it, and space must be available in the course after accommodating these other students. Under existing law, state residents 62 years of age or older are eligible to have their tuition waived at the college if there are enough other students and space available after accommodating them ([PA 25-16](#), § 6, effective upon passage).

Veterans and National Guard Members

A new law expands the higher education tuition waiver program to cover certain extension fees for eligible National Guard members and veterans with wartime service. It requires Connecticut State Community College, the Connecticut State University System, and UConn to waive fees for educational extension programs, including for courses taken during summer and winter school sessions or intersessions. The legislature also established a tuition fee waiver for eligible National Guard members and veterans with wartime service who attend Charter Oak State College, with generally the same eligibility requirements as the tuition waiver program ([PA 25-95](#), §§ 9-13, effective July 1, 2025).

UConn

Plan to Join Research University Association

A new law requires UConn to develop a plan to increase its likelihood of being invited to join an association of research universities in the United States. UConn must submit its plan to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2026 ([SA 25-3](#), effective July 1, 2025).

Research Faculty Recruitment and Hiring Program

New legislation changes one of the purposes of UConn's research faculty recruitment and hiring program by requiring it to be used to develop laboratories for hired faculty, instead of supporting their compensation. The new law relatedly restricts the use of authorized bonds for the program to this purpose ([PA 25-174](#), § 77, effective July 1, 2025).

Supplemental Paramedics

A new law authorizes UConn's emergency medical service (EMS) organization to apply to the DPH commissioner for a certificate of authorization as a supplemental paramedic in a similar way as existing law allows supplemental first responders. These certificates allow UConn EMS paramedics to respond to emergency calls covered by other primary service area responders (PSAR). By law, a PSAR is a provider assigned by DPH to a specific geographic area for a category of emergency medical response services. The new law specifies that when a combination of a PSAR, supplemental paramedic, and supplemental first responder is at the same scene, the PSAR controls and directs emergency activities. If a PSAR is not present, the supplemental paramedic controls and directs activities ([PA 25-56](#), effective October 1, 2025).

Tax Credit Incentive Program

A new law authorizes UConn to set up and administer a tax credit incentive program to promote and publicly recognize the university and its programs, services, and mission. It creates a tax credit for amounts people, businesses, or entities pay to UConn according to a written agreement with the university under this program. The credit equals 50% of the payments made for the tax or income year, as applicable, and is capped at \$500,000 per taxpayer for each tax or income year. The new law caps the total credits allowed for each calendar year at \$5 million ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 384 & 385, effective upon passage and applicable to tax and income years beginning on or after January 1, 2025).

UConn Health Center (UCHC) Employee Fringe Benefits

A new law eliminates a requirement that the comptroller (1) use up to \$4.5 million of funds appropriated for State Comptroller-Fringe Benefits to fund a portion of the fringe benefits for UCHC employees and (2) enter into a memorandum of understanding with UCHC for providing operational support ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 135 & 136, effective July 1, 2025).

UConn Health Center Neuromodulation Center

Legislation enacted this session requires UCHC to establish a Center of Excellence for Neuromodulation Treatments. It allows UCHC to collaborate with an in-state hospital to provide neuromodulation treatments to patients at this center. UConn Health [reports](#) that the center will be focused on stroke recovery for veterans ([PA 25-168](#), § 140, effective upon passage).

Miscellaneous

Adoption of Research Animals

Under a new law, public and private higher education institutions must offer any rabbit, guinea pig, or ferret used for research or testing to an animal adoption or rescue organization for adoption when the (1) research or testing is complete; (2) destruction of the animal is not required; and (3) institution no longer needs the animal ([PA 25-129](#), effective October 1, 2025).

Airframe and Powerplant Certificate Program Instructor Requirements

This session, the legislature passed a law requiring CTECS to permit a person to be an instructor in its airframe and powerplant certificate program if the person (1) meets the requirements in specified federal regulations, (2) is airframe and powerplant certified, and (3) has at least 10 years of experience as an aerospace technician. The law also specifies that these instructors need not be certified or endorsed by SDE ([PA 25-128](#), effective July 1, 2025).

Bail Enforcement

A new law prohibits bail bondsmen and surety bail bond or bail enforcement agents from taking or trying to take the principal on a bond into custody on the premises, grounds, or campus of a school or higher education institution ([PA 25-25](#), effective October 1, 2025).

Community College Consolidation

A new law makes numerous minor and technical changes to reflect the merger of the community-technical colleges into the Connecticut State Community College in 2023, including replacing

references to the former Board of Trustees for the Community-Technical Colleges with the BOR as the board that oversees the Connecticut State Community College. It makes other changes to reflect that this board also oversees the Connecticut State University System.

The new law also replaces one member of the Building Code Training Council and two members of the Fire Marshal Training Council, whose appointments were previously made by the former Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges, with Connecticut State Community College representatives appointed by the BOR (these councils provide advice on certification and training related to the building and fire codes) ([PA 25-22](#), various sections, effective upon passage).

Distance Learning

A new law defines a “Connecticut institution of higher education” and an “out-of-state institution of higher education” as they relate to authorization for distance learning and related OHE oversight activities ([PA 25-99](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025).

Home-Based Virtual Education Pilot Program for EMTs and Nurse’s Aides

A new law requires DPH, within available appropriations, to create a pilot program providing home-based virtual education for people seeking to become an emergency medical technician (EMT) or a nurse’s aide. DPH must do so by January 1, 2026, and in collaboration with a Connecticut-based educational provider or educational technology provider. It does not eliminate existing requirements for in-person practical training ([PA 25-162](#), § 2, effective upon passage).

Prison Education Programs

A new law requires OPM’s CJPPD to develop and implement policies for statewide delivery of postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities, including policies on federal Pell grants and prison education programs ([PA 25-168](#), § 62, effective July 1, 2025).

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