

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-162—sSB 1450
Public Health Committee
Appropriations Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to create, within available appropriations, a loan reimbursement program for health care providers, with some of the awards targeted to primary care providers and those employed in rural communities or at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs).

The act requires DPH, in collaboration with a Connecticut-based educational or educational technology provider and within available appropriations, to create a pilot program providing home-based virtual education to people seeking certification as a nurse's aide or emergency medical technician (EMT). The act specifies that it does not eliminate existing requirements for these people to receive in-person practical training.

It requires the education commissioner to add radiologic technology, nuclear medicine technology, and respiratory care to an existing plan on promoting health care career options to middle and high school students.

Lastly, the act requires DPH, within available appropriations, to create a relocation assistance grant program to recruit athletic trainers from other states to move to Connecticut to work here.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on the DPH loan reimbursement program and athletic trainer grant program take effect July 1, 2025.

§ 1 — STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The act requires DPH, within available appropriations, to create a program that awards loan reimbursement grants to health care providers. The program must be open to DPH-licensed providers employed full-time in the state, but not self-employed providers or sole proprietors of a professional health care practice. DPH must make awards annually, to reimburse recipients for qualifying student loan payments.

Under the act, the DPH commissioner must set the (1) award amounts; (2) program's eligibility requirements, which may include income guidelines; and (3) application process. She must consider workforce shortage areas when developing the eligibility requirements.

DPH must award at least (1) 20% of grants to full-time primary care providers and (2) 20% of grants to providers employed full-time in rural communities or at FQHCs. For this purpose, primary care includes family medicine, general pediatrics, primary care, internal medicine, and primary care obstetrics or gynecology, regardless of board certification.

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The act allows DPH to adopt regulations implementing the program.

§ 2 — VIRTUAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

The act requires DPH, within available appropriations, to create a pilot program providing home-based virtual education for people seeking to become a nurse's aide or EMT. DPH must do so by January 1, 2026, and in collaboration with a Connecticut-based educational provider or educational technology provider.

Under the act, the program must offer courses that meet DPH's training and competency evaluation requirements for nurse's aide registration and EMT certification. The act requires the commissioner to set the program's eligibility criteria and allows her to solicit and accept private funds to implement the program. By January 1, 2027, she must report to the Public Health Committee on the program's outcome.

The act specifies that it does not eliminate specified existing requirements for nurse's aides and EMTs to receive in-person, supervised practical training. This includes requirements under (1) federal regulations on state approval of nurse's aide training programs, (2) state regulations on nursing homes employing nurse's aides, and (3) state law on EMT certification.

§ 3 — HEALTH CARE CAREER PROMOTION

Existing law requires the state's chief workforce officer, in consultation with various stakeholders, to develop a plan to work with high schools in the state to encourage students to pursue high-demand health care professions. The education commissioner, in collaboration with the chief workforce officer, must use this plan in (1) promoting health care professions as career options to middle and high school students and (2) health care job shadowing and internship experiences for high school students.

The act requires the education commissioner, by January 1, 2026, to amend the plan to specifically include promoting the professions of radiologic technology, nuclear medicine technology, and respiratory care through related (1) career day presentations; (2) partnerships with in-state education programs; (3) counseling programs to inform high school students about, and recruit them for, these professions; and (4) job shadowing and internship experiences for high school students.

§ 4 — ATHLETIC TRAINER RELOCATION GRANT PROGRAM

The act requires DPH, by January 1, 2026, and within available appropriations, to create a program that awards relocation assistance grants to athletic trainers who relocate to Connecticut, get licensed here, and work in the state. The commissioner must determine the grant amounts and set the application and eligibility criteria and related forms. She also must require grant recipients to report to her on how they used the funds.

Starting by January 1, 2027, the act requires the commissioner to annually

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report to the Public Health Committee on the program's impact in recruiting athletic trainers to work in the state.