



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Governor's Bill No. 5046

LCO No. 558



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

***AN ACT SUPPORTING FIREFIGHTER AND POLICE OFFICER
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the 2026 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (d) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall waive the
5 payment of tuition at the Connecticut State Community College (1) for
6 any dependent child of a person whom the armed forces of the United
7 States has declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of
8 war while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which
9 child has been accepted for admission to said college and is a resident
10 of the state at the time such child is accepted for admission to said
11 college, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for
12 any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who performed service in time
13 of war, as defined in section 27-103, except that for purposes of this
14 subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in

15 attendance at a military service academy, which veteran has been
16 accepted for admission to said college and is domiciled in this state at
17 the time such veteran is accepted for admission to said college. Said
18 board shall also waive for any such veteran the payment of any
19 extension fees under section 10a-26 for educational extension programs,
20 (3) for any resident of the state (A) sixty-two years of age or older, or (B)
21 who is a resident of a nursing home, as defined in section 19a-490, and
22 has maintained residency at such nursing home for not less than thirty
23 days, provided, at the end of the regular registration period, there are
24 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those
25 residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the
26 course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space
27 available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for
28 any student attending the Connecticut State Police Academy who is
29 enrolled in a law enforcement program at said academy offered in
30 coordination with the Connecticut State Community College which
31 accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of
32 the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified
33 by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee as a
34 member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted
35 for admission to said college on a full-time or part-time basis in an
36 undergraduate degree-granting program. Said board shall also waive
37 for any such member the payment of any extension fees under section
38 10a-26 for educational extension programs, (6) for any dependent child
39 of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or
40 auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or
41 member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D)
42 state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7)
43 for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving
44 spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of this state, (8)
45 for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a
46 multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and
47 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, [and] (9) for any resident of the state
48 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was

49 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
50 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was
51 a resident of this state, (10) for a police officer, as defined in section 7-
52 294a, who has been employed as such an officer in the state for not less
53 than five years, (11) for a uniformed member of a paid or volunteer fire
54 department, who, as documented by the chief of such department, has
55 served as such a member in the state for not less than five years, and (12)
56 for any student attending the state fire school, who is enrolled in a
57 program at said school offered in coordination with a regional
58 community-technical college that accredits courses taken in such
59 program. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with
60 the provisions of this subsection also receives educational
61 reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the
62 amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of
63 the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall
64 be given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in
65 registering for courses at the Connecticut State Community College.
66 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this
67 subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one
68 year.

69 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the 2026 supplement to the
70 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
71 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

72 (d) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall waive the
73 payment of tuition fees for undergraduate and graduate degree
74 programs at the Connecticut State University System (1) for any
75 dependent child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States
76 has declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war
77 while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child
78 has been accepted for admission to such institution and is a resident of
79 the state at the time such child is accepted for admission to such
80 institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section,
81 for any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who performed service in

82 time of war, as defined in section 27-103, except that for purposes of this
83 subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in
84 attendance at a military service academy, which veteran has been
85 accepted for admission to such institution and is domiciled in this state
86 at the time such veteran is accepted for admission to such institution.
87 Said board shall also waive for any such veteran the payment of any
88 extension fees under section 10a-26 for educational extension programs,
89 (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has
90 been accepted for admission to such institution, provided (A) such
91 resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of
92 the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a
93 sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible for
94 waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such
95 resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such course
96 after accommodating all such students, (4) for any student attending the
97 Connecticut Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement
98 program at said academy offered in coordination with the university
99 which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active
100 member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has
101 been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's
102 designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled
103 or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time
104 basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program. Said
105 board shall also waive for any such member the payment of any
106 extension fees under section 10a-26 for educational extension programs,
107 (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section
108 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as
109 defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C)
110 municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154,
111 killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state who is a
112 dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who
113 was a resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of
114 the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
115 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,

116 [and] (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
117 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
118 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or
119 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state, (10) for a
120 police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as
121 such an officer in the state for not less than five years, (11) for a
122 uniformed member of a paid or volunteer fire department, who, as
123 documented by the chief of such department, has served as such a
124 member in the state for not less than five years, and (12) for any student
125 attending the state fire school, who is enrolled in a program at said
126 school offered in coordination with the university that accredits courses
127 taken in such program. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in
128 accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
129 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
130 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
131 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this
132 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
133 tuition waivers in registering for courses at Connecticut state
134 universities. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used
135 in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less
136 than one year.

137 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the 2026 supplement to the
138 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
139 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

140 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
141 any undergraduate or graduate degree program at The University of
142 Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed
143 forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have
144 been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after January
145 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to The University
146 of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time such child is
147 accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the provisions
148 of subsection (f) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-

149 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
150 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
151 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
152 which veteran has been accepted for admission to said institution and is
153 domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for admission
154 to said institution. Said board shall also waive for any such veteran the
155 payment of any extension fees under section 10a-26 for educational
156 extension programs, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of
157 age or older who has been accepted for admission to said institution,
158 provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or
159 (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the
160 course a sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible
161 for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which
162 such resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such
163 course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any active member
164 of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been
165 certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee
166 as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or
167 accepted for admission to said institution on a full-time or part-time
168 basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program. Said
169 board shall also waive for any such member the payment of any
170 extension fees under section 10a-26 for educational extension programs,
171 (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section
172 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as
173 defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C)
174 municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154,
175 killed in the line of duty, (6) for any resident of the state who is the
176 dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who
177 was a resident of the state, (7) for any dependent child of a resident of
178 the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
179 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,
180 [and] (8) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
181 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
182 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or

183 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state, (9) for a
 184 police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as
 185 such an officer in the state for not less than five years, and (10) for a
 186 uniformed member of a paid or volunteer fire department, who, as
 187 documented by the chief of such department, has served as such a
 188 member in the state for not less than five years. If any person who
 189 receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this
 190 subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer,
 191 such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational
 192 reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National Guard
 193 described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be given the same
 194 status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses
 195 at The University of Connecticut. Notwithstanding the provisions of
 196 section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state"
 197 includes domicile for less than one year.

198 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The Connecticut Housing
 199 Finance Authority shall develop and administer a program of mortgage
 200 assistance to police officers, as defined in section 7-294a of the general
 201 statutes, and uniformed members of paid or volunteer fire departments
 202 in the state. Such assistance shall be available to an eligible police officer
 203 or firefighter, under guidelines adopted by the authority, for the
 204 purchase of a home used as such police officer's or firefighter's principal
 205 residence in the community served by such police officer or firefighter.
 206 In making mortgage assistance available under the program, the
 207 authority may utilize down payment assistance or any other
 208 appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of any mortgage assistance
 209 may allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable portion of any equity
 210 gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10a-77(d) |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10a-99(d) |

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|--------|------------------------|-------------|
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10a-105(e) |
| Sec. 4 | <i>October 1, 2026</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]