



General Assembly

*February Session, 2026*

**Governor's Bill No. 5046**

LCO No. 558



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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2       the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10a-99(d)

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

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.]*