



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5418

February Session, 2026



AN ACT CONCERNING THE KIRKLYN M. KERR PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section, "veterinary student" means an in-
4 state resident enrolled in an accredited veterinary graduate school.

5 (b) The president of The University of Connecticut shall establish and
6 administer the Kirklyn M. Kerr program to support the veterinary
7 medicine education of not more than five veterinary students per
8 cohort. Each cohort may be funded for a four-year period pursuant to
9 the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

10 (c) Any state resident may apply, in the form and manner prescribed
11 by The University of Connecticut, for a grant to attend a veterinary
12 graduate school under the Kirklyn M. Kerr program. Each grant
13 recipient shall receive a grant for four years in the amount of the
14 difference between the cost of in-state tuition and out-of-state tuition at
15 the veterinary graduate school approved by the university under said
16 program. Such grant shall be issued in the form of a student loan that
17 shall not be subject to repayment, provided such grant recipient, after

18 graduating from veterinary school and completing any subsequent
19 professional training, is a state resident and practicing veterinarian,
20 licensed pursuant to chapter 384, working in the state for not fewer than
21 five years, during which period such student loan shall be forgiven at
22 the rate of twenty per cent per annum.

23 (d) The University of Connecticut shall establish a memorandum of
24 understanding with the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental
25 Loan Authority for the issuance of forgivable student loans pursuant to
26 the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Office of Higher Education
28 shall establish a memorandum of understanding with The University of
29 Connecticut for the use of funds in the Kirklyn M. Kerr account,
30 established pursuant to section 3 of this act, to award grants to
31 veterinary students under the Kirklyn M. Kerr program established
32 pursuant to section 10a-19h of the general statutes, as amended by this
33 act.

34 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) There is established an account
35 to be known as the "Kirklyn M. Kerr account", which shall be a separate,
36 nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by
37 law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be
38 expended by the Office of Higher Education for the purposes of the
39 memorandum of understanding with The University of Connecticut
40 concerning the Kirklyn M. Kerr program, established pursuant to
41 section 10a-19h of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

42 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The sum of seven hundred fifty thousand
43 dollars is appropriated to the Office of Higher Education from the
44 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for deposit in the
45 Kirklyn M. Kerr account, established pursuant to section 3 of this act, for
46 use by The University of Connecticut to award grants under the Kirklyn
47 M. Kerr program, established pursuant to section 10a-19h of the general
48 statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2027</i>	10a-19h
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

HED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP