



2023 Legislative Update

This update summarizes legislation adopted during the 2023 regular legislative session, which ended on June 7, 2023, that impacts CCIC member institutions.

SESSION OVERVIEW

On Tuesday, June 6th, the legislature approved a \$51 billion biennium budget via [Public Act 23-204](#).

The package, which spends \$25.1 billion next fiscal year and \$26 billion in 2024-25, boosts spending slightly less than 4% each year. It narrowly falls under the spending cap each year and carries forward \$340 million from this fiscal year's nearly \$3 billion surplus to spend in the coming biennium.

As to budget matters of greatest interest to the independent colleges, the budget bill:

- **Program Approval Exemption:** Makes permanent CCIC member institutions' exemption from academic program approval by the Office of Higher Education (OHE) with no cap or sunset date as long as existing standards for exemption continue to be met. Institutions must keep the state's program registry (Veoci) up-to-date.
- **Roberta Willis Scholarship Program:** Includes \$24,888,637 from the General Fund for FY 24 and FY 25 and \$18 million from the ARPA fiscal stabilization fund for FY 24. The state's community colleges are removed from the Willis Program and the General Fund Appropriation was reduced proportionately. Legislators intend for the CT Office of Higher Education (OHE) to utilize carry forward funds from FY 23, general fund dollars and the FY 24 ARPA allocation to fully fund two academic years in FY 24, to prefund the program and make grant allocations sooner.
- **Tiered PILOT Program:** Increases PILOT funding for cities and towns overall and raises the annual baseline reimbursement levels towns receive.
- **Student Loan Forgiveness Program (New):** Allocates \$6 million dollars for a new program to be administered by OHE beginning in FY 25 to provide up to \$20,000 in student loan forgiveness -- \$5,000-a-year for four years -- for individuals that graduate with a bachelor's degree from an in-state institution of higher education (public or private) or training school. Eligible recipients must complete community service hours and meet other eligibility criteria laid out in statute.
- **Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program (New):** Creates a new scholarship program to support students enrolled in teacher preparation programs, public or private, that will be administered by the State Department of Education. \$4 million was budgeted in FY 24 and \$10 million in FY 25.
- **Dual Enrollment:** Includes an additional \$3.5 million in ARPA funding to expand dual credit opportunities. This is on top of the \$3.5 million in funding allocated to SDE for FY 23.

Other legislation of interest that passed this session includes:

- **Transcript Holds:** Effective October 1, 2023 institutions of higher education in Connecticut are prohibited from withholding student transcripts from employers, prospective employers or any branch of the military service of the United States as a means to collect a student debt.
- **EdTPA:** Retroactive to July 1, 2022, the preservice performance assessment EdTPA may only be used as an accountability measure for teacher preparation programs, not as a barrier for state licensure.
- **LPN Program Approval Accelerated Pathway:** Language passed that allows the state nursing board to approve applications from public or private, non-profit higher education institutions in an expedited manner to create a pilot program for licensed practice nurse education and training, and grants the program full approval if it meets specified requirements for two years. This is intended to address the need for additional capacity at LPN programs given the closure of Stone Academy.
- **Clinical Training Reciprocity:** Language passed that allows OHE to enter into a reciprocity agreement with neighboring states regarding clinical training credit at higher education institutions. This is intended to help with the issue where New York state is not presently allowing students attending out-of-state institutions to conduct clinicals in-state.
- **Organic Waste Recycling:** The state's Commercial Organics Recycling Law was extended to "institutions," including private educational institutions, on and after January 1, 2025. Each institution that generates an average projected volume of not less than 26 tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.

Key legislation that died this session includes:

- **Adjunct Unemployment:** This bill sought to make adjunct faculty eligible for unemployment.
- **Assessing User Fees by Fire Districts:** This bill sought to authorize fire districts to assess a user fee on colleges and universities located in such districts.
- **Endowment Tax:** The bill sought to authorize municipalities to impose a tax on the endowment funds of a private institution of higher education located in the municipality.

Below you will find a detailed summary of the legislation that passed impacting the independent colleges and other bills of interest.

Budget Summary

Budget Line Item	FY 23	FY 24 Budgeted	FY 25 Budgeted
Agency: OPM			
Reimbursement for Private Tax-Exempt Property (PILOT for Colleges and Hospitals)	\$108,998,308		
Tiered PILOT (PILOT line items have now been consolidated under Tiered PILOT in FY 24 and FY 25)	\$83,092,573	\$339,410,167	\$339,410,167
CSCU System Study		\$250,000*	
Agency: OHE			
Roberta Willis Scholarship Program General Fund	\$35,313,224	\$24,888,637	\$24,888,637
Roberta Willis Scholarship Program ARPA	\$40,000,000*	\$18,000,000*	
Higher Education Mental Health Services	\$3,000,000*		
Minority Advancement Program	\$2,264,474	\$1,655,313	\$1,659,292
Minority Teacher Incentive Program	\$570,134	\$570,134	\$570,134
Student Loan Forgiveness			\$6,000,000
Health Care Adjunct Grant Program (Public colleges only)		\$500,000	\$500,000
Agency: SDE			
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program		\$4,000,000	\$10,000,000
Dual Enrollment	\$3,500,000*	\$3,500,000*	
Funding for FAFSA Completion Support	\$500,000*		
Teacher Residency		\$1,500,000*	\$1,500,000*
Agency: CSCU			
Healthcare Workforce Needs (Health Horizons)	\$20,000,000*	\$15,000,000*	
Debt-Free Community College (PACT)	\$15,000,000	\$23,500,000	\$28,500,000
Agency: DPH			
Healthcare Provider Loan Reimbursement (DPH)	\$5,100,000*	\$3,000,000*	\$3,000,000*
Legislative Management			
Strategic Higher Education Study		\$250,000*	

*Allocation from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) stabilization fund

Total Estimated Roberta Willis	Need-Based Aid by Sector (FY 24)
CT State Universities	42.8%
UCONN	31.59%
CCIC	25.61%

KEY LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

State Budget Bill Summary

PA 23-204: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET, is the budget bill that also includes language to implement the state budget (the “implementer”) and various provisions from other bills. Of interest to higher education, this bill:

- **Strategic Higher Ed Study & Planning Commission for Higher Education:** Allocates \$250,000 for the legislature to update and revise the state’s [Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education](#) adopted in 2015 through an updated Planning Commission for Higher Education. The bill requires the Commission to revise and update the plan with new goals to be established for 2025 and 2030. CCIC and its member institutions have seats on the Planning Commission, appointed by legislative leaders and the Governor. (**§§ 64 & 86**)
- **Stone Academy:** Authorizes OHE to provide stipends to graduates of Stone Academy and tuition refunds to former students, utilizing funds from the state’s career school student protection account. Funds are to be utilized to compensate 1) graduates that take an LPN refresher course offered by CT DPH and 2) former students that loose course-credits based on the state audit. (**§ 67**)
- **Minority Advancement Program:** Eliminates an affirmative action plan requirement for OHE and allows the agency to establish a minority advancement program to increase diversity among students, faculty, administrators and staff in the state system of higher education. (**§ 85**)
- **Program Approval:** Makes permanent CCIC’s member institutions’ exemption from program approval by the Office of Higher Education with no cap on the number of exempt programs. Institutions must simply update the credential database (Veoci) at least annually or by the last day of the semester for any new, modified or terminated programs. (**§ 96**)
- **Health Care Adjunct Grant Program:** Requires public institutions of higher education to consider any licensed health care provider who has at least 10 years of clinical care experience as a qualified applicant for an adjunct faculty member at the institution and give such provider the same consideration as any other qualified applicant, regardless of whether they have a master’s degree. Funding is provided to incentivize these licensed health care providers, up to \$20,000 annually, for two years. (**§ 132-133**)
- **Debt-Free Community College:** Allows for returning students to be eligible for the PACT grant. (**§ 134**)
- **Roberta Willis Scholarship Program (§ 135, 136** subsequently amended by **Sec. 11 of HB 5003**)
 - Includes \$18 million in ARPA funding for the program.
 - Removes the Community colleges from the Willis Program. The General Fund Appropriation was reduced proportionately, from \$33,388,637 to \$24,888,637.
 - Eliminates the 2% set aside (~\$1 million annually) that the community colleges received from the need-based allocation to the program.
 - Allows OHE to carry forward unspent funds and reallocate those resources to eligible institutions.

- Requires that the need-merit allocation remain at \$10 million or no more than 30% of the program’s funding, whichever is higher.
- Changes all references to “Estimated Family Contribution” in the statute to the new “Student Aid Index,” effective July 1, 2023, given the forthcoming changes to the FAFSA.
- Requires OHE to utilize ARPA funding before general fund dollars.
 - ⇒ This language was subsequently amended in **HB 5003** to allow OHE to spend the FY 24 funding allocated to the Willis program – ARPA and general fund – over the FY 24 and FY 25 academic years and no later than December 31, 2024. The intent is that some of the ARPA funding will be utilized to prefund the program so that institutions know their allocation for academic year 2024-2025 in the fall of 2023.
- **Tiered PILOT Program:**
 - Increases funding for the Tiered PILOT program that reimburses municipalities for tax exempt state-owned property and property owned by nonprofit college and hospitals.
 - Increases the prorated reimbursement levels for municipalities by 3% for all tiers. (**§ 139**)
- **Baby Bonds:** Establishes a funding source for the Baby Bonds program which is designed to give babies born on or after July 1, 2023, whose births were covered by HUSKY, up to \$3,200 in a state trust. Once the beneficiary turns 18, they may use the funds for an eligible expenditure (e.g., education, buying a home or investing in a business in Connecticut, or personal financial investments). (**§ 148**)
- **Student Loan Ombudsman:** Authorizes the establishment of a registry for private education lenders and loan creditors – with potentially a fee structure -- and establishes an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman within the Department of Banking (DOB). (**§ 166-168**)
- **Student Loan Forgiveness Program:** Establishes a new program to be administered by the Office of Higher Education beginning in FY 25 to provide up to \$20,000 in student loan forgiveness -- \$5,000/year for four years – for individuals that graduate with a bachelor’s degree from an in-state, public or private, institution of higher education or training school. Eligible recipients must complete community service hours and meet other eligibility criteria laid out in statute. \$6 million was appropriated in FY 25 for this program. (**§ 174-175**)
- **Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health:** Makes a number of changes to the appointments to the previously established advisory body for the Commission, including three new separate appointments for individuals affiliated with an academic institution. (**§ 188**)
- **Autism Services Lead Agency:** Makes OPM the lead agency responsible for coordinating autism services across agencies and districts. Creates an Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council with two representatives from higher education to advise the OPM Secretary about the policies and programs for persons with autism and recommendations to improve coordination and address gaps in autism services. (**§§ 261-263**)
- **FAFSA Completion Mandate:** Institutes a requirement that a FAFSA be completed as a high school graduation requirement or submit a waiver, beginning with the graduating class of 2025. (**§ 319-320**)
- **Human Capital Investment Tax Credit:** Expands the tax credit that businesses may claim from 5% to 10% for most eligible investments, including worker education at in-state higher education

institutions donations or capital contributions to higher education institutions for improvements or technology advancements, including physical plant improvements, and 25% for childcare-related investments. ([§ 350-351](#))

State Bond Bill Summary

PA 23-205: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING CERTAIN GRANT AND FINANCING PROGRAMS, STATE CONSTRUCTION RELATED THRESHOLDS, SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS, THE VALIDATION OF CERTAIN ACTIONS TAKEN BY CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES, CAPITAL CITY PROJECTS, CERTAIN CONSUMER AGREEMENTS, CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS TO MUNICIPAL CHARTERS AND PETITIONS FOR CERTAIN TOWN REFERENDA, ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE, CERTAIN CASES BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET: is the bond bill, which includes authorizations for state bond funds and includes other items that are budget-related. Of interested to higher education institutions:

- **General Bond Authorizations of Interest** (for the most part still need to be authorized by the Bond Commission):
 - **OPM:** Grants in aid for the development of an Advanced Manufacturing Center in Hartford \$15 million ([§ 13](#))
 - **DECD:** Manufacturing Innovation Fund: \$15 million ([§ 13](#))
 - **Dept. of Housing:** \$200 million to the CT Housing Authority to finance workforce housing projects ([§ 56](#)).
- **Tech Talent Advisory Committee:** \$10 million ([§ 65](#))
- **DDS:** \$15 million for the grant-in-aid program for supportive housing for persons with an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder. ([§ 97, 192](#))
- **CHESLA:** \$10 million for a nursing student loan subsidy program: ([§ 99](#))
- **DECD:** \$300 million grant program grant to fund eligible projects within high poverty-low opportunity census tracts. Eligible projects include workforce development. ([§ 101-102](#))

Legislation Impacting Independent Colleges and Universities

PA 23-204: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET, is the budget bill and is summarized in detail above. Of note to the independent colleges specifically, this bill:

- **Program Approval ([§ 96](#)):** Makes permanent CCIC’s member institutions’ exemption from program approval by the Office of Higher Education, with no cap on the number of exempt programs, in the

budget bill. Institutions must simply update the credential database (Veoci) at least annually or by the last day of the semester for any new, modified or terminated programs.

- **Roberta Willis Scholarship Program (§ 135, 136** subsequently amended by **Sec. 11 of HB 5003**): Makes various changes to the Willis program, including removing the community colleges from the program moving forward and changing references in statute from EFC to SAI, effective July 1, 2023.
- **Tiered PILOT Program: (§ 139)**: Increases the minimum reimbursement for towns and cities that receive PILOT for colleges and hospitals

PA 23-208: AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES passed after the budget and includes language fixing the Roberta Willis Scholarship Program implementation provisions in the state budget bill. **(§ 11)**.

Legislation Impacting Higher Education Generally

Higher Ed Committee Bills

PA 23-70: AN ACT CONCERNING CLINICAL PLACEMENTS FOR NURSING STUDENTS, REPORTING BY THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY, PROMOTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN AUTHORITY STUDENT LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM, seeks to:

- **Clinical Placement Working Group**: Establish a working group to develop a plan to establish clinical placements at state facilities for nursing students at public and private, non-profit institutions of higher education. Independent institutions have two appointments to this group. One from Sen. Looney and one from Rep. Candelora. **(§ 1)**
- **Insurance Industry**: Require the Insurance Commissioner to promote the development and growth of, and employment opportunities within, the state's insurance industry. **(§ 3)**
- **Loan Subsidy Programs**:
 - Extends eligibility to the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority's (CHESLA) Alliance District Teacher Loan Subsidy Program to paraeducators and counselors; **(§ 4)**
 - Requires CHESLA to establish a Police Officer Loan Subsidy Program to subsidize interest rates on CHESLA loans to eligible police officers employed in distressed municipalities; **(§ 6)** and
 - Extends the newly established Nursing and Mental Health Care Professionals Loan Subsidy Program for certain Connecticut-licensed nurses, nurse's aides, psychologists, marital and family therapists, clinical and master social workers, and professional counselors to emergency medical service (EMS) professionals. **(§§ 7 & 8)**

PA 23-14: AN ACT PROHIBITING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM WITHHOLDING TRANSCRIPTS, prohibits institutions of higher education from withholding student transcripts from

employers, prospective employers, or any branch of the military service of the United States as a means to collect a student debt effective October 1, 2023.

PA 23-61: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN JOBS CORPS PROGRAM, requires the **Connecticut Clean Economy Council (CCEC)** to develop a workforce training plan for green jobs (i.e., jobs that employ green technology) to accomplish the state’s greenhouse gas emissions goals.

PA 23-151: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL, makes changes to the OER Council including 1) moving the OER Council to CSCU from OHE; 2) requires the OER Council to develop a model policy for higher education institutions to adopt; and 3) changes to the definition of “OER” for purposes of grant eligibility. Section 95 of the [budget bill](#) also makes similar changes to the definition of “OER.”

PA 23-11: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY, expands the types of projects for which CHEFA can issue bonds to include programs and services at health care and higher ed institutions.

Public Health Committee Bills

PA 23-97: AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS, makes a number of changes related to physical, mental and behavioral health care in the state. Of note the bill:

- **Health Care Workforce Working Group**: Requires OWS to convene a working group to develop recommendations to expand the state’s health care workforce. CCIC institutions have two seats on the working group. The group is tasked with evaluating the following: (1) The quality of the nursing and nurse's aides education programs in the state; (2) the quality of the clinical training programs for nurses and nurse's aides in the state; (3) the potential for increasing the number of clinical training sites for nurses and nurse's aides; (4) the expansion of clinical training facilities in the state for nurses and nurse's aides; (5) barriers to recruitment and retention of health care providers, including, but not limited to, nurses and nurse's aides; (6) the impact of the state health care staffing shortage on the provision of health care services, the public's access to health care services and wait times for health care services; and (7) the impact of federal and state reimbursement for the costs of health care services on the public's access to such services. (**§ 8**)
- **Health Care Providers Serving as Adjunct Faculty**: Requires public higher education institutions to consider any licensed health care provider with at least 10 years of clinical experience to be qualified for an adjunct faculty position; correspondingly requires the Office of Higher Education, within available appropriations, to establish a program providing incentive grants to these providers who become adjunct professors. (**§ 9 & 10**)
- **LPN Program Approval Accelerated Pathway**: Allows the state nursing board to approve applications from public or private, non-profit higher education institutions in a more expedited manner to create a pilot program for licensed practice nurse education and training. Full approval will be granted if the program meets specified requirements for two years. This is intended to address the need for additional capacity at LPN programs in the state given the closure of Stone Academy. (**§ 22**)

- **Clinical Training Reciprocity:** Allows OHE to enter into a reciprocity agreement with neighboring states regarding clinical training credit at higher education institutions. This is intended to help with the issue in New York state. (§ 23)
- **Task Force:** Establishes a task force to study methods to address the shortage of radiologic technologists, nuclear medicine technologists and respiratory care practitioners in the state and develop a plan to address such shortages. (§ 44)

Environment Committee Bills

PA 23-170: AN ACT CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE AND ESTABLISHING THE MIRA DISSOLUTION AUTHORITY, among other things, this bill extends the state’s **Commercial Organics Recycling Law** to “institutions,” including private educational institutions, on and after January 1, 2025. Each institution that generates an average projected volume of not less than 26 tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material. A report is required by March 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, summarizing the entity’s amount of edible food donated, food scraps recycled and the organic recycler(s) used. (§ 7)

Commerce Committee Bills

SA 23-11: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY TO PROMOTE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT USING THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM AS A MODEL, establishes a working group to conduct a study and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of leveraging the H1-B visa cap exemption process to fill high-value job openings and promote workforce development, using the Global Entrepreneur in Residence program as a model. The independent colleges have an appointment on this working group.

Other Committee Bills

PA 23-60: AN ACT CONCERNING A CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN AUTHORITY REFINANCE LOAN SUBSIDY FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, requires the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) to establish a Nursing and Mental Health Care Professionals Loan Subsidy Program. This program must subsidize interest rates on CHESLA refinancing loans to certain Connecticut-licensed nurses, nurse’s aides, psychologists, marital and family therapists, clinical and master social workers, and professional counselors. CHESLA must enter into an MOU with the Commissioner of Education (SDE) to establish guidelines for eligibility. **PA 23-70** amended this bill to expand the eligibility of the loan program.

PA 23-55: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECRUITMENT OF LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR APPRENTICE PROSECUTOR POSITIONS, allows the Criminal Justice Commission, within available appropriations, to interview and appoint as an “apprentice prosecutor” any student from an accredited law school who is within five months of graduation and is a certified legal intern.

SA 23-19: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF PATHWAYS TO STATE EMPLOYMENT, requires the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a study by January 1, 2024 regarding the hiring practices of state agencies for positions in state service. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, the feasibility of eliminating requirements for college degrees for certain appointments to state classified services.

Legislation Impacting Teacher Preparation Programs (Public and Private)

PA 23-159: AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHERS AND PARAEDUCATORS, makes various revisions to the education statutes. This bill is a combination of bills that came out of the Education Committee. A complete summary can be viewed [here](#). Of specific interest to higher education institutions, this bill:

- **EdTPA:** Limits the use of the EdTPA preservice performance assessment to only as an accountability measure for teacher preparation programs, not as a barrier for state licensure, retroactive to July 1, 2022. (**§ 1**)
- **Kindergarten Age Raised:** Raises the age children can start public school kindergarten from age five by January of the school year to age five by September of the school year effective July 1, 2024. (**§ 3**)
- **Endorsements for Kindergarten and Preschool:** Allows the education commissioner to allow a teacher with a (1) grade one through six endorsement to teach kindergarten for a second year without demonstrating enrollment in a kindergarten endorsement program or (2) grade one through 12 comprehensive special education endorsement to teach preschool in addition to kindergarten as current law allows. (**§ 13**)
- **OHE ARC Program Expansion:** Requires OHE to expand its ARC program attended and hire one full-time permanent employee to administer the expanded ARC program. (**§ 14**)
- **Student Teaching Experience by DRG:** Removes the requirement that teacher preparation program participants complete their clinical, field, or student teaching experience in two different types of school districts according to DRG categorization. (**§ 16**)
- **Integrated and Cross Endorsements:** Allows SDE, in cooperation with OHE, to authorize three new cross endorsements affecting early childhood education, special education, and grades kindergarten. (**§ 17**)
- **Additions to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS):** Expands the TRS to cover teachers employed by an interdistrict magnet school operated by (1) a private higher education institution's board of governors; (2) an SDE-approved, third-party nonprofit corporation; or (3) Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc. and Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc. (**§ 20 & 21**)
- **New Teacher Performance Evaluation:** Requires the State Board of Education, on or before July 1, 2024, to adopt, in consultation with the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council guidelines for a new teacher evaluation and support program. (**§ 23 - 27**)

PA 23-167: AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION:

- **Teacher Apprenticeship Program:** Requires SDE to establish an educator apprenticeship initiative to enable students in teacher preparation programs to gain classroom teaching experience while

working toward becoming full-time, certified teachers upon successful completion of such programs under the educator apprenticeship initiative. (§ 8)

- **Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship:** Changes the name of the minority teacher candidate scholarship program to the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program, reduces the maximum annual grant amount from \$20,000 to \$10,000, and requires SDE to hire four staff members to administer the program. The budget includes \$4 million for this program in FY 24 and \$10 million in FY 25. (§ 11 & 18)
- **Educator Diversity Policy Oversight:** Changes the name of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Oversight Council to the Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council and the term “minority” student to “diverse” student. (§ 12 - 14)
- **Adjunct Professor Permit:** Allows SBE to issue an adjunct professor permits to allow part-time nontenured college instructors to work part-time for a school district, to teach in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, of a public school and provide instruction as part of college and career readiness programming offered by such board, including, but not limited to, an early college experience, advanced placement classes, career and technical education, the International Baccalaureate program, a dual enrollment program, a dual credit program and apprenticeships.; establishes employment limits and criteria. (§ 15)
- **Training Program for ParaEducators:** Requires the education commissioner, by January 1, 2024, and in consultation with the School Paraeducator Advisory Council, to develop a model paraeducator training program for high school students. (§ 29)
- **Expansion of Dual Credit Opportunities:** Requires SDE, in partnership with boards of education and public and independent higher education institutions, to expand opportunities for dual credit and dual enrollment for high school students, including courses required for health care occupations. (§ 32)
- **Pathways in Technology Programs:** Requires SDE to create a grant for new or expanded pathways in technology early college high school programs in alliance districts. (§ 46)

Labor & Employment Legislation

PA 23-183: AN ACT CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN MINORS AS YOUTH CAMP STAFF MEMBERS AND LIFE GUARDS, provides that persons between fifteen and eighteen years of age may be employed by certain employers. To see a summary of the bill, click [here](#).

Other Bills of Interest

PA 23-21: AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL LITERACY INSTRUCTION, adds a half-credit of personal financial management and financial literacy to the high school graduation requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2027 (i.e., students currently enrolled in eighth grade). The bill also adds personal financial management and financial literacy to the state’s required program of instruction for public schools. It also makes completion of a one-credit, mastery-based diploma assessment (i.e., a

“capstone”) an optional, rather than mandatory, graduation requirement at each board of education’s discretion.

PA 23-101: AN ACT CONCERNING THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS OF CHILDREN,

- **Licensing at DPH:** Requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to hire a full-time employee, by January 1, 2024, to assist in licensing clinical and master social workers; generally reduces initial and renewal license fees for social workers, marital and family therapists, and professional counselors. (**§ 1, 12-14**)
- **Paid Leave for Service Workers for Mental Health:** Requires employers to permit “service workers,” as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to use accrued paid sick leave to take a mental health wellness day to attend to their emotional or psychological well-being. (**§ 7-8**)

PA 23-31: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES

- Requires the DPH commissioner to temporarily waive the examination requirement for master social worker license applicants until January 1, 2026 (**§ 3**) and allows the required five hours of in-person continuing education to be earned through live online classes (**§ 4**).
- Generally requires that music therapists be licensed by DPH and establishes related licensure requirements and exemptions; creates nonrenewable temporary permits authorizing the holder to work under a licensee’s supervision; sets grounds for denying licenses and taking disciplinary action against licensees. (**§§ 43-47**)
- Allows new graduates of professional counseling and marital and therapy programs to practice without a license for up to 120 days after they complete their program if they do so under clinical supervision by specified licensed health professionals. (**§§ 50-51**)

PA 23-195: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES

- Makes changes to the requirements for being hired as a **surgical technologist**. (**§ 1**)
- Enters Connecticut into the Counseling Compact, which provides a process authorizing **professional counselors** licensed in one member state to practice across state boundaries, without requiring licensure in each state (**§§ 12 & 13**)
- See the complete bill summary [here](#).

PA 23-137: AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY:

- **TRANSITIONAL LIFE SKILLS COLLEGE PROGRAM:** Requires the DDS commissioner to create a plan to establish a Transitional Life Skills College program to provide transition support for certain people with IDD; (**§1**)
- **OPM EVALUATION OF IDD EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:** Requires the OPM secretary to (1) analyze existing employee assistance programs for people with IDD and other disabilities, (2) recommend financial incentives for businesses to hire them, and (3) create a related workforce plan; (**§2**)

- **HUMAN SERVICES CAREER PIPELINE PROGRAM:** Requires the Chief Workforce Officer to establish a Human Services Career Pipeline program to ensure there is a sufficient human services workforce to serve the needs of residents who are elderly or have disabilities; **(§11)**
- **ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITIONS:** Requires OPM to establish two new positions for statewide coordinators of services for people with ASD and other IDD; **(§14)**
- **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GRANTS FOR NONPROFITS:** Requires DDS to establish a program to provide grants to qualifying private nonprofits for supportive housing for people with an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities; creates related administration and reporting requirements; **(§53)**
- To read a complete bill summary, click [here](#).

PA 23-52: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PRESCRIPTION DRUG REGULATION, makes various changes related to the practice of pharmacy and access to medications. Among other things, it:

- **Emergency Contraception:** Authorizes pharmacists to dispense emergency or hormonal contraception to patients under certain conditions; **(§ 3)**
- **Vending Machines for OTC:** Allows businesses to operate vending machines selling over-the-counter (OTC) medications if they obtain a DCP permit. **(§ 6)**

PA 23-19: AN ACT CONCERNING PHARMACIES AND PHARMACISTS, establishes a process to allow institutional pharmacies located in licensed health care facilities (“health care institutional pharmacies”) to compound sterile pharmaceuticals for retail sale and subjects them to the same requirements that apply to other retail pharmacies compounding sterile pharmaceuticals. The bill expands pharmacists’ scope of practice by authorizing them to (1) administer additional vaccines and epinephrine cartridge injectors (§ 5); (2) order and administer COVID-19, HIV, and influenza related tests (§ 2); and (3) prescribe HIV-related prophylaxis if an HIV test they ordered and administered comes back negative (§ 2). It also allows pharmacy technicians meeting certain criteria to administer the same vaccines as pharmacists (§ 5). To read the complete bill summary, click [here](#).

PA 23-105: AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR RENEWAL OF A SECURITY OFFICER LICENSE, requires licensed security officers to submit to a background check when applying for a license renewal, every five years. Currently law only requires this upon initial application. Officers that are renewing are not required to resubmit fingerprints and the DESPP fee for conducting state criminal background checks will be waived.

PA 23-5: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING, establishes a framework for early, in-person voting for all general elections, primaries, and special elections, held on or after January 1, 2024. Specifically, it requires a 14-day early voting period for general elections, a seven-day period for most primaries, and a four-day early voting period for special elections and presidential preference primaries. To read the complete bill summary, click [here](#).

PA 23-145: AN ACT REVISING THE STATE'S ANTIDISCRIMINATION STATUTES, in the state’s antidiscrimination laws, this bill (1) adds “age” to the list of protected classes and (2) repeals the definition of the term “sexual orientation” and replaces it with a new definition which specifies that

“sexual orientation” includes any identity that a person is perceived by another person to hold, relating to the gender or genders to which a person is romantically, emotionally, or sexually attracted.

Key Legislation that Died

SB 923: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CONSIDERATION OF CRIMINAL HISTORY DURING THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL OR BY AN EDUCATIONAL OR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

HB 6791: AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR ADJUNCT HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY

HB 6804: AN ACT CONCERNING A REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF FIRE DISTRICT USER FEES ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

HB 5868: AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO IMPOSE A TAX ON THE ENDOWMENT FUNDS OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

HB 6657: AN ACT CONCERNING NONCONSENSUAL TOWING