



2026 Legislative Update

This update summarizes legislation adopted during the 2026 regular legislative session of the CT General Assembly that impacts (or may be of interest to) CCIC member institutions.

SESSION OVERVIEW

On Saturday, May 2, the Connecticut legislature approved adjustments to the FY 27 \$28.6 billion budget via [PA 26-68](#). The package increases spending 5.3% from FY 26 and uses \$913 million in state surplus funds to appropriate \$300 million for early childcare, an additional \$190 million for school funding, an extra \$100 million for municipal aid and an additional \$30 million for the state's HUSKY healthcare program.

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

- **Roberta Willis Scholarship Funding: Includes the largest general fund appropriation to the scholarship program since 2015.** The FY 26 allocation for the program was \$41 million (\$26 appropriated from the general fund and \$15 million carried-forward in ARPA) and the FY 27 appropriation for this program will be \$41 million (all from the General Fund). This means students and institutions of higher education will not see a drop in state scholarship dollars now that ARPA funding has run out.
- **Roberta Willis Scholarship Timing:** Amends the statute governing the RWSP program to allow the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to enter into contracts with institutions of higher education on or after January 1 annually. Currently, OHE cannot enter into contracts until after the state budget has passed, in June or July. OHE also continues to be required to annually notify institutions of their *estimated* funding for the following fiscal year by November 1.
- **CHESLA Supplemental Graduate Loan Program:** Includes \$30 million in bond funding to support the creation of CHESLA's new graduate loan program due to the elimination of the federal Grad PLUS program. This is up from the \$10 million in bonding the Governor originally proposed. This state bonding will be used by CHESLA to lend to students that pursue degrees that have more conservative lifetime earnings (teachers, social workers) and who might not meet CHESLA's lending criteria. CHESLA will do its own bond issuance of \$20 million to lend to graduate students enrolling in programs with higher lifetime earnings that meet its lending criteria. The \$30 million will be utilized over three years and allows for some predictability for students and their families.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Allocates funding to support the creation of an AI Innovation/Safety Institute; an AI Symposium hosted by the CT AI Alliance; and access to high performance computing. More details to follow.
- **Dual Credit:** Sustains the \$6 million in funding for the State Department of Education (SDE) in FY 27 to support the articulation of dual credit courses between school districts and institutions of higher education, exam fees for high- need students, and support the enrollment of additional high- need students in dual credit classes. Stand-alone legislation also clarifies that institutions of higher education may seek reimbursement from the State

Department of Education for waived student fees for dual or concurrent enrollment courses offered by such institution (see below).

- **CT Student Loan Reimbursement Program:** Reduces the annual appropriation by \$1 million for FY 27 to \$5 million.
- **Aspiring Teachers Scholarship:** Appropriates \$4 million annually for this \$10,000 a year scholarship administered by SDE for eligible CT students that want to enroll in a teacher preparation program in the state. This is a cut of \$2 million from the original appropriation. Students may apply for this scholarship now: <https://tinyurl.com/t74r8hum>.
- **Finish Line Scholars:** Appropriates \$7.7 million for FY 27 for the new “Finish Line Scholarship” for CT State students that received a PACT grant to complete their bachelor’s degree for free at a CSU beginning in the fall of 2026. The budget also tightens eligibility for this new program by requiring students to complete their associate degree in Fall 2025 or later to be eligible for the Scholarship program.

Budgeted Item	FY 26 Budgeted	FY 27 Budgeted
Agency: OPM		
Tiered PILOT	\$345,980,314	\$354,284,704
Agency: OHE		
Roberta Willis Scholarship Program General Fund	\$26,288,637 (+\$15 million carry forward)	\$41,288,637
Minority Advancement Program	\$1,674,835	\$1,674,835
Minority Teacher Incentive Program	\$570,134	\$570,134
Student Loan Forgiveness	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Health Care Adjunct Grant Program (Publics only)	\$260,000	\$260,000
Agency: SDE		
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	\$6,000,000	\$4,000,000
Dual Enrollment	\$0	\$6,000,000
Talent Development		\$4 million
Agency: CSCU		
Debt-Free Community College (PACT)	\$34,150,000	\$36,450,000
PACT Expansion (Finish Line Scholarship)	\$0	\$7,700,000
Learn and Earn (NEW)	\$0	\$175,000

Below you will find a detailed summary of all legislation that passed impacting, or of interest to, the independent colleges.

KEY LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

State Budget Bill Summary

PA 26-68: AN ACT CONCERNING AFFORDABILITY, is the comprehensive biennium budget adjustment bill. Totalling over 700-pages, this bill includes both the budget adjustments for FY 27 as well as the bond package and a myriad of other pieces of legislation. The FY 27 biennium budget changes are highlighted above. A complete bill summary can be reviewed [here](#).

Of interest to CCIC Member Institutions, this bill:

- **AI Symposium Grant:** Allocates \$90,000 from DECD to the CT AI Alliance for FY 27 for an AI Symposium grant. (Sec. 50)
- **Health Information Exchange:** Moves the management of the Health Information Exchange (“CONNIE”) to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) due to the elimination of the Office of Health Strategy. Institutions of higher education are presently required to participate in CONNIE. (Sec. 78 – 83, 157)
- **Department of Correction nurse and social worker student loan reimbursement program (NEW):** Authorizes the Office of Higher Education to be the administrator of a bond allocation of \$10 million for a new loan reimbursement program for nurses and social workers that work in the Department of Corrections. See HB 5567 described under the Judiciary bills below. (Sec. 324)
- **Productivity Study:** Requires OPM to develop a plan for a productivity surcharge on employers that reduce their workforce due to innovation. (Sec. 274).
- **CHESLA Graduate Loan Program:** Includes a \$30 million bond allocation in support of a new graduate lending program administered by CHESLA to supplant the elimination of the federal Grad PLUS program. (Sec. 340)
- **Workforce Housing:** Requires the Commissioner of Housing and the executive director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to seek partnerships with one or more municipalities or hospitals located in the state to increase workforce housing options. (Sec. 351)
- **Tuition Assistance for QU Medical School:** Authorizes the State Bond Commission to issue bonds not greater than \$20 million to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for the purpose of supporting tuition for medical students at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. (Sec. 352)
- **Willis Scholarship:** Permits the OHE, with OPM’s approval, to enter contracts with Connecticut higher education institutions on and after January 1 annually to commit funds for Roberta B. Willis needs-based scholarships in the following fiscal year. The total amount committed cannot exceed the appropriation for this purpose for the (1) current fiscal year if no budget has been adopted for the following fiscal year or (2) following fiscal year as approved in the state budget. (Sec. 380)
- **Teacher Apprenticeship Program:** Requires, starting in FY 27, that SDE administer a teacher apprenticeship program within available appropriations. (Sec. 381)

- **Support for New Promise Programs:** Requires OHE to hire a consultant to assist with the establishment of new Promise programs throughout the state. See more details below. (Sec. 382)
- **Student Loan Ombudsmen Moved to OHE:** Transfers the Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman from the Department of Banking (DOB) to OHE. Among other things, the ombudsman’s office is responsible for (1) helping student loan borrowers resolve complaints and understand their rights and responsibilities and (2) analyzing and monitoring laws that affect borrowers and recommending changes to them. (Sec. 385, 386)
- **Finish Line Scholar Program Modifications:** Changes the eligibility for Finish Line Scholars to require PACT recipients complete their associate’s degree at CT State to be eligible for the Scholarship program. SB 470, the budget clean-up bill, makes additional changes to the program’s eligibility, described below.

Legislation Impacting Higher Education

Higher Education and Employment Committee Bills

(Note: Many of the higher education bills were rolled into other bills this session and therefore the summary is organized by issue not bill number)

Roberta Willis Scholarship Program

Pursuant to the budget bill, Section 380, OHE, with OPM’s approval, is now authorized to enter contracts with Connecticut higher education institutions on and after January 1 annually to commit funds for Roberta B. Willis needs-based scholarships in the following fiscal year. In years past, OHE was not authorized to enter into contracts with institutions until after the state budget passed.

Per the new legislation, the total amount committed by OHE cannot exceed the appropriation for this purpose for the (1) current fiscal year if no budget has been adopted for the following fiscal year or (2) following fiscal year as approved in the state budget.

- **Bill (Sec. 380)**

Dual Credit

PA 26-18 AN ACT CONCERNING DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS, amends current law to allow higher education institutions to apply to SDE for reimbursement for fee waivers given to a high-need student in an advanced class or program.

Existing law, beginning in FY 27, creates a high-need student fee- waiver grant program to expand opportunities for high-need high school students to access advanced courses or programs such as dual and concurrent enrollment courses. Currently, only a school board can apply to SDE for reimbursement for fees, such as tuition, paid on behalf of a high-need student. The bill also specifies that higher education institutions that receive a grant cannot charge the student’s parents any course or program enrollment costs.

The bill also requires SDE to appoint a dual and concurrent enrollment course coordinator by January 1, 2027, to track establishment of these courses and student outcomes, such as completion rates and grades, by school district.

- [Bill](#)
- [Testimony](#)

Finish Line Scholars Program - Eligibility Modifications

The comprehensive budget bill, [PA 26-68](#), makes changes to the Finish Line Scholars program, scheduled to launch this fall by CSCU. Under current law, a qualifying student must have completed at least 60 credits at CT State through the PACT (now Mary Ann Handley program) to be eligible to participate in the Finish Line Scholars' program. The bill modifies this by instead requiring that the student received an associate's degree at CT State.

[PA 26-76](#) further clarified that the Associate's Degree must have been earned in the fall semester of 2025, the spring semester of 2026, or any semester thereafter to receive free tuition for their final two years at a CSU, thus significantly narrowing eligibility. Additionally, [PA 26-76](#) requires that to be eligible for the Finish Line Scholars program, a qualifying student must have not only participated in the Mary Ann Handley program but had also maintained eligibility throughout their participation.

- [PA 26-68 \(Sec. 470\)](#)
- [PA 26-76 \(Sec. 56\)](#)
- [Appropriations Testimony from CSCU](#)

State Support for New Promise Programs

Language was included in the state budget bill, [PA 26-68](#), that was pulled from [HB 380: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force to Support New Promise Programs](#), requiring the Office of Higher Education to hire a consultant to assist with the establishment of new Promise programs throughout the state. This stems from the [CT Promise Task Force Report](#) issued in January 2026.

The law requires that OHE prioritize Promise programs serving students in alliance districts and maintain a goal of establishing eight new promise programs by January 1, 2031.

Through the program, OHE must:

1. coordinate with municipalities and regional coalitions;
2. provide each new promise program with start-up technical assistance, including on strategies related to funding, stakeholder engagement, program design, evaluation, and sustainability; and
3. hire a consultant with expertise in developing and operating promise programs.

- [Testimony on SB 380](#)

“Learn and Earn”

Sections of [**HB 5478: AN ACT SUPPORTING "LEARN AND EARN" INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**](#) were included in [**PA 26-12**](#), a comprehensive labor and workforce development bill summarized in detail under the Labor Committee bill section below. Of note:

- **Internship Standards:** The UConn Board of Trustees and Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) are required to jointly identify the qualities and best practices of a high-quality internship program, using at least six of the eight National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) career readiness competencies.
- **Employer Training:** The boards must create a syllabus for employers’ online training using these qualities and best practices by January 1, 2027, and BOR must use the syllabus to offer asynchronous online training through Charter Oak State College by July 1, 2027. The bill allows the college to charge a training enrollment fee and requires it to give employers a credential for completing the training. The boards must post on their websites’ information about the qualities and best practices and a link to the online training registration for employers. The budget allocates \$175,000 for both CSCU and UCONN for this purpose.
- **Reporting Requirements:** The bill also requires the following reports to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:
 1. Annually, beginning by July 1, 2028, BOR must report on the number of employers receiving the credential in the prior fiscal year.
 2. ***By January 1, 2027, each higher education institution in the state – including CCIC institutions – must report on the internship opportunities available to their students through their career services offices, including the types of employers offering internships, quality measures used to ensure students have a valuable experience, and other relevant information.***
 3. By February 1, 2027, the Department of Administrative Services must survey state agencies and report on their internship programs, including whether an agency has (a) paid internships and (b) high-quality internship programs according to the qualities and best practices that must be established by the bill.
- **Tax Credit Study:** By January 1, 2028, the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) must consult with the Office of Policy and Management and study the revenue impact of expanding the human capital investment tax credit to cover intern compensation paid by (a) employers who earned the online training credential and (b) an S corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or limited partnership that earned the credential.

CCIC will work with our member institutions to support the reporting requirement required in this legislation and will communicate with Institutional Researchers and Career Services colleagues later this summer.

- [**Testimony on HB 5478: AN ACT SUPPORTING "LEARN AND EARN" INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**](#)

Scholarship Displacement

The legislature passed a Scholarship Displacement bill on the last night of session. It passed as an amendment to an economic development bill, [PA 26-122](#). The language in the amendment (linked below) **applies only to public colleges** that participate in the Roberta Willis Scholarship Program and it requires those public colleges to reduce loans first when a low-income student that receives a Pell or Willis grant has unmet need and receives an outside private scholarship.

- [Bill](#)
- [Testimony](#)

Advisors in Disciplinary Hearings (Bill Died)

This bill required higher education institutions to adopt a policy by August 1, 2026, allowing students to designate an advisor or support person to assist and support them in disciplinary proceedings that may result in suspension, probation, expulsion, or a ban from participating in intercollegiate athletics. The bill was amended and passed in the House on the last night of session to apply only to public institutions of higher education but failed to receive a final vote in the Senate and therefore died for this session.

- [Bill](#)
- [Testimony](#)

Children's Committee Bills

PA 26-26: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD WELFARE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY, among other things, requires DCF to:

- Establish, by January 1, 2027, (1) a first-year **social worker mentorship program** for newly hired social workers and (2) a prospective **social worker internship program** (in consultation with higher education institutions) for students enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program in a relevant field. DCF is required to pay a stipend to each intern and mentor who successfully complete the program.
- Establish a **postsecondary education grant program** for foster youth by January 1, 2027. The program must give grants to fund postsecondary education, meaning programs that lead to an academic degree, vocation certification, or trade, for youths who were adopted through DCF's foster care program on or after January 1, 2005, prior to turning 18 years old, and (2) consent to remain in DCF care after turning 18 years old. Under the bill, young people cannot participate in the program after they turn 21 years old. However, with DCF's permission, they may continue to participate until they (1) turn 24 years old or (2) complete their postsecondary education program, whichever happens first.

PA 26-48: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, among other things, renames the P20 WIN program "Data Link Connecticut" (or "DataLinkCT") in five sections of statute without otherwise changing the law.

The program is a state data system used to match and integrate data from certain labor- and education-related state agencies, colleges and universities, and other organizations to inform policy and practice for education, workforce, and supportive service efforts. CCIC is a participating agency of DataLinkCT. (Sec.501-506)

Commerce Committee Bills

PA 26-48: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE COMMERCE STATUTES,

restructures the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) by removing the word "minority" from economic development programs, focusing instead on "historically underserved communities" and census metrics. The bill also streamlines DECD, allowing the commissioner to shift staff, and modifies reporting requirements. In addition, this bill was amended to also include language to ban Scholarship Displacement at public colleges, described above.

PA 26-23: AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM,

requires DECD to develop a plan to establish an artificial intelligence small business program, in consultation with other relevant state agencies, public institutions of higher education or any other public entity that DECD deems necessary.

PA 26-78 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT-GERMANY TRADE COMMISSION,

creates two new trade commissions within the Legislative Department: the **Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission** and the **Connecticut-India Trade Commission**. Under the bill, each commission must do the following between Connecticut and its respective country:

1. advance bilateral trade and investment;
2. initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest;
3. promote business and academic exchanges;
4. encourage mutual economic support and infrastructure;
5. investment;
6. address other issues it determines; and
7. for the Connecticut-India Trade Commission, explore new opportunities for collaboration in the arts and technology.

Both Commissions require appointments of representatives from public colleges in Connecticut by the Governor but opportunities exist for interested individuals from CCIC membership institutions to be appointed as experts in particular areas as well. The bill summary, linked [here](#), outlines the various appointments to each Commission.

26-24: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY STATE-WIDE MARKETING AND TOURISM IN THE STATE, establishes a legislative working group to study statewide marketing and tourism in the state.

Education Committee Bills

PA 26-149: AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT LITERACY

- **Aspiring Educators Scholarship:** Revises the target population for the existing Aspiring Educators Scholarship program from “diverse students” to “aspiring educators” and defines “aspiring educator” as an individual who is in a population subgroup that is underrepresented in the teaching profession in this state and for which such population subgroup has been identified as a teacher shortage area by the Commissioner of Education.
- **American Sign Language:** Requires SDE to establish the American Sign Language (ASL) education working group. The working group is required to make recommendations to SDE on (1) curriculum guidance for ASL instruction; (2) teacher certification standards based on standards set by the ASL Teachers Association and the ASL Proficiency Interview, and (3) guidance to **educator preparation programs** in the state for (a) expanding ASL and interpretation education programs and (b) incentives to become an ASL educator.

PA 26-139: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES:

- **Armed Security Guards:** Allows retired parole officers to provide armed security services in public schools; prohibits police and parole officers who left employment during an investigation or after disciplinary action from providing armed security services in schools. (Sec. 1)
- **School Administrator Mentorship Program:** Requires the Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards to create a new school administrator mentorship pilot program. (Sec. 2)
- **Repeal of Educator Preparation Regulations:** Delays the effective date of the repeal of various educator preparation regulations from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027. (Sec. 6)
- **Mathematics Pathways, Instruction, and Specialist Guidance:** Requires SDE to (1) redesign the state’s high school mathematics pathways, (2) develop a list of professional development providers for high quality mathematics instruction, (3) explore the feasibility of launching MathConn, and (4) develop mathematics specialist guidelines. (Sec. 10)

Energy & Technology Committee Bills

PA 26-46: AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED NUCLEAR ENERGY, requires the Connecticut Council for Advancing Nuclear Energy Development, within available appropriations, to study the demand for skilled labor in the advanced nuclear energy industry, including the development of nuclear power technologies such as small modular reactors, micro-reactors, or reactors that use cooling sources such as molten salt, liquid metal, or high temperature gas. In connection with the study, the bill allows the council to recommend legislation or regulations needed to support the development, expansion, and operations of advanced nuclear energy technologies in the state. These include recommendations about:

1. ways to meet the need for skilled trades workers and other services or labor providers;
2. creating opportunities for state agencies to collaborate with federal agencies, higher education institutions, businesses, nonprofits, and other stakeholders with an interest in the advanced nuclear energy industry; and

3. any other strategies to promote developing a skilled labor workforce to meet the industry's needs.

General Law Committee Bills

PA 26-15: AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE SAFETY, is the state's comprehensive AI bill. This bill creates a regulatory framework for the use of AI in the state and creates various programs to support the adoption of AI across K-12, higher education and into the workforce. The bill creates substantial new opportunities for institutional participation in AI workforce development, research collaboration, and statewide policy implementation.

To view the bill summary, click [here](#). To read a summary of the employment-related provisions and their potential impact to employers, click [here](#).

Of particular interest to CCIC institutions:

- **AI Regulatory Sandbox:** Requires the DECD commissioner, in consultation with various other commissioners, to develop a plan to create an AI regulatory sandbox program and contact established programs to assess the feasibility of a reciprocal multi-state program. (Sec. 3)
- **CT Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) Liaison:** Allows four legislative leaders to request CASE members to serve as a liaison between the academy and state government; requires liaisons to serve certain purposes, such as evaluating the adoption of AI by businesses. (Sec. 16)
- **CT AI Academy:** Requires the BOR, through Charter Oak, to establish a "Connecticut AI Academy" to curate and offer online courses on AI and its responsible use; requires DOL, SOTS, DOH, and the early childhood commissioner to give certain information about the academy to specific people and businesses. (Sec. 17, 19-22 & 30)
- **AI Working Group:** Establishes a working group within the Legislative Department to engage stakeholders and experts to make recommendations on certain AI-related issues; requires the group to report by February 1, 2027. There are two academic appointments to the working group. (Sec. 18)
- **Computer Science Education and Workforce Development Account:** Expands the purposes of the "computer science education account" to allow SDE to make expenditures to support workforce development initiatives. (Sec 23).
- **Technology Talent and Innovation Fund Advisory Committee:** Repurposes the "Technology Talent Advisory Committee" to develop programs to expand the state's technology talent pipeline in the fields of AI and quantum computing. The DECD commissioner determines the committee's size and appoints the members, which must at least include representatives of UConn, BOR, independent institutions of higher education, the Office of Workforce Strategy, and private industry. There is a \$10 million bond allocation for the Technology Talent Fund that has not yet been approved by the bond commission. (Sec. 24 & 25)
- **Teacher Preparation Programs:** Allows teacher preparation programs to include instruction on responsible use of emerging technologies. (Sec. 27)

- **Future DECD Strategic Plans:** Requires the commissioner, for strategic plans developed on or after July 1, 2026, to consult with CASE and consider plans to foster innovation in advanced manufacturing, AI, quantum computing, robotics, and other emerging technologies. It also requires the plan to include a strategic technology plan for similar purposes and have an analysis of how the strategic technology plan will promote economic growth and development in the state. (Sec. 28)
- **Study on AI Impact on State Workforce:** Requires UCONN's IMRP to conduct a study to understand and track AI's impact on the state's workforce and develop a comprehensive strategy to address it. (Sec. 29)
- **CT AI Alliance:** Requires OHE, within existing appropriations, to work with an alliance of higher education institutions to coordinate research, workforce development, and industry partnerships across academic institutions by:
 1. convening an annual research symposium to present and highlight AI research in the state;
 2. convening quarterly meetings of academic, industry, and public institutions to identify the state's workforce, skill, and programmatic needs related to AI;
 3. implementing a talent-matching program that (a) matches students with industry-led projects in the AI field, including projects focused on state and municipal AI use, and (b) implements an AI talent pipeline;
 4. (a) holding an annual competition that is open to the public (including students) that requires participants to use AI to help solve challenges state agencies identify, and (b) within 60 days after the competition, preparing a report disclosing potential solutions to, and best practices to address, the challenges and submitting the report to the DECD commissioner and the General Law Committee;
 5. fostering connections between technology transfer programs at Connecticut public and private higher education institutions; and
 6. creating a plan to give researchers and students shared access to high-performance computing. (Sec. 31)
- **Computer Science in Public School Curriculum:** Adds computer science to the state's required program of instruction for public schools and requires that it cover AI and emerging technologies. (Sec. 34)

PA 26-53: AN ACT CONCERNING GAMING, among other things, prohibits gaming advertising at athletic facilities on higher education institution campuses or on websites, social media, online services, or mobile apps of, or maintained by or on behalf of, these institutions. This does not apply to an announcement, sign, or display that is directed at a general audience. (Sec. 3)

PA 26-128: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION, seeks to establish a task force to study the operations of the Department of Consumer Protection. Additionally, the bill was amended to require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), not later than January 1, 2028, and in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, to coordinate with an independent institution of higher education with a campus located in the city of West Haven to establish a state-wide, one-day training program for police officers in the state in order to increase law enforcement retention and readiness.

Government Administration and Elections Committee Bills

PA 26-73: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF EMPLOYEES, requires employers who electronically monitor their employees to:

1. include the specific workplace locations that may be monitored in the notice they are already required to post about the types of monitoring they conduct;
2. post the notice in the locations where monitoring may occur; and
3. give prospective employees, hired on or after October 1, 2026, a written, plain-language statement on prohibited activities that may be monitored without prior written notice

Under the bill, an employer is not required to disclose the specific locations that they are electronically monitoring their employees if the employer has reasonable grounds to monitor for security and employee safety.

Government Oversight Committee Bills

PA 26-49: AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OVER HIGHER EDUCATION, makes several changes to reporting requirements related to the public higher education system. Additionally, the bill adds the Government Oversight Committee to the list of legislative committees that must receive the Planning Commission for Higher Education's updated higher education strategic master plan and its annual reports on the plan's progress.

PA 26-27: AN ACT REQUIRING TRANSPARENCY AND ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN LEGISLATIVELY DIRECTED FUNDS, addresses the management and oversight of legislatively directed funds (LDFs) and agencies' "Other Expenses" appropriations by creating requirements for LDF recipients and subrecipients, administering state agencies (defined as executive branch entities other than public higher education institutions), and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Specifically, the bill:

1. generally limits state agencies from entering written agreements to provide funds to an entity at the direction of the General Assembly, unless the General Assembly has included specific recipient information in legislation or in the Office of Fiscal Analysis' (OFA) budget sheets;
2. requires OPM to adopt policies and procedures for state agencies that administer LDFs, in order to have uniform procedures across agencies and ensure LDFs are distributed in a way that achieves their intended purpose;
3. requires reports and publications by LDF recipients, state agencies, OPM, and the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA); and
4. prohibits certain uses of agencies' Other Expenses appropriations and creates a transition process for certain non-compliant uses.

Judiciary Committee Bills

PA 26-40: AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION FACILITIES, among other things, creates a new program, administered by OHE, to give student loan reimbursement grants, within available bond authorizations, to licensed nurses and clinical social workers (LCSWs) who work for the Department of Corrections (DOC) in positions requiring this licensure. The maximum annual grants are \$5,000, and the cumulative total for any person

is \$20,000. To receive the grants, eligible people must apply to OHE and be employed in a qualifying position when they apply.

Applicants may request reimbursement for qualifying employment from previous years if they did not already receive reimbursement for those payments under this or another program.

Under the bill, any unspent funds appropriated for the program do not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and are available for the next fiscal year. In any fiscal year in which funds are appropriated for the program, OHE may spend up to 5% of the funds for program administration, promotion, and recruitment. (Sec. 6)

[PA 26-77: AN ACT REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE HATE CRIMES STATUTES](#), makes several changes consolidating all the various hate crimes under current law. To review the bill summary, click [here](#).

[Labor Committee Bills](#)

[PA 26-12: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE STATE](#), addresses several employment and workforce related provisions. See [here](#) for a complete summary from the legislature and another summary for employers from a local law firm [here](#). Of particular interest to CCIC's member institutions, this bill:

- **Labor and Employment Changes:** Makes a number of changes impacting many aspects of the employer-employee relationship in the private sector including:
 1. Wage Transparency
 2. Employment Promissory Notes
 3. Mandatory Lactation Accommodations
 4. ADA Accommodation Notice Requirements
 5. Pay Stub Transparency
 6. Successor Employer Obligations for Service Contracts and Property Transfers
 7. Contractor Joint and Several Liability for Wage Theft
- **Certified Nursing Assistant Training Program Grant:** Requires DPH, starting in FY 27 and within available appropriations, to establish and administer a grant program to expand certified nursing assistant (CNA) training programs in the greater Hartford area and rural communities in the state. The program must give grants to organizations that educate and train prospective CNAs in these areas. (Sec. 34)
- **Learn & Earn:** Includes sections from HB 5478, described in detail above, regarding high quality internships at post-secondary institutions in Connecticut. (Sec. 57-62).
- **First Responder Tuition Waivers at CSCU:** Requires the Board of Regents to annually waive CT State and CSU tuition for (1) 200 eligible first responders (police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service (EMS) personnel) who meet eligibility requirements and are enrolled or accepted for admission, and (2) students attending the state fire school who are enrolled in a program offered together with the respective college or university that accredits courses in the program. The bill caps the total number of these waivers at CT State and CSCU at 200 per school year, respectively, and outlines eligibility requirements. (Sec. 65-72)

- **Fee Waivers for National Guard Members:** Waives all mandatory fees for eligible National Guard members enrolled at CT State, CSCU, or UConn under the existing tuition waiver program. (Sec. 69-71)
- **Public Safety Personnel Recruitment and Retention Task Force:** Establishes a task force to study recruitment and retention issues for public safety personnel. The study must examine the feasibility and fiscal impact of the state providing: 1. tuition waivers, mortgage assistance, and tax credits to correction officers and judicial marshals; 2. tuition waivers to dependent children of police officers, uniformed members of paid or volunteer fire departments, and EMS personnel; 3. tuition waivers for undergraduate and graduate degree programs at UConn to police officers, uniformed members of paid or volunteer fire departments, and EMS personnel; and 4. tuition vouchers for public safety personnel to any accredited higher education institution in Connecticut. The University of New Haven has an appointment on the Committee. (Sec. 73)
- **Police Officer and Firefighter Career Pipeline Program:** Requires the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) to develop a plan to establish a police officer and firefighter career pipeline program that includes (1) a strategy to increase the number of state residents pursuing careers as police officers or firefighters and (2) estimated funding needed to support a police officer and firefighter career pipeline program. OWS must report on its plan to legislative committees. (Sec. 74)

PA 26-99: AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL, changes the membership of the Governor's Workforce Council to comply with federal law, which requires a majority of the governor's appointments to the council to be business representatives. It does so by increasing the number of the governor's appointments of business representatives from 24 to 30, among other things.

Public Health Committee Bills

PA 26-13: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES, allows an **infirmary operated by an educational institution** to provide care to dependent family members of students, faculty and employees when these family members are enrolled in the institution's health plan. (Sec. 1)

PA 26-3: AN ACT ESTABLISHING CONNECTICUT VACCINE STANDARDS, expands and formalizes the authority of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish statewide immunization standards and vaccine schedules for both children and adults. Accordingly, section 7 of the bill requires institutions of higher education to require matriculating students to provide proof of adequate immunization against measles, rubella, mumps and varicella, **as set forth by the state**. Current law requires institutions to follow the recommendations of the national Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices. To read the bill summary, click [here](#).

Other Bills

PA 26-1: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REALLOCATION OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, GENERAL GOVERNMENT,

ELECTIONS, INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES AND WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS, passed in March 2026 as an emergency certified bill and includes various provisions on a wide range of issues. Of note, the bill:

- **Working Group to Address Antisemitism in Schools:** Establishes a 15-member working group to address antisemitism in public schools. Under the bill, the group must develop guidance and resources to address issues relating to antisemitism that affect students, families, educators, and school personnel. Appointments of relevance to higher education include:
 - House Minority Leader: Current or former faculty member of a college or university with expertise in curriculum development and knowledge and proven experience in addressing antisemitism and teaching Jewish heritage.
 - Senate Minority Leader: Leader at college or university in the state with knowledge and expertise in program development addressing antisemitism curriculum.
- **Kindergarten Waivers:** Makes the kindergarten waiver process optional for school districts starting July 1, 2026, and eliminates the optional waiver process starting July 1, 2027. Existing law generally requires a child to be at least age five by September 1 of the school year in order to enroll in public school kindergarten. But current law establishes a mandatory waiver process that allows children under age five to be admitted if the (1) child’s parent or guardian makes a written request to the school principal and (2) principal and an appropriate certified school staff member do an assessment that shows the child is developmentally ready. Starting July 1, 2026, the bill makes the waiver process optional for school districts by allowing children under age five to enroll in kindergarten only if the school board adopts an early admissions policy. Any admissions policy must require the same written request and evaluation as required under current law. Starting July 1, 2027, the bill eliminates this waiver process entirely (both mandatory and optional).

Key Legislation that Died

The following bills did not receive final passage before adjournment:

SB 396: AN ACT PERMITTING NINETY-CREDIT DEGREE PROGRAMS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE

HB 5426: AN ACT REQUIRING THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ADVISOR DURING DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SB 428: AN ACT CONCERNING RESEARCH FUNDING AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE