

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-158—sHB 7131

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS IN
PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

SUMMARY: This act requires the chief workforce officer, by September 1, 2025, to evaluate Department of Public Health (DPH)-approved paramedic certificate programs and identify those that qualify as high-value certificate programs. It makes students in these identified programs eligible for loans from the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA), if they are otherwise eligible for student loans.

The act requires CHESLA, within available funding, to create a high-value certificate loan program to offer loans to students in high-value certificate programs, including students in the paramedic certificate programs identified as high-value certificate programs.

It requires the Office of Workforce Strategy, starting by October 1, 2025, to annually (1) identify a list of public or private financial aid sources for students of DPH-approved paramedic certificate programs, (2) post the list on its website, and (3) give it to the programs for their students.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

High-Value Certificate Programs

By law, a high-value certificate program is a noncredit, sub-baccalaureate certificate program that is (1) offered by a higher education institution or private career school and (2) identified by the chief workforce officer as meeting the needs of employers.