



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 Section 10a-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the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. The university
13 shall award such grants within available appropriations. Each grant
14 recipient shall receive a grant for four years in the amount of the
15 difference between the cost of in-state tuition and out-of-state tuition at
16 the veterinary graduate school approved by the university under said
17 program. Such grant shall be issued in the form of a student loan that

18 shall (1) not be subject to repayment, and (2) be forgiven at a rate of
19 twenty per cent per annum over the course of five years, provided such
20 grant recipient, after graduating from veterinary school and completing
21 any subsequent professional training, is a state resident and practicing
22 veterinarian, licensed pursuant to chapter 384, working in the state.
23 Such student loan shall be subject to repayment for any remaining
24 balance of such student loan if a grant recipient ceases to be a state
25 resident or a practicing veterinarian in the state at any time during the
26 first five years after graduating from veterinary school and completing
27 any subsequent professional training.

28 (d) The University of Connecticut shall enter into a memorandum of
29 understanding with the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental
30 Loan Authority for the issuance of forgivable student loans pursuant to
31 the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2027	10a-19h

