



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 223

LCO No. 1394



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PARAEDUCATOR HEALTH CARE
SUBSIDY PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 203 of public act 23-204, as amended by section 124
2 of public act 24-81, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as provided in section
6 38a-1080 of the general statutes, and

7 (2) "Partnership plan" has the same meaning as provided in section 3-
8 123aaa of the general statutes.

9 (b) For the fiscal [years] year ending [June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025]
10 June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller shall
11 establish a program to provide a subsidy, within available
12 appropriations, to each paraeducator who (1) opens a health savings
13 account, pursuant to Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,

14 or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United
15 States, as amended from time to time, or is eligible for Medicare and
16 enrolls in a high deductible health plan, and (2) is employed [by a local
17 or regional board of education] in a public school. Such subsidy shall be
18 in an amount up to a certain percentage, as specified by the Comptroller,
19 of the deductible for the health plan in which such paraeducator is
20 enrolled, minus the amount of any employer contributions to a health
21 savings account or health reimbursement account, and not exceeding an
22 amount specified by the Comptroller. No paraeducator may receive
23 more than one subsidy pursuant to this section. The Comptroller may
24 work with the local or regional board of education that employs such
25 paraeducator to distribute such subsidy.

26 (c) For the fiscal year ending [June 30, 2025] June 30, 2027, and each
27 fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller shall establish a program to
28 provide a subsidy, from any funds appropriated for such purpose, to
29 each local or regional board of education that provides coverage to
30 paraeducators and their dependents under a health benefit plan or a
31 partnership plan for such fiscal year or any portion thereof. Such
32 subsidy shall be (1) in an amount not more than ten per cent of the
33 aggregate premium cost, inclusive of the employee and employer
34 shares, paid by such board of education for coverage under such health
35 benefit plan or partnership plan, divided by the number of
36 paraeducators employed by such board of education and enrolled in
37 health coverage, and (2) used to offset the employee's share of such
38 premium that is deducted from the payroll check of each paraeducator
39 employed by such board of education during any pay period during
40 such fiscal year. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a
41 local or regional board of education that provides coverage under a high
42 deductible health plan, as that term is used in subsection (f) of section
43 38a-520 of the general statutes. Pursuant to the provisions of subsection
44 (b) of section 10-66dd of the general statutes, the provisions of this
45 section shall apply to charter schools.

46 [(d) The Comptroller and the Commissioner of Education shall enter

47 into a memorandum of understanding, in accordance with the
48 provisions of section 4-97b of the general statutes, to allow the
49 Comptroller to utilize the sum of \$5,000,000 that is appropriated to the
50 Department of Education for assistance to paraeducators pursuant to
51 section 1 of public act 23-204 to implement the provisions of this
52 section.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	PA 23-204, Sec. 203

Statement of Purpose:

To clarify eligibility of paraeducators employed in public schools, including, but not limited to, charter schools, for the health care subsidy program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]