

An Act Concerning the Admission of State Residents to Veterinary Schools

CT HB 5338, SA 24-22



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This Act requires UConn to assess the feasibility and cost of restarting the Kirklyn M. Kerr program, established pursuant to section 10a-19h of the general statutes, with a school of veterinary medicine that is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, with the purpose of supporting the veterinary medicine education of Connecticut students.

UConn Report

Evidence of prior success with the Kirklyn M. Kerr program

Between 2008 and 2018, the program supported 76 students who were trained at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. These contracted spots provided guaranteed seats and in-state tuition rates for Connecticut residents admitted to their Veterinary Medicine Program.

Response to CT HB 5338, SA 24-22

To determine feasibility and cost of restarting this program, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR) requested proposals from 35 accredited schools of veterinary medicine. Six schools responded and three were determined feasible based on: 1) commitment for at least 10 spots for Connecticut residents per year, 2) current Connecticut resident interest (based on applications and matriculated students), 3) ranking, and 4) robust, comprehensive program with multiple species for clinical case training.

The cost to implement this program will be approximately \$1.3-\$1.6 million per year depending on tuition and fee levels. A summary of costs is provided in **Table 1**. This will support up to 40 Connecticut residents per year (10 accepted per year). The cost is based on differential tuition between in-state and out-of-state, except for Tufts University, which uses a differential tuition program so this was calculated at 40% of out-of-state tuition to be in line with US average in-state tuition costs. The average tuition costs per student, per year are estimated based on the values provided by each institution based on 2024/2025 tuition rates for years one to four, accounting for 2 to 4% increase each year. Tufts also requires indirect costs (15%) which were added to the total cost per student. Two schools require an annual administrative fee, and we included an administrative fee to cover CAHNR staff time used to administer the program on behalf of the state and coordinate with the selected university(ies) to select Connecticut residents for the reserved seats.

Based on the cost to the state of Connecticut, cost to each student, acceptance rate, and training opportunities at each school, we believe all three schools are viable options for the *Kirklyn M. Kerr program*. We summarized the benefits of each program below and recognize that when this program is funded, we would need to establish a memorandum of agreement with the selected institution(s).

Tufts University is in Massachusetts and is in close proximity to Connecticut, which is desirable to Connecticut residents who prefer to attend school closer to home. In addition, as indicated in their report, on average 15 Connecticut residents are admitted to Tufts each year, with 13 matriculating last year. We anticipate more will apply and be admitted with this tuition program demonstrating a great desire by Connecticut residents to attend this school. In addition, if students attend a Northeast regional school, they are more likely to stay in the Northeast and possibly return to Connecticut for employment. Tufts also offers an early admission program through some institutions which we believe would be beneficial to Connecticut residents seeking to secure a seat in veterinary school. Tufts provides diverse clinical training with companion animals, livestock, and wildlife/exotics.

Iowa State University was the previous partner institution when the *Kirklyn M. Kerr program* was actively funded. Our previous agreement for contracted seats served over 75 Connecticut residents. This demonstrates feasibility and interest from Connecticut residents to attend Iowa State University. Iowa State does not add an additional administrative fee, which is desirable as all of the funds requested will be used to support students. Iowa State provides comprehensive training and clinical cases for companion animals and livestock species.

University of Georgia offers a highly ranked, robust program that has recently revised their curriculum. They also offer a similar in-state tuition program with other states and are eager to fill at least 10 seats with guaranteed Connecticut residents. Similar to Tufts, they require an administrative fee to reserve seats for Connecticut residents.

Please note that the specific costs listed in the table below are for the 2024/2025 academic year. If the state provides funding for the program in FY26, a formal MOU process would need to be completed, and the costs may increase based on current tuition and fee levels.

Table 1.

University	Slots Committed	In-State Tuition*	Out-of-State Tuition	CT Differential**	School's Administrative Fee/Year	Cost per Student for 4 Years***	Cost per Year for 10 Students Admitted/Year****	UConn Administrative Fee/Year	TOTAL State Cost Request/Year
Tufts University*****	10	\$63,484.00	\$69,984.00	\$27,993.60	\$25,000.00	\$141,597.46	\$1,415,974.58	\$10,000.00	\$1,425,974.58
Iowa State University	10	\$32,374.25	\$64,650.75	\$32,276.50	N/A	\$142,543.44	\$1,425,434.35	\$10,000.00	\$1,435,434.35
University of Georgia	10	\$22,989.00	\$52,651.00	\$29,662.00	\$58,780.00	\$133,695.59	\$1,336,955.86	\$10,000.00	\$1,346,955.86

* anticipated 2% to 4% increase annually based on school

** varies based on tuition program at each school; Tufts 40% tuition remission for out-of-state plus 15% indirect cost)

*** average based on individual year tuition costs at each institution (includes 15% indirect cost for Tufts)

**** 10 students per year accepted. Administrative fee required by Tufts and UGA included