



Governor Ned Lamont

Fact Sheet: 2026 Legislative Proposal

HOUSE BILL 5046

AN ACT SUPPORTING FIREFIGHTER AND POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

The Current Situation

Nationally and in Connecticut, firefighter and police forces continue to see declining staffing and hiring trends, which have serious implications for public safety. Reduced forces can lead to slower emergency response times, increased misconduct, and faster burnout. This trend is driven by increased retirements, declining applicants, high turnover, and collapsing institutional trust. Strategic recruitment and retention strategies are imperative to building back our firefighter and police forces.

Governor Lamont's Solution

Waives tuition and fees for undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut State University System, and the Connecticut State Community College for police officers and firefighters with five or more years of service, and students attending the Connecticut Fire Academy. The bill also requires the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to develop a mortgage assistance program for firefighters and police officers. The goal of these incentives is to attract more firefighter and police applicants and retain those currently serving.