



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6833

LCO No. 3844



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS'
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES
RELATING TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4-124s of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2025*):

4 (a) For purposes of this section:

5 (1) "Regional council of governments" means any such council
6 organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive;

7 (2) "Municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town and
8 borough;

9 (3) "Legislative body" means the board of selectmen, town council,
10 city council, board of [alderman] aldermen, board of directors, board of
11 representatives or board of the warden and burgesses of a municipality;

12 (4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and

13 Management or the designee of the secretary;

14 (5) "Regional educational service center" has the same meaning as
15 provided in section 10-282; and

16 (6) "Employee organization" means any lawful association, labor
17 organization, federation or council having as a primary purpose the
18 improvement of wages, hours and other conditions of employment.

19 Sec. 2. Section 7-339hh of the general statutes is repealed and the
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

21 Costs authorized for payment from a district master plan fund,
22 established pursuant to section 7-339gg, are limited to:

23 (1) Costs of improvements made within the tax increment district,
24 including, but not limited to, (A) capital costs, including, but not limited
25 to, (i) the acquisition or construction of land, improvements,
26 infrastructure, public ways, parks, buildings, structures, railings, street
27 furniture, signs, landscaping, plantings, benches, trash receptacles,
28 curbs, sidewalks, turnouts, recreational facilities, structured parking,
29 transportation improvements, pedestrian improvements and other
30 related improvements, fixtures and equipment for public use; [] (ii) the
31 acquisition or construction of land, improvements, infrastructure,
32 buildings, structures, including facades and signage, fixtures and
33 equipment for industrial, commercial, residential, mixed-use or retail
34 use or transit-oriented development; [] (iii) the demolition, alteration,
35 remodeling, repair or reconstruction of existing buildings, structures
36 and fixtures; (iv) environmental remediation; (v) site preparation and
37 finishing work; and (vi) all fees and expenses associated with the capital
38 cost of such improvements, including, but not limited to, licensing and
39 permitting expenses and planning, engineering, architectural, testing,
40 legal and accounting expenses; (B) financing costs, including, but not
41 limited to, closing costs, issuance costs, reserve funds and capitalized
42 interest; (C) real property assembly costs; (D) costs of technical and
43 marketing assistance programs; (E) professional service costs,

44 including, but not limited to, licensing, architectural, planning,
45 engineering, development and legal expenses; (F) maintenance and
46 operation costs; (G) administrative costs, including, but not limited to,
47 reasonable charges for the time spent by municipal employees, other
48 agencies or third-party entities in connection with the implementation
49 of a district master plan; and (H) organizational costs relating to the
50 planning and the establishment of the tax increment district, including,
51 but not limited to, the costs of conducting environmental impact and
52 other studies and the costs of informing the public about the creation of
53 tax increment districts and the implementation of the district master
54 plan;

55 (2) Costs of improvements that are made outside the tax increment
56 district but are directly related to or are made necessary by the
57 establishment or operation of the tax increment district, including, but
58 not limited to, (A) that portion of the costs reasonably related to the
59 construction, alteration or expansion of any facilities not located within
60 the tax increment district that are required due to improvements or
61 activities within the tax increment district, including, but not limited to,
62 roadways, traffic signalization, easements, sewage treatment plants,
63 water treatment plants or other environmental protection devices, storm
64 or sanitary sewer lines, water lines, electrical lines, improvements to fire
65 stations, and street signs; (B) costs of public safety and public school
66 improvements made necessary by the establishment of the tax
67 increment district; and (C) costs of funding to mitigate any adverse
68 impact of the tax increment district upon the municipality and its
69 constituents;

70 (3) Costs related to economic development, environmental
71 improvements or employment training associated with the tax
72 increment district, including, but not limited to, (A) economic
73 development programs or events related to the tax increment district;
74 (B) environmental improvement projects developed by the municipality
75 related to the tax increment district; (C) the establishment of permanent
76 economic development revolving loan funds, investment funds and

77 grants; and (D) services and equipment necessary for employment skills
78 development and training, including scholarships to in-state
79 educational institutions for jobs created or retained in the tax increment
80 district; and

81 (4) Costs of improvements that are made outside the tax increment
82 district for the renovation or rehabilitation of a housing development
83 that is a set-aside development, as defined in subsection (a) of section 8-
84 30g, for which development the deed covenants or restrictions that
85 preserve such development as a set-aside development will expire in
86 not more than three years, provided the costs of such improvements are
87 paid pursuant to an agreement between the municipality and the owner
88 of such development in which the owner agrees to renew such deed
89 covenants or restrictions for not less than forty years.

90 Sec. 3. Section 7-393 of the general statutes is repealed and the
91 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

92 Upon the completion of an audit, the independent auditor shall file
93 certified copies of the audit report [with] (1) with the appointing
94 authority, (2) in the case of a town, city or borough, with the clerk of
95 such town, city or borough, (3) in the case of a regional school district,
96 with the clerks of the towns, cities or boroughs in which such regional
97 school district is located and with the board of education, (4) in the case
98 of an audited agency, with the clerks of the towns, cities or boroughs in
99 which such audited agency is located, and (5) in each case, with the
100 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Such copies shall be
101 filed within six months from the end of the fiscal year of the
102 municipality, regional school district or audited agency, but the
103 secretary may grant an extension of not more than thirty days, provided
104 the auditor making the audit and the chief executive officer of the
105 municipality, regional school district or audited agency shall jointly
106 submit a request in writing to the secretary stating the reasons for such
107 extension at least thirty days prior to the end of such six-month period.
108 If the reason for the extension relates to deficiencies in the accounting

109 system of the municipality, regional school district or audited agency,
110 the request must be accompanied by a corrective action plan. The
111 secretary may, after a hearing with the auditor and officials of the
112 municipality, regional school district or audited agency, grant an
113 additional extension if conditions warrant, provided such extension
114 shall not exceed six months from the date the auditor was required to
115 file such copies. Said auditor shall preserve all of his or her working
116 papers employed in the preparation of any such audit until the
117 expiration of five years from the date of filing a certified copy of the
118 audit with the secretary and such working papers shall be available,
119 upon written request and upon reasonable notice from the secretary,
120 during such time for inspection by the secretary or his authorized
121 representative, at the office or place of business of the auditor, during
122 usual business hours. Any municipality, regional school district,
123 audited agency or auditor who fails to have the audit report filed on its
124 behalf within six months from the end of the fiscal year or within the
125 time granted by the secretary shall be referred by the secretary to the
126 Municipal Finance Advisory Commission established pursuant to
127 section 7-394b, assessed a civil penalty of not less than one thousand
128 dollars but not more than fifty thousand dollars or both, except that the
129 secretary may waive such penalties if, in the secretary's opinion, there
130 appears to be reasonable cause for not having completed or provided
131 the required audit report, provided an official of the municipality,
132 regional school district or audited agency or the auditor submits a
133 written request for such waiver. The secretary may impose any civil
134 penalty assessed pursuant to this section against a municipality,
135 regional school district or audited agency in the form of a reduction in
136 the amount of one or more grants awarded by the secretary, including,
137 but not limited to, any grant payable pursuant to section 12-18b.

138 Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 7-576e of the general
139 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
140 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

141 (2) The Municipal Accountability Review Board may designate a tier

142 III municipality as a tier IV municipality based on a finding by the board
 143 that the fiscal condition of such municipality warrants such a
 144 designation based upon an evaluation of the following criteria: (A) The
 145 balance in the municipal reserve fund; (B) the short and long-term
 146 liabilities of the municipality, including, but not limited to, the
 147 municipality's ability to meet minimum funding levels required by law,
 148 contract or court order; (C) the initial budgeted revenue for the
 149 municipality for the past five fiscal years as compared to the actual
 150 revenue received by the municipality for such fiscal years; (D) budget
 151 projections for the following five fiscal years; (E) the economic outlook
 152 for the municipality; (F) the municipality's access to capital markets; and
 153 (G) evidence of unsound or irregular financial practices in relation to
 154 commonly accepted standards in municipal finance that the board
 155 believes may materially affect the municipality's financial condition. For
 156 the purpose of determining whether to make a finding pursuant to this
 157 subdivision, the membership of the board shall additionally include the
 158 chief elected official of such municipality, the treasurer of such
 159 municipality and a member of the legislative body of such municipality,
 160 as selected by such body. In conducting a vote on any such
 161 determination, the treasurer of such municipality shall be a [non-voting]
 162 nonvoting member of the board. The board shall submit such finding
 163 and recommended designation to the secretary, who shall provide for a
 164 thirty-day notice and public comment period related to such finding
 165 and recommendation. Following the public notice and comment period,
 166 the secretary shall forward the board's finding and recommended
 167 designation and a report regarding the comments received in this regard
 168 to the Governor. Following the receipt of such documentation from the
 169 secretary, the Governor may approve or disapprove the board's
 170 recommended designation.

171 Sec. 5. Section 7-576i of the general statutes is repealed and the
 172 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

173 (a) Any designated tier II, III [.] or IV municipality shall be eligible to
 174 receive funding from the Municipal Restructuring Fund, which fund

175 shall be nonlapsing. A designated tier II, III or IV municipality seeking
176 such funds shall submit, for approval by the Secretary of the Office of
177 Policy and Management, a plan detailing its overall restructuring plan,
178 including local actions to be taken and its proposed use of such funds.
179 Notwithstanding section 10-262j, a municipality may, as part of such
180 plan and in consultation with its local board of education, submit a
181 proposed reduction in the minimum budget requirement related to its
182 education budget. The secretary shall consult with the Commissioner of
183 Education in approving or rejecting such proposed reduction. The
184 secretary shall consult with the Municipal Accountability Review Board
185 in making distribution decisions and attaching appropriate conditions
186 thereto, including the timing of any such distributions and whether such
187 funds shall be distributed in the form of a municipal restructuring fund
188 loan subject to repayment by the municipality. The distribution of such
189 assistance funds shall be based on the relative fiscal needs of the
190 requesting municipalities. The secretary may approve all, none or a
191 portion of the funds requested by a municipality. In attaching
192 conditions to such funding, the secretary shall consider the impact of
193 such conditions on the ability of a municipality to meet legal and other
194 obligations. The board shall monitor and report to the secretary on the
195 use of such funds and adherence to the conditions attached thereto. The
196 secretary shall develop and issue guidance on the (1) administration of
197 the Municipal Restructuring Fund, (2) criteria for participation by
198 municipalities and requirements for plan submission, and (3)
199 prioritization for the awarding of assistance funds pursuant to this
200 section. Any municipality that receives funding from the Municipal
201 Restructuring Fund, in addition to the other responsibilities and
202 authority given to the board with respect to designated tiers II, III and
203 IV municipalities, shall be required to receive board approval of its
204 annual budgets.

205 (b) The secretary may distribute funds from the Municipal
206 Restructuring Fund to a third party on behalf of a designated tier II, tier
207 III or tier IV municipality. Funds received by a municipality pursuant to

208 this section may be used, in part, to pay an arbitrator selected pursuant
209 to clause (v) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 7-576e.

210 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
211 in making distributions from the Municipal Restructuring Fund, the
212 board shall give immediate consideration to any municipality that shall
213 default on debt obligations by January 1, 2018, without an immediate
214 distribution of such funds.

215 Sec. 6. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 7-622 of the general
216 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
217 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

218 (3) If the administrator determines that an applicant requesting
219 assistance to pay for repairs to real property is eligible, (A) a licensed
220 home inspector or insurance adjuster with whom the Office of the
221 Comptroller has executed a contract for services, or (B) at such eligible
222 applicant's option, a licensed home inspector or insurance adjuster with
223 experience assessing flood damage who is approved by the
224 administrator and hired by such eligible applicant, shall evaluate the
225 damage to the applicant's property and provide a report concerning
226 such damage to the administrator. Such report shall be in a form and
227 manner prescribed by the administrator, and shall include, but need not
228 be limited to, a description of the damage to such eligible applicant's
229 property and the estimated cost to repair such damage. Not later than
230 thirty days after the receipt of such report, the administrator may award
231 a grant, in accordance with a formula established by the Comptroller, to
232 the eligible applicant, or at the administrator's discretion, provide such
233 grant to a contractor or vendor selected by the applicant to repair such
234 damage. Such formula shall include a reduction in the amount of any
235 such grant equal to any payments received by the applicant pursuant to
236 any claim made against a property and casualty insurance policy held
237 by such applicant for such damage.

238 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 8-216a of the general statutes is

239 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
240 *2025*):

241 (b) Any modification, amendment [,] or replacement of a contract
242 already in existence on or before October 1, 1973, shall not be subject to
243 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section without the mutual
244 consent of the parties thereto.

245 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 12-170d of the general statutes is
246 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
247 *2025*):

248 (a) Beginning with the calendar year 1973 and for each calendar year
249 thereafter, any renter of real property, or of a mobile manufactured
250 home, as defined in section 12-63a, which such renter occupies as his or
251 her home, who meets the qualifications set forth in this section, shall be
252 entitled to receive in the following year in the form of direct payment
253 from the state, a grant in refund of utility and rent bills actually paid by
254 or for such renter on such real property or mobile manufactured home
255 to the extent set forth in section 12-170e. Such grant by the state shall be
256 made upon receipt by the state of a certificate of grant with a copy of the
257 application therefor attached, as provided in section 12-170f. If the rental
258 quarters are occupied by more than one person, it shall be assumed for
259 the purposes of this section and sections 12-170e and 12-170f that each
260 of such persons pays his or her proportionate share of the rental and
261 utility expenses levied thereon and grants shall be calculated on that
262 portion of utility and rent bills paid that are applicable to the person
263 making application for grant under said sections. For purposes of this
264 section and sections 12-170e and 12-170f, a married couple shall
265 constitute one tenant, and a resident of cooperative housing shall be a
266 renter. To qualify for such payment by the state, the renter shall meet
267 qualification requirements in accordance with each of the following
268 subdivisions: (1) (A) At the close of the calendar year for which a grant
269 is claimed be sixty-five years of age or over, or his or her spouse who is
270 residing with such renter shall be sixty-five years of age or over, at the

271 close of such year, or be fifty years of age or over and the surviving
272 spouse of a renter who at the time of his or her death had qualified and
273 was entitled to tax relief under this chapter, provided such spouse was
274 domiciled with such renter at the time of his or her death, or (B) at the
275 close of the calendar year for which a grant is claimed be under age
276 sixty-five and eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations,
277 to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security, or if
278 such renter has not been engaged in employment covered by Social
279 Security and accordingly has not qualified for Social Security benefits
280 but has become qualified for permanent total disability benefits under
281 any federal, state or local government retirement or disability plan,
282 including the Railroad Retirement Act and any government-related
283 teacher's retirement plan, determined by the Secretary of the Office of
284 Policy and Management to contain requirements in respect to
285 qualification for such permanent total disability benefits which are
286 comparable to such requirements under Social Security; (2) shall reside
287 within this state and shall have resided within this state for at least one
288 year or such renter's spouse who is domiciled with such renter shall
289 have resided within this state for at least one year and shall reside within
290 this state at the time of filing the claim and shall have resided within this
291 state for the period for which claim is made; (3) shall have taxable and
292 nontaxable income, the total of which shall hereinafter be called
293 "qualifying income", during the calendar year preceding the filing of
294 such renter's claim in an amount of not more than twenty thousand
295 dollars, jointly with spouse, if married, and not more than sixteen
296 thousand two hundred dollars if unmarried, provided such maximum
297 amounts of qualifying income shall be subject to adjustment in
298 accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-170e, and
299 provided the amount of any Medicaid payments made on behalf of the
300 renter or the spouse of the renter shall not constitute income; and (4)
301 shall not have received financial aid or subsidy from federal, state,
302 county or municipal funds, excluding Social Security receipts,
303 emergency energy assistance under any state program, emergency
304 energy assistance under any federal program, emergency energy

305 assistance under any local program, payments received under the
 306 federal Supplemental Security Income Program, payments derived
 307 from previous employment, veterans and veterans disability benefits
 308 and subsidized housing accommodations, during the calendar year for
 309 which a grant is claimed, for payment, directly or indirectly, of rent,
 310 electricity, gas, water and fuel applicable to the rented residence.
 311 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection, a
 312 renter who receives cash assistance from the Department of Social
 313 Services in the calendar year prior to that in which such renter files an
 314 application for a grant may be entitled to receive such grant provided
 315 the amount of the cash assistance received shall be deducted from the
 316 amount of such grant and the difference between the amount of the cash
 317 assistance and the amount of the grant is equal to or greater than ten
 318 dollars. Funds attributable to such reductions shall be transferred
 319 annually from the appropriation to the Office of Policy and
 320 Management, for tax relief for elderly renters, to the Department of
 321 Social Services, to the appropriate accounts, following the issuance of
 322 such grants. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of section
 323 12-170aa, the owner of a mobile manufactured home may elect to
 324 receive benefits under section 12-170e in lieu of benefits under said
 325 section 12-170aa.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4-124s(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-339hh
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-393
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-576e(a)(2)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-576i
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-622(c)(3)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	8-216a(b)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	12-170d(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To make technical revisions to statutes relating to planning and development.

[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.]