

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

## Raised Bill No. 7181

LCO No. **5599** 

Referred to Committee on GENERAL LAW

Introduced by: (GL)

## AN ACT CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF THE STATE'S CANNABIS, HEMP AND TOBACCO LAWS.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 21a-420 of the general statutes is

repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,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

4 (1) "Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis 5 Act" or "RERACA" means this section, sections 2-56j, 7-294kk, 7-294ll, 6 12-330ll to 12-330nn, inclusive, 14-227p, 21a-278b, 21a-278c, 21a-279c, 7 21a-279d, 21a-420a to 21a-420j, inclusive, 21a-420l to 21a-421r, inclusive, 8 21a-421aa to 21a-421ff, inclusive, 21a-421aaa to 21a-421hhh, inclusive, as 9 amended by this act, 21a-422 to 21a-422c, inclusive, 21a-422e to 21a-10 422g, inclusive, 21a-422j to 21a-422s, inclusive, 22-61n, 23-4b, 47a-9a, 53-11 247a, 53a-213a, 53a-213b, 54-33p, 54-56q, 54-56r, 54-125k and 54-142u, 12 sections 23, 60, 63 to 65, inclusive, 124, 144 and 165 of public act 21-1 of 13 the June special session, and the amendments in public act 21-1 of the 14 June special session to sections 7-148, 10-221, 12-30a, 12-35b, 12-412, 12-15 650, 12-704d, 14-44k, 14-111e, 14-227a to 14-227c, inclusive, 14-227j, 1516 140q, 15-140r, 18-100h, 19a-342, 19a-342a, 21a-267, 21a-277, 21a-279, 21a17 279a, 21a-408 to 21a-408f, inclusive, 21a-408h to 21a-408p, inclusive, 21a408r to 21a-408w, inclusive, 21a-420aa, 21a-421s, 30-89a, 31-40q, 32-39,
46b-120, 51-164n, 53-394, 53a-39c, 54-1m, 54-33g, 54-41b, 54-56e, 54-56g,
54-56i, 54-56k, 54-56n, 54-63d, 54-66a and 54-142e, section 20 of public
21 act 23-79 and sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act;

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2025) (a) There shall be within the 23 Department of Consumer Protection a state-wide cannabis and hemp 24 enforcement task force for the effective and cooperative enforcement of 25 the laws of this state concerning the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, transportation, display, purchase, sale, dispensing, 26 27 possession and use of (1) cannabis and cannabis products, as such terms 28 are defined in section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this 29 act, (2) infused beverages, as defined in section 21a-425 of the general 30 statutes, (3) hemp and hemp products, as such terms are defined in 31 section 22-61l of the general statutes, and (4) moderate-THC hemp 32 products, as defined in section 21a-426 of the general statutes.

(b) The state-wide cannabis and hemp enforcement task force shall
be authorized to conduct any investigation authorized by this section at
any place within the state as may be deemed necessary.

36 (c) The state-wide cannabis and hemp enforcement task force may 37 request and receive from any federal, state or local agency cooperation 38 and assistance in the performance of its duties, including, but not 39 limited to, the temporary assignment of such personnel as may be 40 necessary for the task force to perform its functions.

(d) The state-wide cannabis and hemp enforcement task force may enter into mutual assistance and cooperation agreements with other states pertaining to cannabis, cannabis product, infused beverage, hemp, hemp product and moderate-THC hemp product law enforcement matters extending across state boundaries, and may consult and exchange information and personnel with agencies of other states with reference to cannabis, cannabis product, infused beverage,
hemp, hemp product and moderate-THC hemp product law
enforcement problems of mutual concern.

(e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, within available
appropriations, appoint a director and such other personnel as the
commissioner deems necessary for the duties of the state-wide cannabis
and hemp enforcement task force.

54 Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2025) (a) Upon request by the state-55 wide cannabis and hemp enforcement task force established under 56 section 2 of this act, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public 57 Protection may from time to time select such number of police personnel 58 of any municipality of the state to act temporarily as special state police 59 officers to carry out the duties of the task force as the Commissioner of 60 Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the task 61 force, deems necessary. Such municipal police personnel shall be 62 appointed from a list of municipal police personnel recommended to the 63 State-Wide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Task Force Policy Board, 64 established under section 5 of this act, by the chiefs of police of the 65 municipalities and approved by the board.

66 (b) Each municipality shall be responsible for fully compensating the 67 municipal police personnel temporarily assigned to the state-wide 68 cannabis and hemp enforcement task force, and such compensation 69 shall be payable to such assigned municipal police personnel while on 70 duty with the task force.

(c) For purposes of indemnification of such municipal police personnel and municipalities against any losses, damages or liabilities arising out of the service and activities of the state-wide cannabis and hemp enforcement task force, municipal police personnel while assigned to, and performing the duties of, the task force shall be deemed to be acting as employees of the state.

77 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any municipal police officer,

78 while assigned to duty with the state-wide cannabis and hemp 79 enforcement task force established under section 2 of this act and 80 working at the direction of the Commissioner of Emergency Services 81 and Public Protection or the director of the task force, shall, when acting 82 within the scope of his or her authority, have the same powers, duties, 83 privileges and immunities as are conferred upon him or her as a state 84 police officer.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There shall be a State-Wide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Task Force Policy Board, within the Department of Consumer Protection for administrative purposes only, consisting of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Commissioner of Revenue Services, the Attorney General and the Chief State's Attorney.

(b) The policy board shall direct and supervise the formulation of
policies and operating procedures, and coordinate the activities, of the
state-wide cannabis and hemp enforcement task force established under
section 2 of this act with law enforcement agencies within and without
the state.

97 (c) The policy board may apply for, and shall administer, any federal,
98 state, local or private appropriations or grant funds made available for
99 the operation of the task force.

Sec. 6. Subdivision (6) of section 54-41a of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,
2025):

(6) "Investigative officer" means (A) any officer of the Connecticut
state police, (B) the chief inspector or any inspector in the Division of
Criminal Justice who is empowered by law to conduct investigations of
or to make arrests for offenses enumerated in this chapter, (C) any
municipal police officer who (i) has been duly sworn as a special state
police officer under the provisions of section 29-177 or section 3 of this

109	<u>act, [and who] (ii)</u> is currently assigned to the state-wide narcotics task		
110	force <sub>2</sub> [or] the state-wide organized crime investigative task force <u>or the</u>		
111	state-wide cannabis and hemp enforcement task force, and (iii) is acting		
112	under the direct authority of the Connecticut state police, and (D) any		
113	attorney authorized by law to prosecute or participate in the		
114	prosecution of offenses enumerated in this chapter;		
	I the second		
115	Sec. 7. Section 21a-420c of the general statutes is repealed and the		
116	following is substituted in lieu thereof ( <i>Effective October 1, 2025</i> ):		
117	(a) As used in this section:		
117	<u>(u) no used in this section.</u>		
118	(1) "Cigarette" has the same meaning as provided in section 4-28h;		
110	(2) "Electronic signatus liquid" has the same meaning as more ided in		
119 120			
120	section 21a-415, as amended by this act;		
121	(3) "Electronic nicotine delivery system" has the same meaning as		
122	provided in section 21a-415, as amended by this act;		
123	(4) "Immediate threat to public health and safety" includes, but is not		
124	limited to, the presence of (A) any cannabis or cannabis product in		
125	connection with a violation of this section, or (B) any cigarette, tobacco		
126	product, electronic cigarette liquid, electronic nicotine delivery system		
127	or liquid nicotine container alongside any cannabis or cannabis product;		
128	(5) "Liquid nicotine container" has the same meaning as provided in		
129	section 19a-342a; and		
130	(6) "Tobacco product" has the same meaning as provided in section		
131	<u>12-330a.</u>		
132	[(a)] (b) Except as provided in RERACA and chapter 420b or 420f, (1)		
133	no person, other than a retailer, hybrid retailer, micro-cultivator or		
134	delivery service, or an employee thereof in the course of such		
135	employee's employment, may sell or offer <u>any</u> cannabis <u>or cannabis</u>		
136	<u>product</u> to a consumer, and (2) no person, other than a hybrid retailer,		
100	$\underline{\mathbf{P}}$		

dispensary facility or a delivery service, or an employee thereof in the
course of such employee's employment, may sell or offer <u>any</u> cannabis
<u>or cannabis product</u> to <u>a</u> qualifying [patients and caregivers] <u>patient or</u>
<u>caregiver</u>.

[(b)] (c) No person except a delivery service, or an employee of a
delivery service, subject to the restrictions set forth in section 21a-420z,
acting in the course of such employee's employment may deliver <u>any</u>
cannabis <u>or cannabis product</u> to [consumers, patients or caregivers] <u>a</u>
<u>consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver</u>.

[(c)] (d) Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be
deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of
section 42-110b.

[(d)] (e) (1) Any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body, prohibit the operation of any business within such municipality that is found to be in violation of the provisions of this section or if such operation poses an immediate threat to public health and safety.

153 (2) If the chief executive officer of a municipality determines that a 154 business within the municipality is operating in violation of the 155 provisions of this section or poses an immediate threat to public health 156 and safety, the chief executive officer may apply to the Superior Court 157 for an order under subdivision (3) of this subsection <u>and, upon making</u> 158 <u>such application, submit a written copy of such application to the</u> 159 <u>Attorney General</u>.

160 (3) Upon an application under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the 161 Superior Court, upon a finding that a business within the municipality 162 is operating in violation of the provisions of this section or poses an 163 immediate threat to public health and safety, may issue forthwith, ex 164 parte and without a hearing, an order that shall direct the chief law 165 enforcement officer of the municipality to take from such business 166 possession and control of any merchandise related to such violation or 167 immediate threat to public health and safety, which merchandise shall

include, but need not be limited to, (A) any cannabis or cannabis
product, (B) any cigarette, tobacco, [or] tobacco product, electronic
cigarette liquid, electronic nicotine delivery system or liquid nicotine
<u>container</u>, (C) any merchandise related to the merchandise described in
subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision, and (D) any proceeds
related to the merchandise described in subparagraphs (A) to (C),
inclusive, of this subdivision.

175 (4) As used in this subsection, [(A) "cigarette" has the same meaning 176 as provided in section 4-28h, (B) "immediate threat to public health and 177 safety" includes, but is not limited to, the presence of (i) any cannabis or 178 cannabis product in connection with a violation of this section, or (ii) 179 any cigarette or tobacco product alongside any cannabis or cannabis 180 product, and (C)] "operation" and "operating" mean engaging in the sale 181 of, or otherwise offering for sale, goods and services to the general 182 public, including, but not limited to, through indirect retail sales.

[(e)] (f) (1) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall
be assessed a civil penalty of thirty thousand dollars for each violation.
Each day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate
offense.

187 (2) Any person who aids or abets any violation of the provisions of 188 this section shall be assessed a civil penalty of thirty thousand dollars 189 for each violation. Each day that such person aids or abets such violation 190 shall constitute a separate offense. For the purposes of this subdivision, 191 no person shall be deemed to have aided or abetted a violation of the 192 provisions of this section unless (A) such person was the owner, officer, 193 controlling shareholder or in a similar position of authority that allowed 194 such person to make command or control decisions regarding the 195 operations and management of another person who (i) is prohibited 196 from selling or offering any cannabis or cannabis product under this 197 section, and (ii) sold or offered any cannabis or cannabis product in 198 violation of this section, (B) such person knew that such other person (i) 199 is prohibited from selling or offering any cannabis or cannabis product 200 under this section, and (ii) sold or offered any cannabis or cannabis 201 product in violation of this section, (C) such person provided substantial 202 assistance or encouragement in connection with the sale or offer of such 203 cannabis or cannabis product in violation of this section, and (D) such 204 person's conduct was a substantial factor in furthering the sale or offer 205 of such cannabis or cannabis product in violation of this section.

206 (3) Any person who manages or controls a commercial property, or 207 who manages or controls a commercial building, room, space or 208 enclosure, in such person's capacity as an owner, lessee, agent, 209 employee or mortgagor, who knowingly leases, rents or makes such 210 property, building, room, space or enclosure available for use, with or 211 without compensation, for the purpose of any sale or offer of any 212 cannabis or cannabis product in violation of this section shall be 213 assessed a civil penalty of ten thousand dollars for each violation. Each 214 day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

215 (4) No person other than the Attorney General, upon complaint of the 216 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or a municipality in which the 217 violation of this section occurred shall assess any civil penalty under this 218 subsection or institute a civil action to recover any civil penalty imposed 219 under this subsection. If a municipality institutes a civil action to recover 220 any civil penalty imposed under this subsection, such penalty shall be 221 paid [first] to the municipality. [to reimburse such municipality for the 222 costs incurred in instituting such action. One-half of the remainder, if 223 any, shall be payable to the treasurer of such municipality and one-half 224 of such remainder shall be payable to the Treasurer and deposited in the 225 General Fund.]

[(f)] (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the imposition of any criminal penalty on any person who (1) is prohibited from selling or offering any cannabis or cannabis product under this section, and (2) sells or offers any cannabis or cannabis product in violation of this section. Sec. 8. Subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 21a-420p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

234 (f) (1) Subject to the requirements of this subsection and subsection 235 [(b)] (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act, a micro-cultivator 236 may sell its own cannabis, including, but not limited to, its own cannabis 237 seedlings, to consumers, excluding qualifying patients and caregivers, 238 through a delivery service. No cannabis establishment other than a 239 micro-cultivator shall sell cannabis seedlings to consumers, and no 240 cannabis establishment other than a delivery service shall deliver 241 cannabis seedlings sold by a micro-cultivator to consumers.

Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 21a-420r of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*1, 2025):

(d) A retailer may deliver cannabis through a delivery service or by
utilizing its own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection [(b)]
(c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act.

Sec. 10. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 21a-420t of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

251 (d) On and after September 1, 2021, a dispensary facility or hybrid 252 retailer may apply to the department, in a form and in a manner 253 prescribed by the commissioner, to provide delivery services through a 254 delivery service or utilizing its own employees, subject to the provisions 255 of subsection [(b)] (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act, to 256 qualifying patients, caregivers, research program subjects, as defined in 257 section 21a-408, and hospice and other inpatient care facilities licensed 258 by the Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that have 259 a protocol for the handling and distribution of cannabis that has been 260 approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. A dispensary 261 facility or hybrid retailer may deliver cannabis or medical marijuana

products only from its own inventory to qualifying patients and caregivers. If such application is approved by the commissioner, the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer may commence delivery services on and after January 1, 2022, provided the commissioner may authorize dispensary facilities or hybrid retailers to commence delivery services prior to January 1, 2022, upon forty-five days advance written notice, published on the department's Internet web site.

(e) Hybrid retailers may commence delivery of cannabis directly to
consumers as of the date the first adult use cannabis sales are permitted
by the commissioner as set forth in subsection (f) of this section, through
a delivery service, or utilizing their own employees, subject to the
provisions of subsection [(b)] (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this
act.

275 Sec. 11. Section 12-285c of the general statutes is repealed and the 276 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

277 (a) No person engaged in the business of selling cigarettes or tobacco 278 <u>products</u> shall ship or transport, or cause to be shipped or transported, 279 any cigarettes or tobacco products to any person in this state except to: 280 (1) A cigarette distributor or dealer; (2) an export warehouse proprietor 281 pursuant to Chapter 52 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any 282 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, 283 as amended from time to time, or an operator of a customs bonded 284 warehouse pursuant to 19 USC 1311 or 1555; or (3) a person who is an 285 officer, employee or agent of the United States [Government] 286 government, this state or a department, agency, instrumentality or 287 political subdivision of the United States or of this state, when such 288 person is acting in accordance with such person's official duties. 289 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 12-15, the Commissioner of 290 Revenue Services shall publish on the Internet web site of the 291 Department of Revenue Services a list of every cigarette distributor or 292 dealer. As used in this subsection, "cigarette distributor or dealer" means 293 a person licensed as a cigarette distributor under section 12-288 or licensed as a dealer under section 12-287 or a person whose name
appears on a list of licensed distributors and dealers published by the
Commissioner of Revenue Services.

297 (b) No common or contract carrier shall knowingly transport 298 cigarettes or tobacco products to a residential dwelling or to any person 299 in this state who the common or contract carrier reasonably believes is 300 not a person described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection 301 (a) of this section. No person other than a common or contract carrier 302 shall knowingly transport cigarettes or tobacco products to any person 303 in this state who is not a person described in subdivisions (1) to (3), 304 inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section.

305 (c) When a person engaged in the business of selling cigarettes or 306 tobacco products ships or transports, or causes to be shipped or 307 transported, any cigarettes or tobacco products to any described person 308 in this state, other than in the cigarette or tobacco product 309 manufacturer's original container or wrapping, the container or 310 wrapping shall be plainly and visibly marked with the word "cigarettes" or the words "tobacco products", as applicable. Any person engaged in 311 312 the business of selling cigarettes or tobacco products who ships or 313 causes to be shipped any cigarettes or tobacco products to any described 314 person in this state (1) shall require, as a condition of delivery, the 315 customer who is receiving the cigarettes <u>or tobacco products</u> to sign an 316 acknowledgment of receipt and provide proper proof of age, and (2) 317 may not sell such cigarettes or tobacco products to such customer unless 318 such proof of age is provided. For purposes of this subsection, 319 "described person" means a person described in subdivisions (1) to (3), 320 inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Whenever any cigarettes <u>or tobacco products</u> have been or are
being shipped or transported in violation of this section, such cigarettes
<u>or tobacco products</u> are declared to be contraband goods and the
confiscation, search and forfeiture provisions of section 12-305 shall
apply.

(e) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
guilty of a class A misdemeanor and, for a second or subsequent
violation, shall be guilty of a class C felony.

329 (f) The Commissioner of Revenue Services may impose a civil penalty 330 of not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation of this section. 331 For purposes of this subsection, each shipment or transport of cigarettes 332 or tobacco products shall constitute a separate violation. The Attorney 333 General, upon request of the commissioner, may bring an action in the 334 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to collect such civil 335 penalty and for any injunctive or equitable relief. In any action brought 336 by the Attorney General to enforce the provisions of section 12-285b or 337 this section, the state shall be entitled to recover, when [it] the state is 338 the prevailing party, the costs of investigation, expert witness fees, costs 339 of the action [,] and reasonable attorneys' fees.

## 340 (g) A violation of this section shall be an unfair or deceptive act or 341 practice pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

342 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 21a-415 of the general statutes is
343 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*344 1, 2025):

345 (a) As used in this chapter, section 13 of this act and section 53-344:

(1) "Authorized owner" means the owner or authorized designee of a
business entity that is applying for a registration or is registered with
the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to this chapter;

(2) "Business entity" means any corporation, limited liability
company, association, partnership, sole proprietorship, government,
governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust or any
other legal entity;

(3) "Dealer registration" means an electronic nicotine delivery systemcertificate of dealer registration issued by the Commissioner of

355 Consumer Protection pursuant to this section;

(4) "Manufacturer registration" means an electronic nicotine delivery
system certificate of manufacturer registration issued by the
Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-415a to
any person who mixes, compounds, repackages or resizes any nicotinecontaining electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product;

(5) "Electronic cigarette liquid" means a liquid that, when used in an
electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product, produces a vapor
that may or may not include nicotine and is inhaled by the user of such
electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product;

(6) "Electronic nicotine delivery system" means an electronic device
used in the delivery of nicotine or other substances to a person inhaling
from the device, and includes, but is not limited to, an electronic
cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or
electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other
component of such device, including, but not limited to, electronic
cigarette liquid;

372 (7) "Vapor product" means any product that employs a heating 373 element, power source, electronic circuit or other electronic, chemical or 374 mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that 375 may include nicotine and is inhaled by the user of such product. "Vapor 376 product" does not include a medicinal or therapeutic product that is (A) 377 used by a licensed health care provider to treat a patient in a health care 378 setting, (B) used by a patient, as prescribed or directed by a licensed 379 health care provider in any setting, or (C) any drug or device, as defined 380 in the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 321, as amended 381 from time to time, any combination product, as described in said act, 21 382 USC 353(g), as amended from time to time, or any biological product, as 383 described in 42 USC 262, as amended from time to time, and 21 CFR 384 600.3, as amended from time to time, authorized for sale by the United 385 States Food and Drug Administration;

(8) "Sale" or "sell" means an act done intentionally by any person,
whether done as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee, of
transferring, or offering or attempting to transfer, for consideration,
including bartering or exchanging, or offering to barter or exchange; and

(9) "Deliver" or "delivering" means an act done intentionally by any
person, whether as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee, of
transferring, or offering or attempting to transfer, physical possession
or control of an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product.

394 Sec. 13. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2025) (a) No person engaged in the 395 business of shipping or transporting electronic nicotine delivery 396 systems or vapor products shall ship or transport, or cause to be shipped 397 or transported, any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product 398 to any person in this state except to (1) a person who holds a dealer 399 registration or a manufacturer registration, or (2) a person who is an 400 officer, employee or agent of the United States government, this state or 401 a department, agency, instrumentality or political subdivision of the 402 United States or of this state, when such person is acting in accordance 403 with such person's official duties. The Commissioner of Consumer 404 Protection shall publish, on the Department of Consumer Protection's 405 Internet web site, a list of each person who holds a dealer registration or 406 a manufacturer registration.

407 (b) No common or contract carrier shall knowingly transport any 408 electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product to a residential 409 dwelling or to any person in this state who the common or contract 410 carrier reasonably believes is not a person described in subdivision (1) 411 or (2) of subsection (a) of this section. No person other than a common 412 or contract carrier shall knowingly transport any electronic nicotine 413 delivery system or vapor product to any person in this state who is not 414 a person described in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this 415 section.

416 (c) When a person engaged in the business of selling or delivering

417 electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products ships or 418 transports, or causes to be shipped or transported, any electronic 419 nicotine delivery system or vapor product to any person described in 420 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, other than in the 421 electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product manufacturer's 422 original container or wrapping, the container or wrapping shall be 423 plainly and visibly marked with the words "electronic nicotine delivery 424 system" or "vapor product", as applicable. Any person engaged in the 425 business of selling or delivering electronic nicotine delivery systems or 426 vapor products who ships, or causes to be shipped, any electronic 427 nicotine delivery system or vapor product to any person described in 428 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section (1) shall require, as 429 a condition of such sale or delivery, such person to sign an 430 acknowledgment of receipt and provide proper proof of age, and (2) 431 may not sell or deliver such electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor 432 product to such person unless such person provides proper proof of age.

433 (d) Any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product shipped 434 or transported in violation of this section is a common nuisance and is 435 subject to immediate seizure by the Commissioner of Consumer 436 Protection, any agent or employee of the commissioner authorized to 437 make such seizure or any peace officer of this state whom the 438 commissioner has directed to make such seizure. The commissioner or 439 such agent, employee or peace officer shall hold such electronic nicotine 440 delivery system or vapor product subject to confiscation and destruction 441 by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. All costs of such seizure, 442 confiscation and destruction shall be borne by the shipper or 443 transporter.

(e) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
guilty of a class B misdemeanor and, for a second or subsequent
violation, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

(f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may impose a civilpenalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation of this

449 section. For purposes of this subsection, each shipment or transport of 450 electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products shall constitute a 451 separate violation. The Attorney General, upon request of the 452 commissioner, may bring an action in the superior court for the judicial 453 district of Hartford to collect such civil penalty and for any injunctive or 454 equitable relief. In any action brought by the Attorney General to 455 enforce the provisions of this section, the state shall be entitled to 456 recover, when the state is the prevailing party, the costs of investigation, 457 expert witness fees, costs of the action and reasonable attorneys' fees.

(g) A violation of this section shall be an unfair or deceptive act or
practice pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general
statutes.

461 Sec. 14. Section 21a-421aaa of the general statutes is repealed and the 462 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any cannabis establishment licensee or any servant or agent of a licensee who sells or delivers cannabis or cannabis paraphernalia to any person under twenty-one years of age shall be guilty of a class [A misdemeanor] <u>E felony</u>. For purposes of this section, "paraphernalia" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by <u>this act</u>.

Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) Any cannabis establishment
licensee or any servant or agent of a licensee who sells or delivers any
synthetic cannabinoid to any person shall be guilty of a class E felony.
For purposes of this section, "synthetic cannabinoid" has the same
meaning as provided in section 21a-240 of the general statutes.

474 Sec. 16. Section 21a-418 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*475 October 1, 2025)

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

Section 1	July 1, 2025	21a-420(1)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	54-41a(6)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2025	21a-420c
Sec. 8	October 1, 2025	21a-420p(f)(1)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2025	21a-420r(d)
Sec. 10	October 1, 2025	21a-420t(d) and (e)
Sec. 11	October 1, 2025	12-285c
Sec. 12	October 1, 2025	21a-415(a)
Sec. 13	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 14	October 1, 2025	21a-421aaa
Sec. 15	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 16	October 1, 2025	Repealer section

## Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish a state-wide cannabis and hemp enforcement task force, (2) require a municipality to submit a copy of an application for a court order to the Attorney General, (3) authorize seizures of additional merchandise, (4) redirect funds derived from certain civil penalties to municipalities, (5) prohibit conduct concerning the shipment and transportation of tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products, (6) establish penalties concerning the unlawful shipment and transportation of cigarettes, tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products, and (7) provide that a cannabis establishment licensee, or any servant or agent thereof, shall be guilty of a class E felony if such person sells or delivers (A) any cannabis or cannabis paraphernalia to any person younger than twenty-one years of age, or (B) any synthetic cannabinoid to any person.

[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.]