



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1468

LCO No. 5929



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Introduced by:
(GOS)

AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-98 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) Except for such emergency purchases as are made by a budgeted
4 agency under regulations adopted by the Commissioner of
5 Administrative Services, no budgeted agency or any agent thereof shall
6 incur any obligation, by order, contract or otherwise, except by the issue
7 of a purchase order or any other documentation approved by the
8 Comptroller, necessary to process the transaction transmitted by the
9 budgeted agency or its agents to the commissioner and the Comptroller,
10 provided the amount to be charged against the appropriation for a
11 budgeted agency in any year for a purchase order for a current
12 expenditure shall be the amount anticipated to be spent in such year.
13 The amount to be charged against the appropriation for any budgeted
14 agency in any year for a capital expenditure, including an installment
15 purchase, shall be the state's total cost for such capital expenditure
16 unless otherwise authorized by the General Assembly or approved by
17 the Finance Advisory Committee. Upon the receipt of any such
18 purchase order or any other documentation approved by the

19 Comptroller necessary to process the transaction, the Comptroller shall
20 immediately charge the same to the specific appropriation of the
21 budgeted agency issuing the same and certify on the face of the
22 purchase order or approve such other documentation that the purchase
23 is approved and recorded, if the proposed purchase is within the
24 applicable specific appropriation and the budgeted agency has
25 unencumbered funds sufficient to defray such expenditure. In
26 transactions requiring purchase orders, the Comptroller shall promptly
27 transmit such certified purchase order to the vendor named in the
28 purchase order.

29 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
30 the Comptroller may delegate to any budgeted agency the certification
31 and transmission requirements of purchase orders using authorized
32 electronic methods, provided such agency transmits the information
33 contained in such purchase orders to the Comptroller. Upon receipt of
34 any such electronic transmission, the Comptroller shall immediately
35 charge the same to the specific appropriation of the budgeted agency
36 issuing the same and shall electronically certify that the purchase is
37 approved and recorded, if the proposed purchase is within the
38 applicable specific appropriation and the budgeted agency has
39 unencumbered funds sufficient to defray such expenditure. Upon
40 receipt of the Comptroller's certification, the budgeted agency shall
41 transmit the purchase order to the vendor named in the purchase order.

42 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this
43 section, the Comptroller may allow budgeted agencies to use
44 purchasing cards for purchases not exceeding two hundred fifty
45 thousand dollars, unless such agency receives written approval from the
46 Comptroller and the Commissioner of Administrative Services to
47 exceed such amount. No budgeted agency, or any official, employee or
48 agent of a budgeted agency, shall incur any obligation using such a card,
49 except in accordance with procedures established by the Comptroller,
50 in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
51 Management. Any such procedures shall include, but need not be

52 limited to, (1) prescribing which employees are eligible to use such card
53 and limitations concerning such use, (2) the types of transactions that
54 are authorized to be charged on the card, (3) limitations on the amounts
55 authorized to be charged for travel, meals and entertainment purposes,
56 (4) the timing of submission of receipts or other reporting concerning
57 the use of such card, (5) the process for agency approval of reports
58 concerning the use of such card, and (6) specific remedies for
59 noncompliance. Each budgeted agency shall implement such
60 procedures, except a budgeted agency may adopt policies that are more
61 stringent than the requirements of this section or the procedures
62 adopted thereunder.

63 (d) Each budgeted agency shall appoint an employee to serve as its
64 purchase card coordinator, who shall be responsible for ensuring the
65 agency's compliance with the procedures adopted under this section
66 and such agency shall inform the Commissioner of Administrative
67 Services of such appointment. Such coordinator shall (1) issue purchase
68 cards to an employee upon the determination by such employee's
69 supervisor that such employee should have such authorization, (2)
70 review receipts or other documentation of transactions made using the
71 card by agency employees and ensure such receipts or documentation
72 are entered into CORE-CT or other applicable system, (3) establish
73 dollar limits for the use of such card by agency employees, and (4)
74 deauthorize any employee from using the card who is not providing
75 receipts or other documentation of transactions within the time period
76 established by the agency procedures or who is otherwise not
77 complying with the procedures.

78 (e) Not later than August 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, each
79 budgeted agency shall report to the Comptroller and Office of Policy
80 and Management concerning its usage of such cards during the
81 preceding fiscal year, and any enforcement of violations of the policies
82 of this section.

83 Sec. 2. Section 20-670 of the general statutes is repealed and the

84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

85 As used in this section and sections [20-670] 20-671 to 20-682,
86 inclusive:

87 (1) "Certificate" means a certificate of registration issued under
88 section 20-672, as amended by this act.

89 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
90 Protection or any person designated by the commissioner to administer
91 and enforce the provisions of sections 20-670 to 20-682, inclusive, as
92 amended by this act.

93 (3) "Companion services" means nonmedical, basic supervision
94 services to ensure the safety and well-being of a person in the person's
95 home.

96 (4) "Covenant not to compete" means any agreement or contract that
97 restricts the right of an individual to provide companion services, home
98 health services or homemaker services (A) in any geographic area of the
99 state for any period of time, or (B) to a specific individual.

100 (5) "Comprehensive background check" means a background
101 investigation of a prospective employee performed by a homemaker-
102 companion agency, that includes (A) a review of any application
103 materials prepared or requested by the homemaker-companion agency
104 and completed by the prospective employee, (B) an in-person or video-
105 conference interview of the prospective employee, (C) verification of the
106 prospective employee's Social Security number, (D) if the prospective
107 employee has applied for a position within the homemaker-companion
108 agency that requires licensure on the part of such prospective employee,
109 verification that the required license is in good standing, (E) a check of
110 the registry established and maintained pursuant to section 54-257, (F)
111 a local and national criminal background check of criminal matters of
112 public record based on the prospective employee's name and date of
113 birth that includes a search of a multistate and multijurisdiction criminal

114 record locator or other similar commercial nationwide database with
115 validation, and a search of the United States Department of Justice
116 National Sex Offender Public Website, conducted by a third-party
117 consumer reporting agency or background screening company that is
118 accredited by the Professional Background Screening Association and
119 in compliance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, (G) if the
120 prospective employee has resided in this state for less than three years
121 prior to the date of such prospective employee's application with the
122 homemaker-companion agency, a review of criminal conviction
123 information from the state or states where such prospective employee
124 resided during such three-year period, and (H) a review of any other
125 information that the homemaker-companion agency deems necessary in
126 order to evaluate the suitability of the prospective employee for the
127 position.

128 (6) "Employee" means any person employed by, or who enters into a
129 contract to perform services for, a homemaker-companion agency,
130 including, but not limited to, pool employees, temporary employees
131 and persons the homemaker-companion agency treats as independent
132 contractors.

133 (7) (A) "Homemaker-companion agency" means any (i) public or
134 private organization that employs one or more persons and is engaged
135 in the business of providing companion services or homemaker
136 services, or (ii) registry.

137 (B) "Homemaker-companion agency" does not include (i) a home
138 health care agency, as defined in subsection (d) of section 19a-490, or (ii)
139 a home health aide agency, as defined in subsection (e) of section 19a-
140 490, as amended by this act.

141 (8) "Homemaker services" means nonmedical and supportive
142 services, including assistance with cooking, household cleaning,
143 laundry, personal hygiene and other household chores, that ensure a
144 healthy and safe environment for a person in the person's home.

145 (9) "Immediate family member" means a child by adoption, blood or
146 marriage or a grandchild, grandparent, parent, sibling or spouse.

147 (10) "Personal hygiene" includes bathing an individual using a
148 sponge, tub or shower, shampooing an individual in a sink, tub or bed,
149 nail and skin care, oral hygiene, toileting and elimination.

150 [(10)] (11) "Registry" means any person or entity engaged in the
151 business of supplying or referring an individual to, or placing an
152 individual with, a consumer for the purpose of enabling the individual
153 to provide to the consumer companion services or homemaker services,
154 provided such individual is (A) directly compensated, in whole or in
155 part, by the consumer, or (B) considered, referred to or treated by such
156 person or entity as an independent contractor.

157 [(11)] (12) "Service plan" means a written document, provided by a
158 homemaker-companion agency to a person utilizing companion
159 services or homemaker services provided by such agency, that specifies
160 the anticipated duration, frequency, scope and type of the companion
161 services or homemaker services that are to be provided by such agency
162 for the benefit of such person.

163 Sec. 3. Section 20-672 of the general statutes is repealed and the
164 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

165 (a) Any person seeking a certificate of registration as a homemaker-
166 companion agency shall apply to the Commissioner of Consumer
167 Protection, in writing, on a form provided by the commissioner. The
168 application shall include the applicant's name, residence address,
169 business address, business telephone number and such other
170 information as the commissioner may require. An applicant shall also
171 be required to submit to state and national criminal history records
172 checks in accordance with section 29-17a and to certify under oath to the
173 commissioner that: (1) Such agency complies with the requirements of
174 section 20-678 concerning employee comprehensive background
175 checks, (2) such agency provides all persons receiving homemaker or

176 companion services with a written individualized contract or service
177 plan that specifically identifies the anticipated scope, type, frequency
178 and duration of homemaker or companion services provided by the
179 agency to the person, (3) such agency maintains a surety bond or an
180 insurance policy in an amount of not less than ten thousand dollars
181 coverage, which coverage shall include theft by an employee of such
182 agency from a person for whom homemaker or companion services are
183 provided by the agency, [and] (4) all records maintained by such agency
184 shall be open, at all reasonable hours, for inspection, copying or audit
185 by the commissioner, and (5) for registrations issued on or after January
186 1, 2026, such agency provides the training for employees required under
187 section 6 of this act.

188 (b) Each application for a certificate of registration as a homemaker-
189 companion agency shall be accompanied by a fee of [three] four
190 hundred [seventy-five] fifty dollars.

191 (c) Upon the failure by a homemaker-companion agency to comply
192 with the registration provisions of this section, the Attorney General, at
193 the request of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, is authorized
194 to apply in the name of the state of Connecticut to the Superior Court
195 for an order temporarily or permanently restraining and enjoining a
196 homemaker-companion agency from continuing to do business in the
197 state.

198 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 19a-490 of the general statutes is
199 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
200 *1, 2025*):

201 (e) "Home health aide agency" means a public or private
202 organization, except a home health care agency, which provides in the
203 patient's home or a substantially equivalent environment supportive
204 services which may include, but are not limited to, assistance with
205 personal hygiene, dressing, feeding and incidental household tasks
206 essential to achieving adequate household and family management

207 where "personal hygiene" includes bathing a patient using a sponge, tub
208 or shower, shampooing a patient in a sink, tub or bed, nail and skin care,
209 oral hygiene, toileting and elimination. Such supportive services shall
210 be provided under the supervision of a registered nurse and, if such
211 nurse determines appropriate, shall be provided by a social worker,
212 physical therapist, speech therapist or occupational therapist. Such
213 supervision may be provided directly or through contract;

214 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than November 1,
215 2025, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in consultation with
216 the Department of Public Health, shall (1) create a list of approved
217 trainings for homemaker-companion agency employees to complete in
218 topics including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, best practices
219 in personal hygiene, identifying and reporting abuse and neglect,
220 communication, identifying and reporting changes in a client's
221 condition and service needs, the delineation between medical and
222 nonmedical care and other topics deemed appropriate by the
223 commissioners, (2) post such list on the Internet web site of the
224 Department of Consumer Protection, and (3) notify each homemaker-
225 companion agency of the availability of such list. The commissioner
226 shall periodically update such list thereafter as necessary.

227 (b) Each homemaker-companion agency shall provide training from
228 the list of approved trainings established pursuant to subsection (a) of
229 this section and require (1) any employee hired on or after January 1,
230 2026, to complete a minimum of ten hours of such training not later than
231 ninety days after the date of hire, and (2) any existing employee hired
232 prior to January 1, 2026, to complete a minimum of ten hours of such
233 training by July 1, 2027. Each employee shall document all trainings
234 completed by the employee and certify compliance with the
235 requirements of this section on a form prescribed by the commissioner
236 and submit such form to the employing homemaker-companion
237 agency.

238 (c) On or before July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each

239 homemaker-companion agency shall certify under oath to the
240 commissioner that such agency is in compliance with the training
241 requirements of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	4-98
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-670
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-672
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	19a-490(e)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

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Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-670
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-672
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	19a-490(e)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement procedures for the use of purchasing cards by budgeted agency employees, define "personal hygiene" for purposes of homemaker-companion agency and home health aide agency care, increase the fee for homemaker-companion agency registration and require homemaker-companion agency employees to complete certain training.

[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.]