



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 1522***

LCO No. 4172



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT RENAMING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT THE  
DONALD E. WILLIAMS, JR. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT  
AND INCREASING FUNDING FOR SAID ACCOUNT.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-66aa of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 [(a)] There is established, within the General Fund, a separate,  
4 nonlapsing account to be known as the ["community investment  
5 account"] "Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account". The  
6 account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the  
7 account. The funds in the account shall be distributed every three  
8 months as follows: (1) Ten dollars of each fee credited to said account  
9 shall be deposited into the agriculture sustainability account established  
10 pursuant to section 4-66cc and, then, of the remaining funds, (2) twenty-  
11 five per cent to the Department of Economic and Community  
12 Development to use as follows: (A) Three hundred eighty thousand  
13 dollars, annually, to supplement the technical assistance and  
14 preservation activities of the Connecticut Trust for Historic

15 Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-93, and (B) the  
 16 remainder to supplement historic preservation activities as provided in  
 17 sections 10-409 to 10-415, inclusive; (3) twenty-five per cent to the  
 18 Department of Housing to supplement new or existing affordable  
 19 housing programs; (4) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Energy  
 20 and Environmental Protection for municipal open space grants; and (5)  
 21 twenty-five per cent to the Department of Agriculture to use as follows:  
 22 (A) Five hundred thousand dollars annually for the agricultural  
 23 viability grant program established pursuant to section 22-26j; (B) five  
 24 hundred thousand dollars annually for the farm transition program  
 25 established pursuant to section 22-26k; (C) one hundred thousand  
 26 dollars annually to encourage the sale of Connecticut-grown food to  
 27 schools, restaurants, retailers and other institutions and businesses in  
 28 the state; (D) seventy-five thousand dollars annually for the Connecticut  
 29 farm link program established pursuant to section 22-26l; (E) forty-  
 30 seven thousand five hundred dollars annually for the Seafood Advisory  
 31 Council established pursuant to section 22-455; (F) forty-seven thousand  
 32 five hundred dollars annually for the Connecticut Farm Wine  
 33 Development Council established pursuant to section 22-26c; (G)  
 34 twenty-five thousand dollars annually to the Connecticut Food Policy  
 35 Council established pursuant to section 22-456; and (H) the remainder  
 36 for farmland preservation programs pursuant to chapter 422. Each  
 37 agency receiving funds under this section may use not more than ten  
 38 per cent of such funds for administration of the programs for which the  
 39 funds were provided.

40 [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
 41 fifty per cent of the moneys deposited in the community investment  
 42 account from January 1, 2016, until June 30, 2017, shall be credited every  
 43 three months to the resources of the General Fund, provided the funds  
 44 remaining in the account shall be distributed as provided in subsection  
 45 (a) of this section.]

46 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 7-34a of the general statutes is  
 47 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

48 2025):

49 (e) In addition to the fees for recording a document under subsection  
 50 (a) of this section, town clerks shall receive a fee of [forty] forty-six  
 51 dollars for each document recorded in the land records of the  
 52 municipality. The town clerk shall retain [one dollar] two dollars of any  
 53 fee paid pursuant to this subsection and three dollars of such fee shall  
 54 become part of the general revenue of the municipality and be used to  
 55 pay for local capital improvement projects, as defined in section 7-536.  
 56 Not later than the fifteenth day of each month, town clerks shall remit  
 57 [thirty-six] forty-two dollars of the fees paid pursuant to this subsection  
 58 during the previous calendar month to the State Treasurer. Upon  
 59 deposit in the General Fund, such amount shall be credited to the  
 60 Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account established  
 61 pursuant to section 4-66aa, as amended by this act. The provisions of  
 62 this subsection shall not apply to any document recorded on the land  
 63 records by an employee of the state or of a municipality in conjunction  
 64 with such employee's official duties. As used in this subsection,  
 65 "municipality" includes each town, consolidated town and city, city,  
 66 consolidated town and borough, borough, and district, as defined in  
 67 chapter 105 or 105a, any municipal corporation or department thereof  
 68 created by a special act of the General Assembly, and each municipal  
 69 board, commission and taxing district not previously mentioned.

70 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 49-10 of the general statutes is  
 71 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
 72 *2025*):

73 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions concerning remittance and  
 74 retention of fees set forth in section 7-34a, as amended by this act, the  
 75 recording fees paid in accordance with subsections (a), (d) and (e) of  
 76 [said] section 7-34a, as amended by this act, by a nominee of a  
 77 mortgagee, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of [said]  
 78 section 7-34a, shall be allocated as follows: (1) For fees collected upon a  
 79 recording by a nominee of a mortgagee, except for the recording of (A)

80 an assignment of mortgage in which the nominee of a mortgagee  
 81 appears as assignor, and (B) a release of mortgage, as described in  
 82 section 49-8, by a nominee of a mortgagee, the town clerk shall remit one  
 83 hundred ten dollars of such fees to the state, such fees shall be deposited  
 84 into the General Fund and, upon deposit in the General Fund, [thirty-  
 85 six] forty-two dollars of such fees shall be credited to the Donald E.  
 86 Williams, Jr. community investment account established pursuant to  
 87 section 4-66aa, as amended by this act; the town clerk shall retain [forty-  
 88 nine] fifty dollars of such fees, thirty-nine dollars of which shall become  
 89 part of the general revenue of such municipality and [ten] eleven dollars  
 90 of which shall be deposited into the town clerk fund; and the town clerk  
 91 shall retain any fees for additional pages beyond the first page in  
 92 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
 93 [said] section 7-34a; and (2) for the fee collected upon a recording of (A)  
 94 an assignment of mortgage in which the nominee appears as assignor,  
 95 or (B) a release of mortgage by a nominee of a mortgagee, the town clerk  
 96 shall remit one hundred twenty-seven dollars of such fee to the state,  
 97 such fee shall be deposited into the General Fund and, upon deposit in  
 98 the General Fund, [thirty-six] forty-two dollars of such fee shall be  
 99 credited to the Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account,  
 100 [and, until October 1, 2014, sixty dollars of such fee shall be credited to  
 101 the State Banking Fund for purposes of funding the foreclosure  
 102 mediation program established by section 49-31m;] and the town clerk  
 103 shall retain [thirty-two] thirty-three dollars of such fee, which shall  
 104 become part of the general revenue of such municipality.

105 Sec. 4. Section 22-38a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 106 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

107 The Commissioner of Agriculture shall establish and administer a  
 108 program to promote the marketing of farm products grown and  
 109 produced in Connecticut for the purpose of encouraging the  
 110 development of agriculture in the state. The commissioner may, within  
 111 available appropriations, provide a grant-in-aid to any person, firm,  
 112 partnership or corporation engaged in the promotion and marketing of

113 such farm products, provided the words "CONNECTICUT-GROWN"  
114 or "CT-Grown" are clearly incorporated in such promotional and  
115 marketing activities. The commissioner shall (1) provide for the design,  
116 plan and implementation of a multiyear, state-wide marketing and  
117 advertising campaign, including, but not limited to, television and radio  
118 advertisements, promoting the availability of, and advantages of  
119 purchasing, Connecticut-grown farm products, (2) establish and  
120 continuously update a web site connected with such advertising  
121 campaign that includes, but is not limited to, a comprehensive listing of  
122 Connecticut farmers' markets, pick-your-own farms, roadside and on-  
123 farm markets, farm wineries, garden centers and nurseries selling  
124 predominantly Connecticut-grown horticultural products and agri-  
125 tourism events and attractions, and (3) conduct efforts to promote  
126 interaction and business relationships between farmers and restaurants,  
127 grocery stores, institutional cafeterias and other potential institutional  
128 purchasers of Connecticut-grown farm products, including, but not  
129 limited to, (A) linking farmers and potential purchasers through a  
130 separate feature of the web site established pursuant to this section, and  
131 (B) organizing state-wide or regional events promoting Connecticut-  
132 grown farm products, where farmers and potential institutional  
133 customers are invited to participate. The commissioner shall use his best  
134 efforts to solicit cooperation and participation from the farm, corporate,  
135 retail, wholesale and grocery communities in such advertising, Internet-  
136 related and event planning efforts, including, but not limited to,  
137 soliciting private sector matching funds. The commissioner shall use all  
138 of the funds provided to the Department of Agriculture pursuant to  
139 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (5) of [subsection (a) of] section 4-66aa,  
140 as amended by this act, for the purposes of this section. The  
141 commissioner shall report annually to the joint standing committee of  
142 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
143 environment on issues with respect to efforts undertaken pursuant to  
144 the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to, the  
145 amount of private matching funds received and expended by the  
146 department. The commissioner may adopt, in accordance with chapter

147 54, such regulations as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of  
148 this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4-66aa
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-34a(e)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	49-10(h)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	22-38a

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4-66aa
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-34a(e)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	49-10(h)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	22-38a

***Statement of Purpose:***

To increase the funding for the community investment account by raising the fees charged, to rename said account the Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account and to increase the fees remitted to town clerks by one dollar.

*[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.]*