



House Bill No. 7288

Public Act No. 25-174

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING GRANT PROGRAMS, STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS STATUTES AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS REVISING AND IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

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

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding \$787,405,019.

Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The proceeds of the sale of bonds described in sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act, to the extent hereinafter stated, shall be used for the purpose of acquiring, by purchase or condemnation, undertaking, constructing, reconstructing, improving or equipping or purchasing land or buildings or improving sites for the projects hereinafter described, including payment of architectural, engineering, demolition or related costs in connection therewith, or of payment of the cost of long-range capital programming and space utilization studies as hereinafter stated:

House Bill No. 7288

(a) For the Office of Policy and Management:

(1) For an information technology capital investment program, not exceeding \$75,000,000;

(2) For state-wide flood and resiliency mapping, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(b) For the Department of Veterans Affairs:

(1) Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, and land acquisition, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(2) Expansion of the Middletown State Veterans Cemetery, not exceeding \$7,500,000.

(c) For the Department of Administrative Services:

(1) Upgrades and modernization of the Capitol Area System, not exceeding \$42,000,000;

(2) Installation of solar photovoltaic systems on state property, excluding state forests, parks, open spaces, farmland and natural area preserves, not exceeding \$40,000,000.

(d) For the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection: Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems and energy conservation projects, not exceeding \$10,000,000.

(e) For the Department of Motor Vehicles:

(1) Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(2) Alterations, including relocation, of the Wethersfield office, not exceeding \$15,000,000.

House Bill No. 7288

(f) For the Military Department:

(1) State matching funds for anticipated federal reimbursable projects, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(2) Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems and energy conservation, not exceeding \$1,000,000;

(3) Construction of a Medical Readiness Center, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(4) State matching funds for the anticipated federal reimbursable project at the Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group in Groton, not exceeding \$17,000,000.

(g) For the Department of Agriculture: Alterations, renovations and improvements to existing state-owned buildings, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(h) For the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

(1) Recreation and natural heritage trust program for recreation, open space, resource protection and resource management, not exceeding \$3,000,000;

(2) Alterations, renovations and new construction at state parks and other recreation facilities, including Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, not exceeding \$40,000,000;

(3) Water pollution control projects at state facilities and for engineering reports for regional planning agencies, not exceeding \$500,000;

(4) For the purpose of funding projects in state buildings and assets that result in decreased environmental impacts, including projects: That

House Bill No. 7288

improve energy efficiency pursuant to section 16a-38l of the general statutes; that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from building heating and cooling, including installation of renewable thermal heating systems; that expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support charging on state property; that reduce water use; that reduce waste generation and disposal; or for any renewable energy, or combined heat and power project in state buildings, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(5) Dam repairs, including state-owned dams, not exceeding \$2,500,000;

(6) Design costs and purchase of a research vessel, not exceeding \$500,000.

(i) For the Capital Region Development Authority:

(1) Alterations, renovations and improvements at the Connecticut Convention Center and Rentschler Field, not exceeding \$17,000,000;

(2) Alterations, renovations and improvements to parking garages in Hartford, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(j) For the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station: Alterations, renovations and improvements to existing state-owned buildings, including predesign costs, not exceeding \$1,200,000.

(k) For the Department of Public Health: Alterations, renovations and improvements to existing state-owned buildings, not exceeding \$500,000.

(l) For the Department of Developmental Services: Fire, safety and environmental improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities for client and staff needs, including improvements in compliance with current codes, site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, repair or replacement of roofs, air conditioning

House Bill No. 7288

and other interior and exterior building renovations and additions at all state-owned facilities, not exceeding \$7,000,000.

(m) For the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services:

(1) Fire, safety and environmental improvements to regional facilities for client and staff needs, including improvements in compliance with current codes, including intermediate care facilities and site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, repair or replacement of roofs, air conditioning and other interior and exterior building renovations and additions at all state-owned facilities, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(2) Design and installation of sprinkler systems, including related fire safety improvements, in direct patient care buildings, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(3) Planning and design for replacement of Whiting Forensic Hospital at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, not exceeding \$50,000,000.

(n) For the Technical Education and Career System:

(1) District-wide facility infrastructure upgrades, security improvements, vehicle and equipment purchases and emergency repairs, not exceeding \$30,000,000;

(2) Information technology and support equipment, not exceeding \$8,000,000;

(3) For the design and construction of a new Windham Technical High School, not exceeding \$113,705,019.

(o) For The University of Connecticut Health Center:

(1) System telecommunications infrastructure upgrades,

House Bill No. 7288

improvements and expansions, not exceeding \$3,000,000;

(2) Equipment, library collections and telecommunications, not exceeding \$25,000,000.

(p) For the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities:

(1) All community colleges: Deferred maintenance, code compliance and infrastructure improvements, not exceeding \$30,000,000;

(2) All universities: Deferred maintenance, code compliance and infrastructure improvements, not exceeding \$30,000,000;

(3) All state colleges and universities: Energy-efficiency program, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(4) Gateway Community College: Acquisition, design and construction of facilities for workforce development programs, including such programs for the transportation, alternative energy, advanced manufacturing and health sectors, not exceeding \$1,000,000;

(5) Naugatuck Valley Community College: Design for the renovation of Kinney Hall, not exceeding \$1,000,000;

(6) Norwalk Community College: Alterations, renovations and improvements to the B wing building, not exceeding \$1,000,000.

(q) For the Department of Correction: Alterations, renovations and improvements to existing state-owned buildings for inmate housing, programming and staff training space and additional inmate capacity, and for support facilities and off-site improvements, not exceeding \$50,000,000.

(r) For the Department of Children and Families: Alterations, renovations and improvements to existing state-owned buildings, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

House Bill No. 7288

(s) For the Judicial Department:

(1) Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds at state-owned and maintained facilities, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(2) Security improvements at various state-owned and maintained facilities, not exceeding \$2,000,000;

(3) Alterations and improvements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(4) Implementation of the Technology Strategic Plan Project, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(5) Development of new courthouses, including land acquisition and parking, not exceeding \$25,000,000;

(6) Renovations to juvenile courts and juvenile residential centers, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(t) For The University of Connecticut:

(1) Equipment, library collections and telecommunications, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(2) Improvements to digital learning infrastructure at a regional campus, not exceeding \$3,000,000.

Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby that are not inconsistent with the provisions of sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act and temporary notes issued in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in

House Bill No. 7288

accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds.

Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) None of the bonds described in sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or by or on behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require.

Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the purposes of sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act, "state moneys" means the proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized pursuant to said sections 1 to 7, inclusive, or of temporary notes issued in anticipation of the moneys to be derived from the sale of such bonds. Each request filed as provided in section 4 of this act for an authorization of bonds shall identify the project for which the proceeds of the sale of such bonds are to be used and expended and, in addition to any terms and conditions required pursuant to said section 4, shall include the recommendation of the person signing such request as to the extent to which federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with any such project should be added to the state moneys available or becoming available hereunder for such project. If the request includes a recommendation that some amount of such federal, private or other moneys should be added to such state moneys, then, if and to the extent directed by the State Bond Commission at the time of authorization of such bonds, such amount of such federal, private or other moneys then available, or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project, may be added to any state moneys available or becoming

House Bill No. 7288

available hereunder for such project and shall be used for such project. Any other federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project shall, upon receipt, be used by the State Treasurer, in conformity with applicable federal and state law, to meet the principal of outstanding bonds issued pursuant to sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act, or to meet the principal of temporary notes issued in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of bonds theretofore authorized pursuant to said sections 1 to 7, inclusive, for the purpose of financing such costs, either by purchase or redemption and cancellation of such bonds or notes or by payment thereof at maturity. Whenever any of the federal, private or other moneys so received with respect to such project are used to meet the principal of such temporary notes or whenever principal of any such temporary notes is retired by application of revenue receipts of the state, the amount of bonds theretofore authorized in anticipation of which such temporary notes were issued, and the aggregate amount of bonds which may be authorized pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall each be reduced by the amount of the principal so met or retired. Pending use of the federal, private or other moneys so received to meet principal as hereinabove directed, the amount thereof may be invested by the State Treasurer in bonds or obligations of, or guaranteed by, the state or the United States or agencies or instrumentalities of the United States, shall be deemed to be part of the debt retirement funds of the state, and net earnings on such investments shall be used in the same manner as the moneys so invested.

Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any balance of proceeds of the sale of said bonds authorized for any project described in section 2 of this act in excess of the cost of such project may be used to complete any other project described in said section 2, if the State Bond Commission shall so determine and direct. Any balance of proceeds of the sale of said bonds in excess of the costs of all the projects described in said section 2 shall be deposited to the credit of the General Fund.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The bonds issued pursuant to this section and sections 1 to 6, inclusive, of this act shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 9 and 10 of this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding \$200,000,000.

Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The proceeds of the sale of bonds described in sections 8 to 11, inclusive, of this act shall be used by the Department of Housing for the purposes hereinafter stated: Housing development and rehabilitation, including moderate cost housing, moderate rentals, congregate and elderly housing, urban homesteading, community housing development corporations, housing purchase and rehabilitation; housing for the homeless; housing for low-income persons; limited equity cooperatives and mutual housing projects; abatement of hazardous material, including asbestos and lead-based paint in residential structures; emergency repair assistance for senior citizens; housing land bank and land trust; housing and community development; predevelopment grants and loans; reimbursement for state and federal surplus property; a private rental investment mortgage and equity program; housing infrastructure; demolition, renovation or redevelopment of vacant buildings or related infrastructure; septic system repair loan program; acquisition and related rehabilitation, including loan guarantees for private developers of rental housing for

House Bill No. 7288

the elderly; projects under the program established in section 8-37pp of the general statutes and participation in federal programs, including administrative expenses associated with those programs eligible under the general statutes, not exceeding \$200,000,000.

Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) None of the bonds described in sections 8 to 11, inclusive, of this act shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or by or on behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require.

Sec. 11. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section and sections 8 to 10, inclusive, of this act, are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section and sections 8 to 10, inclusive, of this act and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. Such bonds issued pursuant to section 8 of this act shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 13 to 19, inclusive, of this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding \$364,400,000.

Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The proceeds of the sale of the bonds described in sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act shall be used for the purpose of providing grants-in-aid and other financing for the projects, programs and purposes hereinafter stated:

(a) For the Office of Policy and Management:

(1) Grants-in-aid to distressed municipalities eligible under section 32-9s of the general statutes for capital purposes, not exceeding \$7,000,000;

(2) Grants-in-aid to support municipalities, homeowners and small businesses that have been impacted by a catastrophic event, not exceeding \$15,000,000;

(3) Grants-in-aid to acute care hospitals licensed under chapter 368v of the general statutes for construction of facilities for adult inpatient psychiatric beds, not exceeding \$2,500,000.

(b) For the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

(1) Grants-in-aid for containment, removal or mitigation of identified hazardous waste disposal sites, not exceeding \$7,600,000;

(2) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for improvements to incinerators and landfills, including, but not limited to, bulky waste landfills, not exceeding \$6,800,000;

(3) Grants-in-aid for identification, investigation, containment, removal or mitigation of contaminated industrial sites in urban areas,

House Bill No. 7288

not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(4) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for the purpose of providing potable water and for assessment and remedial action to address pollution from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl containing substances, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(5) Various flood control improvements, flood repair, erosion damage repairs and municipal dam repairs, not exceeding \$2,500,000;

(6) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for open space land acquisition and development for conservation or recreational purposes, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(7) Grants-in-aid for the removal of Kinneytown Dam, not exceeding \$25,000,000;

(8) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for renovations and expansion of, and equipment for, solid waste facilities, not exceeding \$15,000,000.

(c) For the Department of Economic and Community Development:

(1) Brownfield remediation and revitalization program, not exceeding \$40,000,000;

(2) Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund established in section 32-70 of the general statutes, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(3) Greyfield revitalization program established in section 112 of this act, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(4) For the Department of Economic and Community Development: Alterations, renovations and improvements at the Tweed-New Haven Airport, not exceeding \$10,000,000.

(d) For the Department of Education:

House Bill No. 7288

(1) Grants-in-aid to regional educational service centers and Goodwin University Education Services for capital expenses at interdistrict magnet schools, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(2) Grants-in-aid to support in-district programming for students with disabilities, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(3) Grants-in-aid to support a local board of education for a municipality that has a population greater than one hundred forty thousand according to the most recent federal decennial census, provided (A) such municipality is required to appear before the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission, established pursuant to section 7-394b of the general statutes, prior to December 31, 2025, and (B) the Commissioner of Education shall determine the use of such proceeds, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(e) For the Capital Region Development Authority:

(1) Grants-in-aid for the purpose of encouraging development as provided in section 32-602 of the general statutes, not exceeding \$31,000,000;

(2) Grant-in-aid to the municipality of East Hartford for the purposes of general economic development activities, including the development of the infrastructure and improvements to the riverfront; the creation of housing units through rehabilitation and new construction; the demolition or redevelopment of vacant buildings; and redevelopment, not exceeding \$20,000,000.

(f) For the Department of Transportation: Grants-in-aid to municipalities for use in the manner set forth in, and in accordance with the provisions of, sections 13a-175a to 13a-175k, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, not exceeding \$40,000,000.

(g) For the Department of Agriculture: Grants-in-aid to hold land for

House Bill No. 7288

agricultural preservation purposes, not exceeding \$10,000,000.

(h) For the Department of Aging and Disability Services: Grants-in-aid for aging in place, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(i) For the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities: Acquisition, design, construction and renovation of a facility for a civil rights museum, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(j) For the Department of Housing:

(1) Grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority for the purpose of administering the "Homes for CT" loan program, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(2) Affordable Housing Real Estate Investment Trust pilot program, not exceeding \$2,000,000.

Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby that are not inconsistent with the provisions of sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act and temporary notes issued in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said sections 12 to 19, inclusive, and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds.

Sec. 15. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) None of the bonds described in sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of

House Bill No. 7288

Policy and Management or by or on behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require.

Sec. 16. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the purposes of sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act, "state moneys" means the proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized pursuant to said sections 12 to 19, inclusive, or of temporary notes issued in anticipation of the moneys to be derived from the sale of such bonds. Each request filed as provided in section 15 of this act for an authorization of bonds shall identify the project for which the proceeds of the sale of such bonds are to be used and expended and, in addition to any terms and conditions required pursuant to said section 15, include the recommendation of the person signing such request as to the extent to which federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with any such project should be added to the state moneys available or becoming available under said sections 12 to 19, inclusive, for such project. If the request includes a recommendation that some amount of such federal, private or other moneys should be added to such state moneys, then, if and to the extent directed by the State Bond Commission at the time of authorization of such bonds, such amount of such federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project may be added to any state moneys available or becoming available hereunder for such project and be used for such project. Any other federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project upon receipt shall, in conformity with applicable federal and state law, be used by the State Treasurer to meet the principal of outstanding bonds issued pursuant to said sections 12 to 19, inclusive, or to meet the principal of temporary notes issued in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of bonds theretofore authorized pursuant to said sections 12 to 19, inclusive, for the purpose of financing such costs, either by purchase or redemption

House Bill No. 7288

and cancellation of such bonds or notes or by payment thereof at maturity. Whenever any of the federal, private or other moneys so received with respect to such project are used to meet the principal of such temporary notes or whenever the principal of any such temporary notes is retired by application of revenue receipts of the state, the amount of bonds theretofore authorized in anticipation of which such temporary notes were issued, and the aggregate amount of bonds which may be authorized pursuant to section 12 of this act shall each be reduced by the amount of the principal so met or retired. Pending use of the federal, private or other moneys so received to meet the principal as directed in this section, the amount thereof may be invested by the State Treasurer in bonds or obligations of, or guaranteed by, the state or the United States or agencies or instrumentalities of the United States, shall be deemed to be part of the debt retirement funds of the state, and net earnings on such investments shall be used in the same manner as the moneys so invested.

Sec. 17. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The bonds issued pursuant to sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) In accordance with section 13 of this act, the state, through the state agencies specified in said section 13, may provide grants-in-aid and other financings to or for the agencies for the purposes and projects as described in said section 13. All financing shall be made in accordance with the terms of a contract at such time or times as shall be determined within authorization of funds by the State Bond

House Bill No. 7288

Commission.

Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) In the case of any grant-in-aid made pursuant to subsection (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) or (k) of section 13 of this act that is made to any entity which is not a political subdivision of the state, the contract entered into pursuant to section 13 of this act shall provide that if the premises for which such grant-in-aid was made ceases, within ten years of the date of such grant, to be used as a facility for which such grant was made, an amount equal to the amount of such grant, minus ten per cent per year for each full year which has elapsed since the date of such grant, shall be repaid to the state and that a lien shall be placed on such land in favor of the state to ensure that such amount shall be repaid in the event of such change in use, provided if the premises for which such grant-in-aid was made are owned by the state, a municipality or a housing authority, no lien need be placed.

Sec. 20. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 21 to 26, inclusive, of this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding \$552,500,000.

Sec. 21. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The proceeds of the sale of bonds described in sections 20 to 26, inclusive, of this act, to the extent hereinafter stated, shall be used for the purpose of acquiring, by purchase or condemnation, undertaking, constructing, reconstructing, improving or equipping, or purchasing land or buildings or improving sites for the projects hereinafter described, including payment of architectural, engineering, demolition or related costs in connection therewith, or of payment of the cost of long-range capital programming and space utilization studies as hereinafter stated:

(a) For the Office of Policy and Management: For an information

House Bill No. 7288

technology capital investment program, not exceeding \$75,000,000.

(b) For the Department of Veterans Affairs: Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, and land acquisition, not exceeding \$10,000,000.

(c) For the Department of Administrative Services:

(1) Infrastructure repairs and improvements, including fire and safety improvements, improvements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, improvements to state-owned buildings and grounds, including energy conservation and off-site improvements, and preservation of unoccupied buildings and grounds, including office development, acquisition, renovations for additional parking and security improvements at state-occupied buildings, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(2) For the purchase of equipment, minor improvements and other associated costs for a new data center, not exceeding \$16,000,000;

(3) Installation of solar photovoltaic systems on state property, excluding state forests, parks, open spaces, farmland and natural area preserves, not exceeding \$20,000,000.

(d) For the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection: Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems and energy conservation projects, not exceeding \$50,000,000.

(e) For the Department of Motor Vehicles: Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, not exceeding \$2,500,000.

(f) For the Military Department:

(1) State matching funds for anticipated federal reimbursable projects, not exceeding \$3,000,000;

House Bill No. 7288

(2) Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems and energy conservation, not exceeding \$1,000,000.

(g) For the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

(1) Recreation and natural heritage trust program for recreation, open space, resource protection and resource management, not exceeding \$3,000,000;

(2) Alterations, renovations and new construction at state parks and other recreation facilities, including Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, not exceeding \$30,000,000;

(3) For water pollution control projects at state facilities and for engineering reports for regional planning agencies, not exceeding \$500,000;

(4) For the purpose of funding projects in state buildings and assets that result in decreased environmental impacts, including projects: That improve energy efficiency pursuant to section 16a-38l of the general statutes; that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from building heating and cooling, including installation of renewable thermal heating systems; that expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support charging on state property; that reduce water use; that reduce waste generation and disposal; or for any renewable energy, or combined heat and power project in state buildings, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(5) Dam repairs, including state-owned dams, not exceeding \$2,500,000;

(6) Design costs and purchase of a research vessel, not exceeding \$7,000,000.

(h) For the Capital Region Development Authority:

House Bill No. 7288

(1) Alterations, renovations and improvements at the Connecticut Convention Center and Rentschler Field, not exceeding \$17,000,000;

(2) Alterations, renovations and improvements to parking garages in Hartford, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(i) For the Department of Developmental Services: Fire, safety and environmental improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities for client and staff needs, including improvements in compliance with current codes, site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, repair or replacement of roofs, air conditioning and other interior and exterior building renovations and additions at all state-owned facilities, not exceeding \$7,000,000.

(j) For the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services:

(1) Fire, safety and environmental improvements to regional facilities for client and staff needs, including improvements in compliance with current codes, including intermediate care facilities and site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, repair or replacement of roofs, air conditioning and other interior and exterior building renovations and additions at all state-owned facilities, not exceeding \$40,000,000;

(2) Design and installation of sprinkler systems, including related fire safety improvements, in direct patient care buildings, not exceeding \$15,000,000.

(k) For the Technical Education and Career System:

(1) District-wide facility infrastructure upgrades, security improvements, vehicle and equipment purchases and emergency repairs, not exceeding \$30,000,000;

(2) Information technology and support equipment, not exceeding

House Bill No. 7288

\$8,000,000;

(3) For capital improvement projects at E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, not exceeding \$35,000,000.

(l) For The University of Connecticut Health Center:

(1) System telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, improvements and expansions, not exceeding \$3,000,000;

(2) Equipment, library collections and telecommunications, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(3) Deferred maintenance, code compliance and infrastructure improvements, not exceeding \$30,000,000.

(m) For the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities: System telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, improvements and expansions, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(n) For the Department of Correction: Alterations, renovations and improvements to existing state-owned buildings for inmate housing, programming and staff training space and additional inmate capacity, and for support facilities and off-site improvements, not exceeding \$55,000,000.

(o) For the Department of Children and Families: Alterations, renovations and improvements to existing state-owned buildings, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(p) For the Judicial Department:

(1) Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds at state-owned and maintained facilities, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

House Bill No. 7288

(2) Security improvements at various state-owned and maintained facilities, not exceeding \$2,000,000;

(3) Alterations and improvements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(4) Implementation of the Technology Strategic Plan Project, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(5) Development of new courthouses, including land acquisition and parking, not exceeding \$25,000,000;

(6) Renovations to juvenile courts and juvenile residential centers, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

Sec. 22. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of sections 20 to 26, inclusive, of this act are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to sections 20 to 26, inclusive, of this act and temporary notes issued in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds.

Sec. 23. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) None of the bonds described in sections 20 to 26, inclusive, of this act, shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or by or on behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 24. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) For the purposes of sections 20 to 26, inclusive, of this act, "state moneys" means the proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized pursuant to said sections 20 to 26, inclusive, or of temporary notes issued in anticipation of the moneys to be derived from the sale of such bonds. Each request filed as provided in section 23 of this act for an authorization of bonds shall identify the project for which the proceeds of the sale of such bonds are to be used and expended and, in addition to any terms and conditions required pursuant to said section 23, shall include the recommendation of the person signing such request as to the extent to which federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with any such project should be added to the state moneys available or becoming available hereunder for such project. If the request includes a recommendation that some amount of such federal, private or other moneys should be added to such state moneys, then, if and to the extent directed by the State Bond Commission at the time of authorization of such bonds, such amount of such federal, private or other moneys then available, or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project, may be added to any state moneys available or becoming available hereunder for such project and shall be used for such project. Any other federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project shall, upon receipt, be used by the State Treasurer, in conformity with applicable federal and state law, to meet the principal of outstanding bonds issued pursuant to sections 20 to 26, inclusive, of this act, or to meet the principal of temporary notes issued in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of bonds theretofore authorized pursuant to said sections 20 to 26, inclusive, for the purpose of financing such costs, either by purchase or redemption and cancellation of such bonds or notes or by payment thereof at maturity. Whenever any of the federal, private or other moneys so received with respect to such project are used to meet the principal of such temporary notes or whenever principal of any such temporary notes is retired by application of

House Bill No. 7288

revenue receipts of the state, the amount of bonds theretofore authorized in anticipation of which such temporary notes were issued, and the aggregate amount of bonds which may be authorized pursuant to section 20 of this act, shall each be reduced by the amount of the principal so met or retired. Pending use of the federal, private or other moneys so received to meet principal as hereinabove directed, the amount thereof may be invested by the State Treasurer in bonds or obligations of, or guaranteed by, the state or the United States or agencies or instrumentalities of the United States, shall be deemed to be part of the debt retirement funds of the state, and net earnings on such investments shall be used in the same manner as the moneys so invested.

Sec. 25. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any balance of proceeds of the sale of said bonds authorized for any project described in section 21 of this act in excess of the cost of such project may be used to complete any other project described in said section 21, if the State Bond Commission shall so determine and direct. Any balance of proceeds of the sale of said bonds in excess of the costs of all the projects described in said section 21 shall be deposited to the credit of the General Fund.

Sec. 26. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The bonds issued pursuant to this section and sections 20 to 25, inclusive, of this act shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 27. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 28 and 29 of this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds

House Bill No. 7288

of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding \$200,000,000.

Sec. 28. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The proceeds of the sale of bonds described in sections 27 to 30, inclusive, of this act shall be used by the Department of Housing for the purposes hereinafter stated: Housing development and rehabilitation, including moderate cost housing, moderate rental, congregate and elderly housing, urban homesteading, community housing development corporations, housing purchase and rehabilitation, housing for the homeless, housing for low-income persons, limited equity cooperatives and mutual housing projects, abatement of hazardous material including asbestos and lead-based paint in residential structures, emergency repair assistance for senior citizens, housing land bank and land trust, housing and community development, predevelopment grants and loans, reimbursement for state and federal surplus property, private rental investment mortgage and equity program, housing infrastructure, demolition, renovation or redevelopment of vacant buildings or related infrastructure, septic system repair loan program, acquisition and related rehabilitation, including loan guarantees for private developers of rental housing for the elderly, projects under the program established in section 8-37pp of the general statutes and participation in federal programs, including administrative expenses associated with those programs eligible under the general statutes, not exceeding \$200,000,000.

Sec. 29. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) None of the bonds described in sections 27 to 30, inclusive, of this act shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or by or on behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require.

Sec. 30. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) All provisions of section 3-20 of the

House Bill No. 7288

general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section and sections 27 to 29, inclusive, of this act are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section and sections 27 to 29, inclusive, of this act and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. Such bonds issued pursuant to section 27 of this act shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 31. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 32 to 38, inclusive, of this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding \$296,900,000.

Sec. 32. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The proceeds of the sale of the bonds described in sections 31 to 38, inclusive, of this act shall be used for the purpose of providing grants-in-aid and other financing for the projects, programs and purposes hereinafter stated:

(a) For the Office of Policy and Management:

(1) Grants-in-aid to distressed municipalities eligible under section

House Bill No. 7288

32-9s of the general statutes for capital purposes, not exceeding \$7,000,000;

(2) Grants-in-aid to acute care hospitals licensed under chapter 368v of the general statutes for construction of facilities for adult inpatient psychiatric beds, not exceeding \$2,500,000.

(b) For the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

(1) Grants-in-aid for containment, removal or mitigation of identified hazardous waste disposal sites, not exceeding \$17,000,000;

(2) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for improvements to incinerators and landfills, including, but not limited to, bulky waste landfills, not exceeding \$2,900,000;

(3) Grants-in-aid for identification, investigation, containment, removal or mitigation of contaminated industrial sites in urban areas, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(4) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for the purpose of providing potable water and for assessment and remedial action to address pollution from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl containing substances, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(5) Microgrid and resilience grant and loan pilot program, not exceeding \$25,000,000;

(6) Various flood control improvements, flood repair, erosion damage repairs and municipal dam repairs, not exceeding \$2,500,000;

(7) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for open space land acquisition and development for conservation or recreational purposes, not exceeding \$10,000,000.

(c) For the Department of Economic and Community Development:

House Bill No. 7288

(1) Brownfield remediation and revitalization program, not exceeding \$40,000,000;

(2) Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund established in section 32-70 of the general statutes, not exceeding \$25,000,000;

(3) Greyfield revitalization program established in section 112 of this act, not exceeding \$30,000,000.

(d) For the Department of Education:

(1) Grants-in-aid to support in-district programming for students with disabilities, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(2) Grants-in-aid to support a local board of education for a municipality that has a population greater than one hundred forty thousand according to the most recent federal decennial census, provided (A) such municipality is required to appear before the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission, established pursuant to section 7-394b of the general statutes, prior to December 31, 2025, and (B) the Commissioner of Education shall determine the use of such proceeds, not exceeding \$5,000,000.

(e) For the Capital Region Development Authority:

(1) Grants-in-aid for the purpose of encouraging development as provided in section 32-602 of the general statutes, not exceeding \$25,000,000;

(2) Grant-in-aid to the municipality of East Hartford for the purposes of general economic development activities, including the development of the infrastructure and improvements to the riverfront; the creation of housing units through rehabilitation and new construction; the demolition or redevelopment of vacant buildings; and redevelopment, not exceeding \$20,000,000.

House Bill No. 7288

(f) For the Department of Transportation: Grants-in-aid to municipalities for use in the manner set forth in, and in accordance with the provisions of, sections 13a-175a to 13a-175k, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, not exceeding \$40,000,000.

(g) For the Department of Housing: Grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority for the purpose of administering the "Homes for CT" loan program, not exceeding \$10,000,000.

Sec. 33. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of sections 31 to 38, inclusive, of this act are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to sections 31 to 38, inclusive, of this act and temporary notes issued in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said sections 31 to 38, inclusive, and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds.

Sec. 34. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) None of the bonds described in sections 31 to 38, inclusive, of this act shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or by or on behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require.

Sec. 35. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) For the purposes of sections 31 to 38, inclusive, of this act, "state moneys" means the proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized pursuant to said sections 31 to 38, inclusive, or of temporary notes issued in anticipation of the moneys to be derived from

House Bill No. 7288

the sale of such bonds. Each request filed as provided in section 34 of this act for an authorization of bonds shall identify the project for which the proceeds of the sale of such bonds are to be used and expended and, in addition to any terms and conditions required pursuant to said section 34, include the recommendation of the person signing such request as to the extent to which federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with any such project should be added to the state moneys available or becoming available under said sections 31 to 38, inclusive, for such project. If the request includes a recommendation that some amount of such federal, private or other moneys should be added to such state moneys, then, if and to the extent directed by the State Bond Commission at the time of authorization of such bonds, such amount of such federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project may be added to any state moneys available or becoming available hereunder for such project and be used for such project. Any other federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project upon receipt shall, in conformity with applicable federal and state law, be used by the State Treasurer to meet the principal of outstanding bonds issued pursuant to said sections 31 to 38, inclusive, or to meet the principal of temporary notes issued in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of bonds theretofore authorized pursuant to said sections 31 to 38, inclusive, for the purpose of financing such costs, either by purchase or redemption and cancellation of such bonds or notes or by payment thereof at maturity. Whenever any of the federal, private or other moneys so received with respect to such project are used to meet the principal of such temporary notes or whenever the principal of any such temporary notes is retired by application of revenue receipts of the state, the amount of bonds theretofore authorized in anticipation of which such temporary notes were issued, and the aggregate amount of bonds which may be authorized pursuant to section 31 of this act shall each be

House Bill No. 7288

reduced by the amount of the principal so met or retired. Pending use of the federal, private or other moneys so received to meet the principal as directed in this section, the amount thereof may be invested by the State Treasurer in bonds or obligations of, or guaranteed by, the state or the United States or agencies or instrumentalities of the United States, shall be deemed to be part of the debt retirement funds of the state, and net earnings on such investments shall be used in the same manner as the moneys so invested.

Sec. 36. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The bonds issued pursuant to sections 31 to 38, inclusive, of this act shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 37. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) In accordance with section 32 of this act, the state, through the state agencies specified in said section 32, may provide grants-in-aid and other financings to or for the agencies for the purposes and projects as described in said section 32. All financing shall be made in accordance with the terms of a contract at such time or times as shall be determined within authorization of funds by the State Bond Commission.

Sec. 38. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) In the case of any grant-in-aid made pursuant to subsection (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) of section 32 of this act that is made to any entity which is not a political subdivision of the state, the contract entered into pursuant to section 32 of this act shall provide that if the premises for which such grant-in-aid was made ceases, within ten years of the date of such grant, to be used as a facility for which such grant was made, an amount equal to the amount of such

House Bill No. 7288

grant, minus ten per cent per year for each full year which has elapsed since the date of such grant, shall be repaid to the state and that a lien shall be placed on such land in favor of the state to ensure that such amount shall be repaid in the event of such change in use, provided if the premises for which such grant-in-aid was made are owned by the state, a municipality or a housing authority, no lien need be placed.

Sec. 39. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 40 to 44, inclusive, of this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of special tax obligation bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding \$1,574,716,214.

Sec. 40. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The proceeds of the sale of bonds described in sections 39 to 44, inclusive, of this act, to the extent hereinafter stated, shall be used for the purpose of payment of the transportation costs, as defined in subdivision (6) of section 13b-75 of the general statutes, with respect to the projects and uses hereinafter described, which projects and uses are hereby found and determined to be in furtherance of one or more of the authorized purposes for the issuance of special tax obligation bonds set forth in section 13b-74 of the general statutes. For the Department of Transportation:

(a) For the Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations:

(1) Interstate highway program, not exceeding \$31,326,000;

(2) Urban Systems Projects, not exceeding \$27,400,000;

(3) Intrastate highway program, not exceeding \$90,000,000;

(4) Environmental compliance, soil and groundwater remediation, hazardous materials abatement, demolition, salt shed construction and renovation, storage tank replacement and environmental emergency response at or in the vicinity of state-owned properties or related to

House Bill No. 7288

Department of Transportation operations, not exceeding \$23,695,000;

(5) State bridge improvement, rehabilitation and replacement projects, not exceeding \$70,600,000;

(6) Capital resurfacing and related reconstruction, not exceeding \$175,000,000;

(7) Fix-it-First program to repair the state's bridges, not exceeding \$220,000,000;

(8) Fix-it-First program to repair the state's roads, not exceeding \$159,600,000;

(9) Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program, not exceeding \$80,000,000;

(10) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for use in the manner set forth in, and in accordance with the provisions of, sections 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, of the general statutes, not exceeding \$40,000,000;

(11) Local Bridge Program, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(12) Highway and bridge renewal equipment, not exceeding \$41,035,214;

(13) Community connectivity and alternative mobility program, not exceeding \$15,000,000;

(14) Transportation Rural Improvement Program, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(15) Purchase, installation and implementation of advanced wrong-way driving technology and other wrong-way driving countermeasures, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(16) Automated Work Zone Speed Control Program, not exceeding

House Bill No. 7288

\$5,000,000;

(17) Renovations and improvements to service plazas along highways, excluding projects to maintain such service plazas in a state of good repair, outfit tenant space or build-out for a new tenant and costs associated with tenant trade fixtures, tenant branding, promotions or advertising, not exceeding \$11,750,000.

(b) For the Bureau of Public Transportation:

(1) Bus and rail facilities and equipment, including rights-of-way, other property acquisition and related projects, not exceeding \$277,430,000;

(2) Northeast Corridor Modernization Match Program, not exceeding \$100,000,000;

(3) Commercial Rail Freight Lines, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(4) Waterways Program, not exceeding \$6,000,000.

(c) For the Bureau of Administration: Department facilities, not exceeding \$140,880,000.

Sec. 41. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) None of the bonds described in sections 39 to 44, inclusive, of this act shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it (1) a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or by or on behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require, and (2) any capital development impact statement and any human services facility colocation statement required to be filed with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section 4b-31 of the general statutes, any advisory report regarding the state conservation and

House Bill No. 7288

development policies plan required pursuant to section 16a-31 of the general statutes and any statement regarding farmland required pursuant to subsection (g) of section 3-20 of the general statutes and section 22-6 of the general statutes, provided the State Bond Commission may authorize said bonds without a finding that the reports and statements required by this subdivision have been filed with it if said commission authorizes the secretary of said commission to accept such reports and statements on its behalf. No funds derived from the sale of bonds authorized by said commission without a finding that the reports and statements required by subdivision (2) of this section have been filed with it shall be allotted by the Governor for any project until the reports and statements required by subdivision (2) of this section, with respect to such project, have been filed with the secretary of said commission.

Sec. 42. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the purposes of sections 39 to 44, inclusive, of this act, each request filed, as provided in section 41 of this act, for an authorization of bonds shall identify the project for which the proceeds of the sale of such bonds are to be used and expended and, in addition to any terms and conditions required pursuant to said section 41, include the recommendation of the person signing such request as to the extent to which federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with any such project should be added to the state moneys available or becoming available from the proceeds of bonds and temporary notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of bonds. If the request includes a recommendation that some amount of such federal, private or other moneys should be added to such state moneys, then, if and to the extent directed by the State Bond Commission at the time of authorization of such bonds, such amount of such federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project shall be added to such state moneys.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 43. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any balance of proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized for the projects or purposes of section 40 of this act, in excess of the aggregate costs of all the projects so authorized, shall be used in the manner set forth in sections 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, of the general statutes and in the proceedings of the State Bond Commission respecting the issuance and sale of said bonds.

Sec. 44. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Bonds issued pursuant to this section and sections 39 to 43, inclusive, of this act shall be special obligations of the state and shall not be payable from or charged upon any funds other than revenues of the state pledged therefor in subsection (b) of section 13b-61 of the general statutes and section 13b-61a of the general statutes, or such other receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged therefor. Said bonds shall not be payable from or charged upon any funds other than such pledged revenues or such other receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged therefor, nor shall the state or any political subdivision thereof be subject to any liability thereon, except to the extent of such pledged revenues or such other receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged therefor. Said bonds shall be issued under and in accordance with the provisions of sections 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, of the general statutes.

Sec. 45. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 46 to 50, inclusive, of this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of special tax obligation bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding \$1,580,954,214.

Sec. 46. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The proceeds of the sale of bonds described in sections 45 to 50, inclusive, of this act, to the extent hereinafter stated, shall be used for the purpose of payment of the transportation costs, as defined in subdivision (6) of section 13b-75 of the general statutes, with respect to the projects and uses hereinafter described, which projects and uses are hereby found and determined to

House Bill No. 7288

be in furtherance of one or more of the authorized purposes for the issuance of special tax obligation bonds set forth in section 13b-74 of the general statutes. For the Department of Transportation:

(a) For the Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations:

(1) Interstate highway program, not exceeding \$12,000,000;

(2) Urban Systems Projects, not exceeding \$27,500,000;

(3) Intrastate highway program, not exceeding \$85,000,000;

(4) Environmental compliance, soil and groundwater remediation, hazardous materials abatement, demolition, salt shed construction and renovation, storage tank replacement and environmental emergency response at or in the vicinity of state-owned properties or related to Department of Transportation operations, not exceeding \$23,559,000;

(5) State bridge improvement, rehabilitation and replacement projects, not exceeding \$40,600,000;

(6) Capital resurfacing and related reconstruction, not exceeding \$185,000,000;

(7) Fix-it-First program to repair the state's bridges, not exceeding \$238,600,000;

(8) Fix-it-First program to repair the state's roads, not exceeding \$193,000,000;

(9) Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program, not exceeding \$80,000,000;

(10) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for use in the manner set forth in, and in accordance with the provisions of, sections 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, of the general statutes, not exceeding \$40,000,000;

House Bill No. 7288

(11) Local Bridge Program, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(12) Highway and bridge renewal equipment, not exceeding \$41,035,214;

(13) Community connectivity and alternative mobility program, not exceeding \$15,000,000;

(14) Transportation Rural Improvement Program, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(15) Purchase, installation and implementation of advanced wrong-way driving technology and other wrong-way driving countermeasures, not exceeding \$20,000,000;

(16) Automated Work Zone Speed Control Program, not exceeding \$5,000,000;

(17) Renovations and improvements to service plazas along highways, excluding projects to maintain such service plazas in a state of good repair, outfit tenant space or build-out for a new tenant and costs associated with tenant trade fixtures, tenant branding, promotions or advertising, not exceeding \$11,750,000.

(b) For the Bureau of Public Transportation:

(1) Bus and rail facilities and equipment, including rights-of-way, other property acquisition and related projects, not exceeding \$284,850,000;

(2) Northeast Corridor Modernization Match Program, not exceeding \$100,000,000;

(3) Commercial Rail Freight Lines, not exceeding \$10,000,000;

(4) Waterways Program, not exceeding \$11,000,000.

House Bill No. 7288

(c) For the Bureau of Administration: Department facilities, not exceeding \$127,060,000.

Sec. 47. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) None of the bonds described in sections 45 to 50, inclusive, of this act shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it (1) a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or by or on behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require, and (2) any capital development impact statement and any human services facility colocation statement required to be filed with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section 4b-31 of the general statutes, any advisory report regarding the state conservation and development policies plan required pursuant to section 16a-31 of the general statutes and any statement regarding farmland required pursuant to subsection (g) of section 3-20 of the general statutes and section 22-6 of the general statutes, provided the State Bond Commission may authorize said bonds without a finding that the reports and statements required by this subdivision have been filed with it if said commission authorizes the secretary of said commission to accept such reports and statements on its behalf. No funds derived from the sale of bonds authorized by said commission without a finding that the reports and statements required by subdivision (2) of this section have been filed with it shall be allotted by the Governor for any project until the reports and statements required by subdivision (2) of this section, with respect to such project, have been filed with the secretary of said commission.

Sec. 48. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) For the purposes of sections 45 to 50, inclusive, of this act, each request filed, as provided in section 47 of this act, for an authorization of bonds shall identify the project for which the proceeds of the sale of such bonds are to be used and expended and, in

House Bill No. 7288

addition to any terms and conditions required pursuant to said section 47, include the recommendation of the person signing such request as to the extent to which federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with any such project should be added to the state moneys available or becoming available from the proceeds of bonds and temporary notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of bonds. If the request includes a recommendation that some amount of such federal, private or other moneys should be added to such state moneys, then, if and to the extent directed by the State Bond Commission at the time of authorization of such bonds, such amount of such federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in connection with such project shall be added to such state moneys.

Sec. 49. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any balance of proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized for the projects or purposes of section 46 of this act, in excess of the aggregate costs of all the projects so authorized, shall be used in the manner set forth in sections 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, of the general statutes, and in the proceedings of the State Bond Commission respecting the issuance and sale of said bonds.

Sec. 50. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Bonds issued pursuant to this section and sections 45 to 49, inclusive, of this act shall be special obligations of the state and shall not be payable from or charged upon any funds other than revenues of the state pledged therefor in subsection (b) of section 13b-61 of the general statutes and section 13b-61a of the general statutes, or such other receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged therefor. Said bonds shall not be payable from or charged upon any funds other than such pledged revenues or such other receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged therefor, nor shall the state or any political subdivision thereof be subject to any liability thereon, except to the extent of such pledged revenues or such other receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged therefor. Said bonds shall be issued under and in accordance

House Bill No. 7288

with the provisions of sections 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, of the general statutes.

Sec. 51. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 4-66c of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes of subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have power, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [two billion six hundred forty-four million four hundred eighty-seven thousand five hundred forty-four dollars] three billion forty-four million four hundred eighty-seven thousand five hundred forty-four dollars, provided two hundred million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026. All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission in its discretion may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly as

House Bill No. 7288

part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

(b) (1) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent hereinafter stated, shall be used, subject to the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section, for the purpose of redirecting, improving and expanding state activities which promote community conservation and development and improve the quality of life for urban residents of the state as hereinafter stated: (A) For the Department of Economic and Community Development: Economic and community development projects, including administrative costs incurred by the Department of Economic and Community Development, not exceeding sixty-seven million eight hundred forty-one thousand six hundred forty-two dollars, one million dollars of which shall be used for a grant to the development center program and the nonprofit business consortium deployment center approved pursuant to section 32-411; (B) for the Department of Transportation: Urban mass transit, not exceeding two million dollars; (C) for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Recreation development and solid waste disposal projects, not exceeding one million nine hundred ninety-five thousand nine hundred two dollars; (D) for the Department of Social Services: Child day care projects, elderly centers, shelter facilities for victims of domestic violence, emergency shelters and related facilities for the homeless, multipurpose human resource centers and food distribution facilities, not exceeding thirty-nine million one hundred thousand dollars, provided four million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 1994; (E) for the Department of Economic and Community Development: Housing projects, not exceeding three million dollars; (F) for the Department of Housing: Homeownership initiative in collaboration with one or more local community development financial institutions in qualified census tracts for the

House Bill No. 7288

purpose of construction or redevelopment, performed by developers or nonprofit organizations residing in that municipality, which leads to new homeownership opportunities for residents of such qualified census tracts, not exceeding twenty million dollars; (G) for the Office of Policy and Management: (i) Grants-in-aid to municipalities for a pilot demonstration program to leverage private contributions for redevelopment of designated historic preservation areas, not exceeding one million dollars; (ii) grants-in-aid for urban development projects including economic and community development, transportation, environmental protection, public safety, children and families and social services projects and programs, including, in the case of economic and community development projects administered on behalf of the Office of Policy and Management by the Department of Economic and Community Development, administrative costs incurred by the Department of Economic and Community Development, not exceeding [two billion five hundred nine million eight hundred] two billion nine hundred nine million five hundred fifty thousand dollars, [not more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars of which shall be used for a grant to the town of Cromwell for lights at a field used by Little League teams] provided two hundred million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026. For purposes of this subdivision, "local community development financial institution" means an entity that meets the requirements of 12 CFR 1805.201, and "qualified census tract" means a census tract designated as a qualified census tract by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in accordance with 26 USC 42(d)(5)(B)(ii), as amended from time to time.

(2) (A) Five million dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection may be made available to private nonprofit organizations for the purposes described in said subparagraph (G)(ii). (B) Twelve million dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection may be made available for necessary renovations and

House Bill No. 7288

improvements of libraries. (C) Five million dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be made available for small business gap financing. (D) Ten million dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection may be made available for regional economic development revolving loan funds. (E) One million four hundred thousand dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be made available for rehabilitation and renovation of the Black Rock Library in Bridgeport. (F) Two million five hundred thousand dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be made available for site acquisition, renovation and rehabilitation for the Institute for the Hispanic Family in Hartford. (G) Three million dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be made available for the acquisition of land and the development of commercial or retail property in New Haven. (H) Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be made available for repairs and replacement of the fishing pier at Cummings Park in Stamford. (I) Ten million dollars of the grants-in-aid authorized in subparagraph (G)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be made available for development of an intermodal transportation facility in northeastern Connecticut.

Sec. 52. Subsection (a) of section 4-66g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [three hundred eighty-six] four hundred twenty-six million dollars, provided [thirty-

House Bill No. 7288

five] forty million of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026.

Sec. 53. Subsection (a) of section 4a-10 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [six hundred eleven million one] six hundred ninety-one million one hundred thousand dollars, provided [twenty-five] forty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026.

Sec. 54. Subsection (a) of section 7-538 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [one billion one hundred sixty] one billion two hundred fifty million dollars, provided forty-five million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026.

Sec. 55. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate three hundred million dollars, provided one hundred fifty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount

House Bill No. 7288

stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Office of Policy and Management for grants-in-aid to municipalities for the purposes set forth in subsection (a) of section 13a-175a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027. Such grant payments shall be made annually as follows:

Municipalities	FY 2026	FY 2027
Andover	2,620	2,620
Ansonia	85,419	85,419
Ashford	3,582	3,582
Avon	261,442	261,442
Barkhamsted	41,462	41,462
Beacon Falls	43,809	43,809
Berlin	1,593,642	1,593,642
Bethany	67,229	67,229
Bethel	282,660	282,660
Bethlehem	7,945	7,945
Bloomfield	3,201,687	3,201,687
Bolton	24,859	24,859
Bozrah	138,521	138,521
Branford	374,850	374,850
Bridgeport	13,531,564	13,531,564
Bridgewater	587	587
Bristol	4,856,624	4,856,624
Brookfield	118,281	118,281
Brooklyn	10,379	10,379
Burlington	15,300	15,300
Canaan	20,712	20,712
Canterbury	2,022	2,022
Canton	7,994	7,994
Chaplin	601	601
Cheshire	736,700	736,700
Chester	89,264	89,264
Clinton	191,674	191,674
Colchester	39,009	39,009
Colebrook	550	550

House Bill No. 7288

Columbia	26,763	26,763
Cornwall	-	-
Coventry	10,533	10,533
Cromwell	31,099	31,099
Danbury	15,027,544	15,027,544
Darien	-	-
Deep River	104,136	104,136
Derby	14,728	14,728
Durham	153,897	153,897
East Granby	1,096,577	1,096,577
East Haddam	1,696	1,696
East Hampton	18,943	18,943
East Hartford	8,052,926	8,052,926
East Haven	43,500	43,500
East Lyme	22,442	22,442
East Windsor	295,024	295,024
Eastford	54,564	54,564
Easton	2,660	2,660
Ellington	223,527	223,527
Enfield	256,875	256,875
Essex	74,547	74,547
Fairfield	96,747	96,747
Farmington	545,804	545,804
Franklin	23,080	23,080
Glastonbury	240,799	240,799
Goshen	2,648	2,648
Granby	35,332	35,332
Greenwich	89,022	89,022
Griswold	31,895	31,895
Groton (Town of)	2,362,532	2,362,532
Guilford	64,848	64,848
Haddam	3,554	3,554
Hamden	286,689	286,689
Hampton	-	-
Hartford	9,419,161	9,419,161
Hartland	955	955
Harwinton	21,506	21,506
Hebron	2,216	2,216
Kent	-	-

House Bill No. 7288

Killingly	1,228,578	1,228,578
Killingworth	5,148	5,148
Lebanon	30,427	30,427
Ledyard	421,085	421,085
Lisbon	3,683	3,683
Litchfield	3,432	3,432
Lyme	-	-
Madison	6,795	6,795
Manchester	2,981,068	2,981,068
Mansfield	6,841	6,841
Marlborough	7,313	7,313
Meriden	1,663,015	1,663,015
Middlebury	84,264	84,264
Middlefield	248,652	248,652
Middletown	3,966,295	3,966,295
Milford	2,257,853	2,257,853
Monroe	179,106	179,106
Montville	528,644	528,644
Morris	3,528	3,528
Naugatuck	341,656	341,656
New Britain	2,864,920	2,864,920
New Canaan	200	200
New Fairfield	1,149	1,149
New Hartford	139,174	139,174
New Haven	10,214,643	10,214,643
New London	2,033,169	2,033,169
New Milford	1,298,881	1,298,881
Newington	1,785,740	1,785,740
Newtown	235,371	235,371
Norfolk	7,207	7,207
North Branford	301,074	301,074
North Canaan	359,719	359,719
North Haven	2,249,113	2,249,113
North Stonington	-	-
Norwalk	10,402,915	10,402,915
Norwich	187,132	187,132
Old Lyme	1,888	1,888
Old Saybrook	46,717	46,717
Orange	104,962	104,962

House Bill No. 7288

Oxford	84,313	84,313
Plainfield	144,803	144,803
Plainville	541,936	541,936
Plymouth	152,434	152,434
Pomfret	27,820	27,820
Portland	90,840	90,840
Preston	-	-
Prospect	70,942	70,942
Putnam	171,800	171,800
Redding	1,329	1,329
Ridgefield	561,986	561,986
Rocky Hill	221,199	221,199
Roxbury	602	602
Salem	4,699	4,699
Salisbury	83	83
Scotland	7,681	7,681
Seymour	281,186	281,186
Sharon	-	-
Shelton	584,121	584,121
Sherman	-	-
Simsbury	77,648	77,648
Somers	82,324	82,324
South Windsor	2,187,387	2,187,387
Southbury	20,981	20,981
Southington	1,427,348	1,427,348
Sprague	386,528	386,528
Stafford	437,917	437,917
Stamford	1,154,179	1,154,179
Sterling	24,398	24,398
Stonington	100,332	100,332
Stratford	5,784,708	5,784,708
Suffield	180,663	180,663
Thomaston	395,346	395,346
Thompson	76,733	76,733
Tolland	85,064	85,064
Torrington	605,345	605,345
Trumbull	189,309	189,309
Union	-	-
Vernon	151,598	151,598

House Bill No. 7288

Voluntown	2,002	2,002
Wallingford	3,481,872	3,481,872
Warren	288	288
Washington	158	158
Waterbury	9,935,497	9,935,497
Waterford	34,255	34,255
Watertown	642,281	642,281
West Hartford	805,784	805,784
West Haven	147,516	147,516
Westbrook	267,405	267,405
Weston	453	453
Westport	-	-
Wethersfield	21,785	21,785
Willington	20,018	20,018
Wilton	842,618	842,618
Winchester	306,204	306,204
Windham	454,575	454,575
Windsor	2,075,052	2,075,052
Windsor Locks	2,784,595	2,784,595
Wolcott	234,916	234,916
Woodbridge	29,920	29,920
Woodbury	56,908	56,908
Woodstock	68,767	68,767
Jewett City (Bor.)	4,195	4,195
Barkhamsted FD	2,500	2,500
Berlin - Kensington FD	11,389	11,389
Berlin - Worthington FD	941	941
Bloomfield Center FD	4,173	4,173
Bloomfield Blue Hills FD	103,086	103,086
Cromwell FD	1,832	1,832
Enfield FD 1	14,636	14,636
Enfield Thompsonville FD 2	3,160	3,160
Enfield Hazardville Fire #3	1,373	1,373
Enfield N Thompsonville FD 4	69	69
Enfield Shaker Pines FD 5	6,403	6,403
Groton City	164,635	164,635
Groton Sewer	1,688	1,688
Groton Old Mystic FD 5	1,695	1,695
Groton Poq. Bridge FD	22,300	22,300

House Bill No. 7288

Killingly Attawaugan FD	1,836	1,836
Killingly Dayville FD	42,086	42,086
Killingly Dyer Manor	1,428	1,428
E. Killingly FD	95	95
So. Killingly FD	189	189
Killingly Williamsville FD	6,710	6,710
Middletown South FD	207,080	207,080
Middletown Westfield FD	10,801	10,801
Middletown City Fire	33,838	33,838
New Htfd. Village FD #1	7,259	7,259
New Htfd South End FD	10	10
Plainfield Central Village FD	1,466	1,466
Plainfield - Moosup FD	2,174	2,174
Plainfield Plainfield FD	1,959	1,959
Plainfield Wauregan FD	5,136	5,136
Pomfret FD	1,032	1,032
Putnam: E. Putnam FD	10,109	10,109
Simsbury FD	2,638	2,638
Stafford Springs Service Dist.	15,246	15,246
Sterling FD	1,293	1,293
Stonington Mystic FD	600	600
Stonington Old Mystic FD	2,519	2,519
Stonington Pawcatuck FD	5,500	5,500
Stonington Quiambaug FD	72	72
Stonington Wequetequock FD	73	73
Trumbull Center	555	555
Trumbull Long Hill FD	1,105	1,105
Trumbull Nichols FD	3,435	3,435
W. Haven: West Shore FD	34,708	34,708
W. Haven: Allingtown FD	21,515	21,515
West Haven First Ctr FD 1	4,736	4,736
Windsor Wilson FD	214	214
Windsor FD	14	14
Windham First	8,929	8,929
Total	150,000,000	150,000,000

(c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all

House Bill No. 7288

bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 56. Subsection (a) of section 8-336n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purpose of capitalizing the Housing Trust Fund created by section 8-336o, the State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding [eight hundred fifty] one billion one hundred fifty million dollars, provided (1) [two hundred] one hundred fifty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026, and (2) not more than [two hundred]

House Bill No. 7288

three hundred thirty million dollars shall be provided by the Department of Housing to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to administer a revolving loan fund to finance workforce housing projects. The proceeds of the sale of bonds pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Housing Trust Fund.

Sec. 57. Subsection (a) of section 10a-91d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) It is hereby determined and found to be in the best interest of this state and the system to establish CSCU 2020 as the efficient and cost-effective course to achieve the objective of renewing, modernizing, enhancing, expanding, acquiring and maintaining the infrastructure of the system, the particular project or projects, each being hereby approved as a project of CSCU 2020, and the presently estimated cost thereof being as follows:

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
	Fiscal Years	Fiscal Years	Fiscal Years
	Ending	Ending	Ending
	June 30,	June 30,	June 30,
	2009-2011	2012-2014	2015-2021
Central Connecticut State			
University			
Code Compliance/			
Infrastructure Improvements	16,418,636	6,894,000	
Renovate/Expand Willard			
and DiLoreto Halls			
(design/construction)		57,737,000	
Renovate/Expand Willard and			

House Bill No. 7288

DiLoreto Halls (equipment)			3,348,000
New Classroom Office Building	29,478,000		
Renovate Barnard Hall	3,680,000		18,320,000
New Engineering Building (design/construction and equipment)	9,900,000		52,800,000
Burritt Library Renovation, (design, addition and equipment)			16,500,000
New Maintenance/Salt Shed Facility	2,503,000		
Renovate Kaiser Hall and Annex	6,491,809	210,000	18,684,000
Eastern Connecticut State University			
Code Compliance/ Infrastructure Improvements	8,938,849	5,825,000	
Fine Arts Instructional Center (design)	12,000,000		
Fine Arts Instructional Center (construction)		71,556,000	
Fine Arts Instructional Center (equipment)			4,115,000
Goddard Hall/ Communications Building Renovation (design/construction)		19,239,000	11,048,000
Goddard Hall Renovation (equipment)			1,095,000
Sports Center Addition and			

House Bill No. 7288

Renovation (design)			0
Outdoor Track-Phase II	1,506,396		
Athletic Support Building	1,921,000		
New Warehouse	1,894,868		

Southern Connecticut State
University

Code Compliance/ Infrastructure Improvements	16,955,915	8,637,000	2,356,723
New Academic Laboratory Building/Parking Garage (construct garage, design academic laboratory building, demolish Seabury Hall)	8,944,000		
New Academic Laboratory Building/Parking Garage (construct academic laboratory building)		63,171,000	
New School of Business Building (design/construction)			52,476,933
Health and Human Services Building			76,507,344
Additions and Renovations to Buley Library	16,386,585		
Fine Arts Instructional Center			0

Western Connecticut State
University

Code Compliance/ Infrastructure Improvements	7,658,330	4,323,000	5,054,000
---	-----------	-----------	-----------

House Bill No. 7288

Fine Arts Instructional Center (construction)	80,605,000		
Fine Arts Instructional Center (equipment)		4,666,000	
Higgins Hall Renovations (design)		2,982,000	
Higgins Hall Renovations (construction/equipment)			31,594,000
Berkshire Hall Renovations (design)			0
University Police Department Building (design)	500,000		
University Police Department Building (construction)		4,245,000	1,700,000
Midtown Campus Mini-Chiller Plant			0
Board of Regents for Higher Education			
New and Replacement Equipment, Smart Classroom Technology and Technology Upgrades			
	26,895,000	14,500,000	61,844,000
Alterations/Improvements:			
Auxiliary Service Facilities	18,672,422	15,000,000	20,000,000
Telecommunications			
Infrastructure Upgrade	10,000,000	3,415,000	5,000,000
Land and Property Acquisition	3,650,190	[2,600,000]	[4,000,000]
		<u>192,756</u>	<u>100,592</u>
Deferred Maintenance/Code Compliance Infrastructure Improvements			
			48,557,000

House Bill No. 7288

Strategic Master Plan of			
Academic Programs			3,000,000
Consolidation and Upgrade of			
System Student and Financial			
Information Technology			
Systems			20,000,000
Advanced Manufacturing			
Center at Asnuntuck			
Community College			25,500,000
Supplemental Project Funding	<u>2,407,224</u>	[16,000,000]	
			<u>19,899,408</u>
Totals	285,000,000	285,000,000	499,500,000

Sec. 58. Section 10-265t of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [three hundred seventy-five million dollars, provided one hundred fifty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2024] two hundred thirty-six million five hundred thousand dollars.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Administrative Services for the purpose of providing grants-in-aid for school air quality improvements including, but not limited to, upgrades to, replacement of or installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment or for the purposes described in section 10-287d, as amended by this act, provided (1) not more than fifty million dollars of such proceeds may be used to provide reimbursements for

House Bill No. 7288

such improvements that were completed not earlier than March 1, 2020, and not later than July 1, 2022, and (2) not more than [fifteen million] eleven million five hundred thousand dollars of such proceeds shall be used for grants-in-aid for the purchase of equipment and materials for the construction and installation of individual classroom air purifiers [provided not more than eleven million five hundred thousand dollars of such proceeds shall be used] by The University of Connecticut as part of the Supplemental Air Filtration for Education program under the Clean Air Equity Response Program. [for the purposes described in this subdivision, and the remainder of such proceeds shall be used by an organization or organizations that provide equipment and materials for individual classroom air purifiers to schools.]

(c) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for

House Bill No. 7288

punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 59. Section 10-287d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

For the purposes of funding (1) grants to projects that have received approval of the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to section 10-287, subsection (a) of section 10-65 and section 10-76e, (2) grants to assist school building projects to remedy safety and health violations and damage from fire and catastrophe, and (3) technical education and career school projects pursuant to section 10-283b, the State Treasurer is authorized and directed, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of section 3-20, to issue bonds of the state from time to time in one or more series in an aggregate amount not exceeding [thirteen billion eight hundred sixty-two million one hundred sixty thousand dollars] fourteen billion nine hundred sixty-two million one hundred sixty thousand dollars, provided five hundred fifty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026. Bonds of each series shall bear such date or dates and mature at such time or times not exceeding thirty years from their respective dates and be subject to such redemption privileges, with or without premium, as may be fixed by the State Bond Commission. They shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest and the full faith and credit of the state is pledged for the payment of the interest thereon and the principal thereof as the same shall become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due. The State Treasurer is authorized to invest temporarily in direct obligations of the United States, United States agency obligations, certificates of deposit, commercial paper or bank acceptances such

House Bill No. 7288

portion of the proceeds of such bonds or of any notes issued in anticipation thereof as may be deemed available for such purpose.

Sec. 60. Section 13a-175a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For each fiscal year there shall be allocated twelve million five hundred thousand dollars out of the funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation, or from any other source, not otherwise prohibited by law, to be used by the towns for the construction, reconstruction, improvement or maintenance of highways, sections of highways, bridges or structures incidental to highways and bridges or the improvement thereof, including the plowing of snow, the sanding of icy pavements, the trimming and removal of trees, the installation, replacement and maintenance of traffic signs, signals and markings, for traffic control and vehicular safety programs, traffic and parking planning and administration, and other purposes and programs related to highways, traffic and parking, and for the purposes of providing and operating essential public transportation services and related facilities.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in the secretary's discretion, may approve the use of funds by a town for purposes other than those enumerated in said subsection.

(c) Not later than September 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, each town or district that received funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in the preceding fiscal year shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Transportation, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, detailing the amount of such funds expended in such fiscal year for each of the usages enumerated in said subsection or approved pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(d) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall reduce

House Bill No. 7288

the grant payable to a town or district in accordance with subsection (a) of this section by ten per cent in any fiscal year that the town or district fails to timely submit the report required by subsection (c) of this section. The secretary shall waive such reduction if the town or district submits such report after the due date and provides proof of such submission to the secretary.

Sec. 61. Subsection (a) of section 22a-483 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes of sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts, not exceeding in the aggregate two billion [one hundred forty-five] four hundred fifty-three million one hundred twenty-five thousand nine hundred seventy-six dollars, provided [forty] one hundred seventy-five million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026.

Sec. 62. Subsection (d) of section 22a-483 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall preclude the State Bond Commission from authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds, in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [four billion five hundred eleven million eighty thousand dollars] five billion sixty-one million eighty thousand dollars, provided five hundred million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026, that are not general obligations of the state of Connecticut to which the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal and interest. Such revenue bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding thirty years from their respective dates as may be

House Bill No. 7288

provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such revenue bonds. The revenue bonds, revenue state bond anticipation notes and revenue state grant anticipation notes authorized to be issued under sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be special obligations of the state and shall not be payable from nor charged upon any funds other than the revenues or other receipts, funds or moneys pledged therefor as provided in said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act, including the repayment of municipal loan obligations; nor shall the state or any political subdivision thereof be subject to any liability thereon except to the extent of such pledged revenues or the receipts, funds or moneys pledged therefor as provided in said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act. The issuance of revenue bonds, revenue state bond anticipation notes and revenue state grant anticipation notes under the provisions of said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall not directly or indirectly or contingently obligate the state or any political subdivision thereof to levy or to pledge any form of taxation whatever therefor or to make any appropriation for their payment. The revenue bonds, revenue state bond anticipation notes and revenue state grant anticipation notes shall not constitute a charge, lien or encumbrance, legal or equitable, upon any property of the state or of any political subdivision thereof, except the property mortgaged or otherwise encumbered under the provisions and for the purposes of said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act. The substance of such limitation shall be plainly stated on the face of each revenue bond, revenue state bond anticipation note and revenue state grant anticipation note issued pursuant to said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall not be subject to any statutory limitation on the indebtedness of the state and such revenue bonds, revenue state bond anticipation notes and revenue state grant anticipation notes, when issued, shall not be included in computing the aggregate indebtedness of the state in respect to and to the extent of any

House Bill No. 7288

such limitation. As part of the contract of the state with the owners of such revenue bonds, revenue state bond anticipation notes and revenue state grant anticipation notes, all amounts necessary for the punctual payment of the debt service requirements with respect to such revenue bonds, revenue state bond anticipation notes and revenue state grant anticipation notes shall be deemed appropriated, but only from the sources pledged pursuant to said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act. The proceeds of such revenue bonds or notes may be deposited in the Clean Water Fund for use in accordance with the permitted uses of such fund. Any expense incurred in connection with the carrying out of the provisions of this section, including the costs of issuance of revenue bonds, revenue state bond anticipation notes and revenue state grant anticipation notes may be paid from the accrued interest and premiums or from any other proceeds of the sale of such revenue bonds, revenue state bond anticipation notes or revenue state grant anticipation notes and in the same manner as other obligations of the state. All provisions of subsections (g), (k), (l), (s) and (u) of section 3-20 or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby which are not inconsistent with the provisions of said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act, are hereby adopted and shall apply to all revenue bonds, state revenue bond anticipation notes and state revenue grant anticipation notes authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act. For the purposes of subsection (o) of section 3-20, "bond act" shall be construed to include said sections 22a-475 to 22a-483, inclusive, as amended by this act.

Sec. 63. Subsection (a) of section 23-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to

House Bill No. 7288

authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [forty-two] sixty-two million dollars, provided ten million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026.

Sec. 64. Subsection (a) of section 29-1cc of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [twenty] forty million dollars, provided [five] ten million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2022] 2026.

Sec. 65. Subsection (a) of section 32-235 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [one billion seven hundred fifty-five million three hundred thousand dollars, provided (1) one hundred forty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2011, and twenty million dollars of said authorization shall be made available for small business development; (2) two hundred eighty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2012, and forty million dollars of said authorization shall be made available for the Small Business Express program established pursuant to section 32-7g and not more than twenty million dollars of said authorization may be made available for businesses that commit to relocating one hundred or more jobs that are outside of the United States to the state; and (3)

House Bill No. 7288

seventy-five million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2018] one billion nine hundred fifty-five million three hundred thousand dollars, provided (1) not more than fifty million dollars of said authorization may be made available to support strategic defense initiatives, and (2) one hundred million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026. Any amount of said authorizations that are made available for small business development or businesses that commit to relocating one hundred or more jobs that are outside of the United States to the state, but are not exhausted for such purpose by the first day of the fiscal year subsequent to the fiscal year in which such amount was made available, shall be used for the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section. For purposes of this subsection, a "small business" is one employing not more than one hundred employees.

Sec. 66. Section 32-4q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On and after July 1, 2021, [and until June 30, 2024,] the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in coordination with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, may, for the purposes of implementing the state's Economic Action Plan, use bond funds [, funding received as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time,] and available resources, to provide (1) not more than one hundred million dollars in the aggregate for grants in support of major projects selected pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (2) not more than one hundred million dollars in the aggregate for community development grants awarded pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Total funding for grants provided pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall not exceed two hundred million dollars in the aggregate.

(b) On and after July 1, 2021, [and until June 30, 2024,] the Department of Economic and Community Development may establish an Innovation [Corridor] Clusters program, which shall provide grants for

House Bill No. 7288

major projects in the state. The department shall develop a competitive application process and criteria consistent with the purposes of the state's Economic Action Plan to (1) evaluate applications submitted pursuant to this subsection, and (2) select projects for funding pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section. Financial assistance awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be exempt from the provisions of section 32-462.

(c) On and after July 1, 2021, [and until June 30, 2024,] the Department of Economic and Community Development may establish a Connecticut Communities Challenge program, which shall provide community development grants. The department shall develop a competitive application process and criteria consistent with the purposes of the state's Economic Action Plan to (1) evaluate applications submitted pursuant to this subsection, and (2) select community development projects for funding pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

(d) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, may serve as a member of the board of directors of an organization that is awarded financial assistance pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 67. Section 32-285a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Administrative costs" means the costs paid or incurred by the administrator of the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board established under subsection (b) of this section, including, but not limited to, allocated staff costs and other out-of-pocket costs attributable to the administration and operation of the board;

(2) "Administrator" means the Commissioner of Economic and

House Bill No. 7288

Community Development, or the commissioner's designee;

(3) "Eligible project" means:

(A) A project proposed by a municipality, community development corporation or nonprofit organization, for the purpose of promoting economic or community development in the municipality or a municipality served by such corporation or organization, such as brownfield remediation, affordable housing, establishment of or improvements to water and sewer infrastructure to support smaller scale economic development, pedestrian safety and traffic calming improvements, establishment of or improvements to energy resiliency or clean energy projects and land acquisition, capital projects to construct, rehabilitate or renovate public facilities such as libraries and senior centers and to facilitate or enhance home rehabilitation programs; and

(B) Such project furthers consistent and systematic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino and indigenous and Native American persons; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons and other persons comprising the LGBTQ+ community; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality; and

(4) "Municipality" means a municipality designated as a public investment community pursuant to section 7-545 or as an alliance district pursuant to section 10-262u, or a distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-9p.

(b) (1) There is established a Community Investment Fund 2030 Board, which shall be within the Department of Economic and

House Bill No. 7288

Community Development. The board shall consist of the following members:

(A) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(B) The majority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the Senate;

(C) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, each of whom shall be a member of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly;

(D) The two chairpersons of the general bonding subcommittee of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding;

(E) Two appointed by the Governor; and

(F) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Attorney General, the Treasurer, the Comptroller, the Secretary of the State and the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development, Administrative Services, Social Services and Housing, or their designees.

(2) All initial appointments shall be made not later than sixty days after June 30, 2021. The terms of the members appointed by the Governor shall be coterminous with the term of the Governor or until their successors are appointed, whichever is later. Any vacancy in appointments shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

House Bill No. 7288

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, it shall not constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner, officer, stockholder, proprietor, counsel or employee of any person to serve as a member of the board, provided such trustee, director, partner, officer, stockholder, proprietor, counsel or employee abstains and absents himself or herself from any deliberation, action and vote by the board in specific respect to such person. The members appointed by the Governor shall be deemed public officials and shall adhere to the code of ethics for public officials set forth in chapter 10.

(4) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall serve as the chairpersons of the board and shall schedule the first meeting of the board, which shall be held not later than January 1, 2022. The board shall meet at least quarterly.

(5) Eleven members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(6) The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

(7) The board shall have the following powers and duties: (A) To review eligible projects to be recommended to the Governor under subsection (c) of this section for approval; (B) to establish bylaws to govern its procedures; (C) to review and provide comments to the Department of Economic and Community Development on projects funded through the state's Economic Action Plan as provided under section 32-4p; and (D) to perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties described in this section.

(8) The administrator shall hire such employee or employees as may be necessary to assist the board to carry out its duties described in this section.

House Bill No. 7288

(c) (1) The Community Investment Fund 2030 Board shall establish an application and review process with guidelines and terms for funds provided from the bond proceeds under subsection (d) of this section for eligible projects. Such funds shall be used for costs related to an eligible project recommended by the board and approved by the Governor pursuant to this subsection but shall not be used to pay or to reimburse the administrator for administrative costs under this section. The Department of Economic and Community Development shall pay for administrative costs within available appropriations.

(2) The chairpersons of the board shall notify the chief elected official of each municipality when the application and review process has been established and shall publicize the availability of any funds available under this section. Each such official or any community development corporation or nonprofit organization may submit an application to the board requesting funds for an eligible project. The board shall meet to consider applications submitted and determine which, if any, the board will recommend to the Governor for approval.

(3) (A) The board shall give priority to eligible projects (i) that are proposed by a municipality that (I) has implemented local hiring preferences pursuant to section 7-112, or (II) has or will leverage municipal, private, philanthropic or federal funds for such project, (ii) that have a project labor agreement or employ or will employ ex-offenders or individuals with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and (iii) on and after the date the ten-year plan developed under section 32-7z is submitted to the General Assembly, that are included in such plan. The board shall give additional priority to an application submitted by a municipality that includes a letter of support for the proposed eligible project from a member or members of the General Assembly in whose district the eligible project is or will be located.

(B) In evaluating applications for an eligible project described in

House Bill No. 7288

subparagraph (A)(ii) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section, the board shall (i) consider the impact of the eligible project on job creation or retention in the municipality, (ii) consider the impact of the eligible project on blighted properties in the municipality, and (iii) consider the overall impact of the eligible project on the community.

(4) (A) Whenever the board deems it necessary or desirable, the chairpersons of the board shall submit to the Governor a list of the board's recommendations of eligible projects to be funded from bond proceeds under subsection (d) of this section. The board may recommend state funding for eligible projects, provided the total cost of such recommendations shall not exceed one hundred seventy-five million dollars in any fiscal year. Such list shall include, at a minimum for each eligible project described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section, a description of such project, the municipality in which such project is located, the amount of funds sought for such project, any cost estimates for such project, any schematics or plans for such project, the total estimated project costs and the applicable fiscal year to which such disbursement will be attributed.

(B) The Governor shall review the eligible projects on the list and may recommend changes to any eligible project on the list. The Governor shall determine the most appropriate method of funding for each eligible project and shall provide to the members of the board, in writing, such determination for each eligible project on the list and the reasons therefor. The board may reconsider at a future meeting any eligible project for which the Governor recommends a change. Each eligible project for which the Governor recommends the allocation of bond funds shall be considered at a State Bond Commission meeting not later than two months after the date such eligible project was submitted to the Governor pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

(5) Funds for an eligible project approved under this section may be administered on behalf of the board by a state agency, as determined by

House Bill No. 7288

the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, provided a memorandum of understanding between the administrator of the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board and the state, acting by and through the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, has been entered into with respect to such funds and project.

(6) Not later than [August 31, 2023] October 15, 2025, the board shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the General Assembly, the Black and Puerto Rican caucus of the General Assembly, the Auditors of Public Accounts and the Governor, for the preceding fiscal year, that includes (A) a list of the eligible projects recommended by the board and approved by the Governor pursuant to this section, (B) the total amount of funds provided for such eligible projects, (C) for each such eligible project, a description of the project and the amounts and terms of the funds provided, (D) the status of the project and any balance remaining of the allocated funds, and (E) any other information the board deems relevant or necessary. The board shall submit such report annually for each fiscal year in which the funds specified in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of this subsection are disbursed for eligible projects.

(7) The Auditors of Public Accounts shall audit, on a biennial basis, all eligible projects funded under this section and shall report their findings to the Governor, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the General Assembly.

(d) (1) The State Bond Commission may authorize the issuance of bonds of the state, in accordance with the provisions of section 3-20, in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [eight hundred seventy-five] seven hundred sixty-seven million dollars. The amount authorized for the issuance and sale of such bonds in each of the following fiscal years shall not exceed the following corresponding amount for each such fiscal year, except that, to the extent the State Bond Commission does not provide for the use of all or a portion of such

House Bill No. 7288

amount in any such fiscal year, such amount not provided for shall be carried forward and added to the authorized amount for the next succeeding fiscal year, and provided further, the costs of issuance and capitalized interest, if any, may be added to the capped amount in each fiscal year, and each of the authorized amounts shall be effective on July first of the fiscal year indicated as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Amount
2023	\$175,000,000
2024	175,000,000
2025	175,000,000
2026	[175,000,000] <u>121,000,000</u>
2027	[175,000,000] <u>121,000,000</u>
Total	[\$875,000,000] <u>\$767,000,000</u>

(2) The proceeds of the sale of bonds set forth in this subsection shall be used for the purpose of funding eligible projects for which the Governor has determined under subsection (c) of this section that bond funding is appropriate and that no other bond authorization is available.

(e) (1) Upon the agreement of the Governor and the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board, and subsequent to the adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly affirming the reauthorization of the board and the program provided for under this section, the State Bond Commission may authorize the issuance of bonds of the state, in accordance with the provisions of section 3-20, in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate one billion two hundred fifty million dollars. The amount authorized for the issuance and sale of such bonds in each of the following fiscal years shall not exceed the following corresponding amount for each such fiscal year, except that, to the extent the State Bond Commission does not provide for the use of all or a portion of such amount in any such fiscal year, such amount not provided for shall be carried forward and added to the authorized

House Bill No. 7288

amount for the next succeeding fiscal year, and provided further, the costs of issuance and capitalized interest, if any, may be added to the capped amount in each fiscal year, and each of the authorized amounts shall be effective on July first of the fiscal year indicated as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Amount
2028	\$250,000,000
2029	250,000,000
2030	250,000,000
2031	250,000,000
2032	250,000,000
Total	\$1,250,000,000

(2) The proceeds of the sale of bonds set forth in this subsection shall be used for the purpose of funding eligible projects for which the Governor has determined under subsection (c) of this section that bond funding is appropriate and that no other bond authorization is available.

(f) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section, and from time to time renewed. All bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 68. Section 32-763 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

House Bill No. 7288

(a) There is established a remedial action and redevelopment municipal grant program to be administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of providing grants pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) (1) ~~[Grants may be provided to municipalities]~~ Municipalities, Connecticut brownfield land banks and economic development agencies may apply for grants under this section for the eligible costs of (A) brownfield remediation projects [,] or distinct phases thereof, (B) brownfield assessment projects or distinct phases thereof, and (C) reasonable administrative expenses not to exceed five per cent of any grant awarded. A grant awarded under this [subsection] section shall not exceed [four] six million dollars for a project site or distinct phase and under an application submitted in accordance with subdivision (4) of this subsection, except, notwithstanding such limit and the provisions of subdivision (6) of this subsection, additional grant awards may be made that exceed such limit to related but distinct phases of a project or project addresses if separate applications are submitted under subdivision (4) of this subsection.

(2) A grant applicant shall submit an application for a grant under this subsection to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development on forms provided by the commissioner and with such information the commissioner deems necessary, including, but not limited to: (A) A description of the proposed project or a distinct phase thereof; (B) an explanation of the expected benefits of the project in relation to the purposes of this section; (C) information concerning the financial and technical capacity of the applicant to undertake the proposed project; (D) a project budget; and (E) with respect to a brownfield remediation project, a description of the condition of the brownfield, including the results of any environmental assessment of the brownfield in the possession of or available to the applicant.

(3) The commissioner may approve, reject or modify any application

House Bill No. 7288

properly submitted in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. The commissioner may not reject an application solely because a municipality has submitted more than one application in response to a request for applications. In reviewing an application and determining the amount of the grant, if any, to be provided, the commissioner shall consider the following criteria: (A) The availability of funds; (B) the estimated costs of assessing and remediating the brownfield, if known; (C) the relative economic condition of the municipality in which the brownfield is located; (D) the relative need of the project for financial assistance; (E) the degree to which a grant under this subsection is necessary to induce the applicant to undertake the project; (F) the public health and environmental benefits of the project; (G) the relative benefits of the project to the municipality, the region and the state, including, but not limited to, the extent to which the project will likely result in a contribution to the municipality's tax base, the retention and creation of jobs and the reduction of blight; (H) the time frame in which the contamination occurred; (I) the relationship of the applicant to the person or entity that caused the contamination; (J) the length of time the brownfield has been abandoned; (K) the taxes owed and the projected revenues that may be restored to the community; (L) the relative need for assessment of the brownfield within the municipality or region; (M) whether the brownfield is located in a federally designated opportunity zone; and (N) such other criteria as the commissioner may establish consistent with the purposes of this subsection.

(4) The commissioner shall award grants under this subsection on a competitive basis, based on a request for applications occurring at least twice annually. The commissioner may increase the frequency of requests for applications and awards depending upon the number of applicants and the availability of funding. A [municipality] grant applicant may submit more than one application in response to a request for applications. On and after July 1, [2019] 2025, the commissioner [shall] may give priority to grant applications for

House Bill No. 7288

brownfields located in federally designated opportunity zones.

(5) If a grant recipient under this subsection is not subject to section 22a-134a, such recipient shall enter a program for remediation of the property pursuant to either section 22a-133x, 22a-133y, 32-768 or 32-769, as determined by the commissioner, except no such recipient shall be required to enter such a program if the grant funds are used (A) for the abatement of hazardous building materials and such recipient demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development and Energy and Environmental Protection that such hazardous building materials represent the sole or sole remaining environmental contamination on the property, (B) solely for assessment of the brownfield, [or] (C) as provided in subdivision (7) of this subsection, or (D) for remediation actions that are not site-wide and will not benefit from being in a program for remediation.

(6) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and following the award of a grant under this subsection to a municipality, Connecticut brownfield land bank or economic development agency pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection, may award an additional grant under this subsection to such municipality, Connecticut brownfield land bank or economic development agency to enable the completion of a brownfield remediation or assessment project, provided such project is identified as a priority by said commissioners and such additional grant funds (A) will be used to address unexpected cost overruns or costs related to remedial activities that will provide a greater environmental benefit than originally proposed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, [(B) do not exceed fifty per cent of the original grant, and (C)] and (B) will not result in more than [four] six million dollars in total grants being awarded under this section for a single brownfield remediation or assessment project or for a project site or distinct phase thereof. If the projected need for additional funding identified in the course of

House Bill No. 7288

implementing the project exceeds fifty per cent of the original grant award or six million dollars, a new application may be made under subdivision (4) of this subsection, provided proof is provided to the satisfaction of the commissioner that (i) new parcels have been added to the original project, (ii) the budget required to complete the remediation actions has increased due to issues identified during remediation action work, or (iii) the initial scope of remediation action has been altered or expanded.

(7) The commissioner may award grants under this subsection to any municipality, Connecticut brownfield land bank, economic development agency or regional council of governments organized under sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, for the eligible costs of developing a comprehensive plan for the remediation and redevelopment of multiple brownfields whenever such plan is consistent with the state plan of conservation and development, adopted pursuant to chapter 297, and the plan of conservation and development, adopted pursuant to section 8-23, for each municipality in which such brownfields are located. For purposes of this subsection, "eligible costs" shall also include expenditures associated with the development of any such plan for remediation and redevelopment.

(c) (1) The commissioner may award capacity building grants for operational expenses to any Connecticut brownfield land bank, provided such land bank (A) matches any state funds awarded pursuant to this subsection, and (B) has not previously been awarded a capacity building grant under this subsection. A grant awarded under this subsection shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars.

(2) Any Connecticut brownfield land bank may apply to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, for a capacity building grant in an amount indicated by the Connecticut brownfield land bank. The Connecticut brownfield land bank shall include such information

House Bill No. 7288

the commissioner deems necessary to determine whether to award such capacity building grant, in whole or in part, and to verify that such land bank has sufficient funds to match such amount and has not previously been awarded a capacity building grant under this subsection.

(d) The provisions of sections 32-5a and 32-701 shall not apply to grants provided pursuant to this section.

Sec. 69. Section 32-765 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The Department of Economic and Community Development shall establish a targeted brownfield development loan program to provide low-interest loans for the eligible costs of brownfield remediation projects to potential brownfield purchasers and current brownfield owners who (1) have no direct or related liability for the conditions of the brownfield, and (2) seek to develop brownfields for purposes of reducing blight or for industrial, commercial, residential or mixed use development.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a current owner of a brownfield on which a manufacturing facility is located shall be eligible for a loan under this section, provided neither such owner nor any partner, member, officer, manager, director, shareholder, subsidiary or affiliate of such owner (1) is liable under section 22a-427, 22a-432, 22a-433, 22a-451 or 22a-452 with respect to the property; (2) is otherwise responsible, directly or indirectly, for the discharge, spillage, uncontrolled loss, seepage or filtration of the hazardous substance, material or waste; (3) is a member, officer, manager, director, shareholder, subsidiary, successor of, or affiliated with, directly or indirectly, the person who is otherwise liable under section 22a-427, 22a-432, 22a-433, 22a-451 or 22a-452 with respect to the property; or (4) has been found guilty of knowingly or wilfully violating any environmental law.

House Bill No. 7288

(c) An applicant for a loan pursuant to this section shall submit an application to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development on forms provided by the commissioner and with such information the commissioner deems necessary, including, but not limited to: (1) A description of the proposed project; (2) an explanation of the expected benefits of the project in relation to the purposes of this section; (3) information concerning the financial and technical capacity of the applicant to undertake the proposed project; (4) a project budget; and (5) a description of the condition of the brownfield involved, including the results of any environmental assessment of the brownfield in the possession of or available to the applicant. The commissioner shall provide loans based upon project merit and viability, the economic and community development opportunity, municipal support, contribution to the community's tax base, past experience of the applicant, compliance history and ability to pay. For applications received on and after July 1, [2019] 2025, the commissioner [shall] may give priority to proposed projects located in federally designated opportunity zones.

(d) If a loan recipient is not subject to section 22a-134a, such recipient shall enter a program for remediation of the property pursuant to either section 22a-133x, 22a-133y, 32-768 or 32-769, as determined by the commissioner, except if the loan funds are used (1) for the abatement of hazardous building materials and such recipient demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development and Energy and Environmental Protection that such hazardous building materials represent the sole or sole remaining environmental contamination on the property, or (2) for remediation actions that are not site-wide and will not benefit from being in a program for remediation.

(e) Loans made pursuant to this section shall have such terms and conditions and be subject to such eligibility and loan approval criteria as determined by the commissioner. Such loans shall be for a period not

House Bill No. 7288

to exceed thirty years.

(f) If a loan recipient sells a property subject to a loan granted pursuant to this section before the loan is repaid, the loan shall be payable upon closing of such sale, according to its terms, unless the commissioner agrees otherwise. The commissioner may carry the loan forward as an encumbrance to the purchaser with the same terms and conditions as the original loan.

(g) A loan recipient may be eligible for a loan of not more than [four] six million dollars per year, subject to agency underwriting and reasonable and customary requirements to assure performance. If additional funds are required, the commissioner may recommend that the project be funded through other programs administered by the commissioner.

(h) The commissioner may modify the terms of any loan made pursuant to this section to provide for forgiveness of interest, principal, or both, or delay in repayment of interest, principal, or both, when the commissioner determines such forgiveness or delay is in the best interest of the state from an economic or community development perspective.

(i) The provisions of sections 32-5a and 32-701 shall not apply to loans provided pursuant to this section.

Sec. 70. Subsection (a) of section 8-37mm of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [eighteen million three hundred twenty-nine thousand nine hundred ninety-three] ten

House Bill No. 7288

million four hundred fifty-four thousand nine hundred ninety-three dollars.

Sec. 71. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 8-206j of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [fifteen] twenty-five million dollars.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Commissioner of Housing for the grant-in-aid program established pursuant to section [17a-249] 8-206i, for supportive housing for persons with an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder.

Sec. 72. Subsection (a) of section 8-240b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [one] two hundred twenty-five million dollars, provided [seventy-five] one hundred million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026.

Sec. 73. Section 8-445 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the

House Bill No. 7288

State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [two] three hundred million dollars, provided (1) [twenty million dollars shall be effective from October 31, 2017, (2) twenty million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2018, (3) twenty million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2019, (4) twenty million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2020, (5) twenty million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2021, (6) twenty-five million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2022, (7) twenty-five million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2023, (8) twenty-five million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2024, and (9)] twenty-five million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2025, (2) twenty-five million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2026, (3) twenty-five million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2027, (4) twenty-five million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2028, and (5) twenty-five million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2029.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Housing, for the purposes of the Crumbling Foundations Assistance Fund.

(c) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such

House Bill No. 7288

authorization which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 74. Subsection (a) of section 32-39y of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [twenty million] two hundred thousand dollars.

Sec. 75. Subsection (a) of section 47a-56i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The expenses incurred by a receiver in removing or remedying a condition pursuant to the provisions of sections 47a-14a to 47a-14g, inclusive, and sections 47a-56 to 47a-56i, inclusive, as amended by this act, or in managing a property pursuant to the provisions of section 52-505, shall be met by the [rents] revenue collected by the receiver, the municipality in which the property is located or, with court approval, from a fund to be known as the Housing Receivership Revolving Fund, which shall be maintained by the Commissioner of Housing. The court

House Bill No. 7288

may also approve resort to such fund to meet expenses incurred by a receiver of rents for residential premises pursuant to the provisions of section 16-262f or 47a-14h or chapter 735a or pursuant to any other action involving the making of repairs to residential rental property under court supervision. A court may authorize resort to such fund if (1) sufficient sources of money are not otherwise immediately available, and (2) the anticipated average expense from the fund per dwelling unit or per space or lot in such park is not in excess of ten thousand dollars.

Sec. 76. Subsection (a) of section 47a-56k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate fifty million three hundred thousand dollars, the proceeds of the sale of which shall be used by the Department of Housing to provide funds for the Housing Receivership Revolving Fund established in accordance with section 47a-56i, as amended by this act, provided twenty-five million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2024. Not more than [one] six million dollars may be expended from said fund in any single municipality per year.

Sec. 77. Section 10a-104c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall develop, continuously maintain and revise from time to time a program to facilitate the recruitment of eminent faculty and their research staffs to the university. Such program shall support economic development in the state through faculty research and promote core sectors of the state economy by accelerating the pace of applied research and development. Such program shall supplement the compensation of such faculty and

House Bill No. 7288

related costs of personnel and materials needed to secure such faculty for the university. Eligibility shall be limited to individuals who have demonstrated excellence in their field of research and have an interest in working collaboratively on research that meets societal needs or commercialization of discoveries, innovations or technologies.

(b) Not later than April 1, 2020, and biennially thereafter, said board shall develop a plan for the recruitment and hiring of research faculty, including those whose research is focused on societal needs or can be commercialized. Such plan shall outline the operating and capital costs associated with the plan and include recruitment and hiring goals.

(c) (1) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall commence a research faculty recruitment and hiring program in accordance with the plan submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Such program shall be used (A) to hire faculty who meet the qualifications specified in subsection (a) of this section and who will assist the university in achieving the goals and requirements set forth in said subsection, and (B) to [support the compensation of] develop laboratories for such faculty, [and] including related construction, renovation and equipment costs.

(2) Under such program, the university shall encourage and facilitate the creation of new business ventures in the state that fuel economic growth and shall provide resources for proof of concept, technology maturation, early-stage and later-stage venture capital funding and other measures that encourage expansion of the university's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

(d) The president of The University of Connecticut shall submit an annual report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the university's progress in meeting hiring goals under this section and the implementation of the program under subsection (c) of this section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having

House Bill No. 7288

cognizance of matters relating to higher education and finance, revenue and bonding.

(e) Any bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission in support of the research faculty recruitment and hiring program shall be used solely for the development of laboratories, including related construction, renovation and equipment costs.

Sec. 78. Subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10a-109d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(10) To borrow money and issue securities to finance the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement or equipping of any one project, or more than one, or any combination of projects, or to refund securities issued after June 7, 1995, or to refund any such refunding securities or for any one, or more than one, or all of those purposes, or any combination of those purposes, and to provide for the security and payment of those securities and for the rights of the holders of them, except that the amount of any such borrowing, the special debt service requirements for which are secured by the state debt service commitment, exclusive of the amount of borrowing to refund securities, or to fund issuance costs or necessary reserves, may not exceed the aggregate principal amount of (A) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, to June 30, 2005, inclusive, one billion thirty million dollars, (B) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2006, to June 30, 2031, inclusive, three billion nine hundred [eight] twelve million nine hundred thousand dollars, and (C) such additional amount or amounts: (i) Required from time to time to fund any special capital reserve fund or other debt service reserve fund in accordance with the financing transaction proceedings, and (ii) to pay or provide for the costs of issuance and capitalized interest, if any; the aggregate amounts of subparagraphs (A), (B) and (C) of this subdivision are established as the authorized funding amount, and no borrowing within the authorized funding amount for a

House Bill No. 7288

project or projects may be effected unless the project or projects are included in accordance with subsection (a) of section 10a-109e, as amended by this act;

Sec. 79. Subsection (a) of section 10a-109e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The university may administer, manage, schedule, finance, further design and construct UConn 2000, to operate and maintain the components thereof in a prudent and economical manner and to reserve for and make renewals and replacements thereof when appropriate, it being hereby determined and found to be in the best interest of the state and the university to provide this independent authority to the university along with providing assured revenues therefor as the efficient and cost effective course to achieve the objective of avoiding further decline in the physical infrastructure of the university and to renew, modernize, enhance and maintain such infrastructure, the particular project or projects, each being hereby approved as a project of UConn 2000, and the presently estimated cost thereof being as follows:

UConn 2000 Project	Phase I Fiscal Years 1996-1999	Phase II Fiscal Years 2000-2005	Phase III Fiscal Years 2005-2031
Academic and Research Facilities			450,000,000
Agricultural Biotechnology Facility	9,400,000		
Agricultural Biotechnology Facility Completion		10,000,000	

House Bill No. 7288

Alumni Quadrant Renovations	14,338,000	
Arjona and Monteith (new classroom buildings)		66,100,000
Avery Point Campus Undergraduate and Library Building		35,000,000
Avery Point Marine Science Research Center – Phase I	34,000,000	
Avery Point Marine Science Research Center – Phase II	16,682,000	
Avery Point Renovation	5,600,000	15,000,000
Babbidge Library	0	
Balancing Contingency	5,506,834	
Beach Hall Renovations		10,000,000
Benton State Art Museum Addition	1,400,000	3,000,000
Biobehavioral Complex Replacement		4,000,000

House Bill No. 7288

Bishop Renovation		8,000,000
Budds Building Renovation	2,805,000	
Business School Renovation	4,803,000	
Chemistry Building	53,700,000	
Commissary Warehouse		1,000,000
Deferred Maintenance/ Code Compliance/ ADA Compliance/ Infrastructure Improvements & Renovation Lump Sum and Utility, Administrative and Support Facilities	39,332,000	863,500,000
Deferred Maintenance & Renovation Lump Sum Balance	104,668,000	
East Campus North Renovations	11,820,000	
Engineering Building (with Environmental		

House Bill No. 7288

Research Institute)		36,700,000
Equine Center	1,000,000	
Equipment, Library Collections & Telecommunications	60,500,000	470,000,000
Equipment, Library Collections & Telecommunications Completion	182,118,146	
Family Studies (DRM) Renovation		6,500,000
Farm Buildings Repairs/ Replacement		6,000,000
Fine Arts Phase II		20,000,000
Floriculture Greenhouse		3,000,000
Gant Building Renovations and New Life Sciences Building		403,500,000
Gant Plaza Deck	0	
Gentry Completion		10,000,000

House Bill No. 7288

Gentry Renovation	9,299,000	
Grad Dorm Renovations	7,548,000	
Gulley Hall Renovation	1,416,000	
Harry A. Gampel Pavilion and Hugh S. Greer Field House		[160,000,000] <u>164,000,000</u>
Hartford Relocation Acquisition/Renovation	56,762,020	70,000,000
Hartford Relocation Design	1,500,000	
Hartford Relocation Feasibility Study	500,000	
Heating Plant Upgrade	10,000,000	
Hilltop Dormitory New	30,000,000	
Hilltop Dormitory Renovations	3,141,000	
Ice Rink Enclosure	2,616,000	
Incubator Facilities		10,000,000
International House Conversion	800,000	

House Bill No. 7288

Intramural, Recreational and Intercollegiate Facilities		31,000,000
Jorgensen Renovation		7,200,000
Koons Hall Renovation/ Addition		7,000,000
Lakeside Renovation		3,800,000
Law School Renovations/ Improvements		15,000,000
Library Storage Facility		5,000,000
Litchfield Agricultural Center - Phase I	1,000,000	
Litchfield Agricultural Center - Phase II		700,000
Manchester Hall Renovation		6,000,000
Mansfield Apartments Renovation	2,612,000	
Mansfield Training School Improvements	27,614,000	29,000,000

House Bill No. 7288

Natural History Museum Completion		4,900,000
North Campus Renovation	2,654,000	
North Campus Renovation Completion		21,049,000
North Hillside Road Completion		11,500,000
North Superblock Site and Utilities	8,000,000	
Northwest Quadrant Renovation	2,001,000	
Northwest Quadrant Renovation		15,874,000
Observatory		1,000,000
Old Central Warehouse		18,000,000
Parking Garage #3		78,000,000
Parking Garage – North	10,000,000	
Parking Garage – South		15,000,000
Pedestrian Spinepath		2,556,000

House Bill No. 7288

Pedestrian Walkways	3,233,000	
Psychology Building Renovation/ Addition		20,000,000
Residential Life Facilities		162,000,000
Roadways	10,000,000	
School of Business	20,000,000	
School of Pharmacy/ Biology	3,856,000	
School of Pharmacy/ Biology Completion	61,058,000	
Shippee/ Buckley Renovations	6,156,000	
Social Science K Building	20,964,000	
South Campus Complex	13,127,000	
Stamford Campus Improvements/Housing		13,000,000
Stamford Downtown Relocation – Phase I	45,659,000	
Stamford Downtown Relocation – Phase II	17,392,000	

House Bill No. 7288

Storrs Hall Addition		4,300,000
Student Health Services		12,000,000
Student Union Addition	23,000,000	
Support Facility (Architectural and Engineering Services)		2,000,000
Technology Quadrant - Phase IA	38,000,000	
Technology Quadrant - Phase IB	16,611,000	
Technology Quadrant - Phase II	72,000,000	
Technology Quadrant - Phase III	15,000,000	
Torrey Life Science Renovation and Demolition	17,000,000	25,000,000
Torrey Renovation Completion and Biology Expansion		42,000,000
Torrington Campus		

House Bill No. 7288

Improvements		1,000,000
Towers Renovation	17,794,000	
UConn Products Store		1,000,000
Undergraduate Education Center	650,000	
Undergraduate Education Center	7,450,000	
Underground Steam & Water Upgrade	3,500,000	
Underground Steam & Water Upgrade Completion	9,000,000	
University Programs Building – Phase I	8,750,000	
University Programs Building – Phase II Visitors Center	300,000	
Waring Building Conversion	7,888,000	
Waterbury Downtown Campus		3,000,000

House Bill No. 7288

Waterbury Property Purchase	325,000	
West Campus Renovations	14,897,000	
West Hartford Campus Renovations/ Improvements		25,000,000
White Building Renovation	2,430,000	
Wilbur Cross Building Renovation	3,645,000	
Young Building Renovation/ Addition		17,000,000
HEALTH CENTER		
CLAC Renovation Biosafety Level 3 Lab		14,000,000
Deferred Maintenance/ Code Compliance/ ADA		
Compliance/Infrastructure & Improvements Renovation Lump Sum and Utility, Administrative and Support Facilities - Health Center		86,000,000

House Bill No. 7288

Dental School Renovation	5,000,000
Equipment, Library Collections and Telecommunications – Health Center	75,000,000
Library/Student Computer Center Renovation	5,000,000
Main Building Renovation	125,000,000
Medical School Academic Building Renovation	9,000,000
Parking Garage – Health Center	8,400,000
Research Tower	60,000,000
Support Building Addition/Renovation	4,000,000
The University of Connecticut Health Center New Construction and Renovation	394,900,000
Planning and Design Costs	25,000,000
Total – Storrs and Regional	

House Bill No. 7288

Campus Project List			[3,196,000,000]
			<u>3,200,000,000</u>
Total - Health Center Project List			786,300,000
TOTAL	382,000,000	868,000,000	[4,007,300,000]
			<u>4,011,300,000</u>

Sec. 80. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10a-109g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) The university is authorized to provide by resolution, at one time or from time to time, for the issuance and sale of securities, in its own name on behalf of the state, pursuant to section 10a-109f. The board of trustees of the university is hereby authorized by such resolution to delegate to its finance committee such matters as it may determine appropriate other than the authorization and maximum amount of the securities to be issued, the nature of the obligation of the securities as established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and the projects for which the proceeds are to be used. The finance committee may act on such matters unless and until the board of trustees elects to reassume the same. The amount of securities the special debt service requirements of which are secured by the state debt service commitment that the board of trustees is authorized to provide for the issuance and sale in accordance with this subsection shall be capped in each fiscal year in the following amounts, provided, to the extent the board of trustees does not provide for the issuance of all or a portion of such amount in a fiscal year, all or such portion, as the case may be, may be carried forward to any succeeding fiscal year and provided further, the actual amount for

House Bill No. 7288

funding, paying or providing for the items described in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10a-109d, as amended by this act, may be added to the capped amount in each fiscal year:

Fiscal Year	Amount
1996	\$112,542,000
1997	112,001,000
1998	93,146,000
1999	64,311,000
2000	130,000,000
2001	100,000,000
2002	100,000,000
2003	100,000,000
2004	100,000,000
2005	100,000,000
2006	79,000,000
2007	89,000,000
2008	115,000,000
2009	140,000,000
2010	0
2011	138,800,000
2012	157,200,000
2013	143,000,000
2014	204,400,000
2015	315,500,000
2016	312,100,000
2017	240,400,000
2018	200,000,000
2019	200,000,000
2020	197,200,000
2021	260,000,000
2022	215,500,000

House Bill No. 7288

2023	125,100,000
2024	84,700,000
2025	122,000,000
2026	[124,000,000] <u>128,000,000</u>
2027	116,000,000
2028	103,500,000
2029	101,500,000
2030	100,000,000
2031	25,000,000

Sec. 81. Section 20 of public act 13-239, as amended by section 77 of public act 14-98, section 173 of public act 16-4 of the May special session and section 500 of public act 17-2 of the June special session, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 21 to 26, inclusive, of public act 13-239, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding [\$272,433,776] \$269,433,776.

Sec. 82. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21 of public act 13-239 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(1) Design and implementation of consolidation of higher education systems with the state's CORE system, not exceeding [\$5,000,000] \$2,000,000;

Sec. 83. Subsection (a) of section 85 of public act 13-3, as amended by section 74 of public act 14-98, section 67 of public act 15-1 of the June special session, section 26 of public act 18-178, section 74 of public act 20-1, section 62 of public act 21-111 and section 68 of public act 23-205, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

House Bill No. 7288

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate one hundred [seven] twenty-seven million dollars, provided ten million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026.

Sec. 84. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 82 of public act 14-98, as amended by section 195 of public act 16-4 of the May special session and section 521 of public act 17-2 of the June special session, are amended to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate eight million five hundred thousand dollars.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the [Department of Education] Technical Education and Career System for:

(1) The technical high school system, to establish a pilot program to provide expanded educational opportunities by extending hours at technical high schools in Hamden, Hartford, New Britain and Waterbury for purposes of academic enrichment and training in trades for secondary and adult students, not exceeding four hundred thirty-four thousand dollars;

(2) Grants-in-aid to technical high schools to provide evening training programs in skilled trades, including, but not limited to, manufacturing, masonry, electrical, plumbing and carpentry trades, provided the purpose of any such program shall be to prepare participants for earning a credential or degree recognized by employers or trade

House Bill No. 7288

associations, as applicable, not exceeding eight million sixty-six thousand dollars.

Sec. 85. Section 1 of public act 15-1 of the June special session, as amended by section 196 of public act 16-4 of the May special session, section 522 of public act 17-2 of the June special session, section 75 of public act 20-1 and section 33 of public act 24-151, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of public act 15-1 of the June special session, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate not exceeding [\$350,421,300] \$350,071,300.

Sec. 86. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 2 of public act 15-1 of the June special session is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(1) Development and implementation of databases in the core financial system associated with results-based accountability, not exceeding [\$3,000,000] \$2,650,000;

Sec. 87. Section 20 of public act 15-1 of the June special session, as amended by section 207 of public act 16-4 of the May special session, section 534 of public act 17-2 of the June special session and section 35 of public act 24-151, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 21 to 26, inclusive, of public act 15-1 of the June special session, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding [\$276,583,746] \$275,733,746.

Sec. 88. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 21 of public act 15-

House Bill No. 7288

1 of the June special session is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(1) Development and implementation of databases in the core financial system associated with results-based accountability, not exceeding [\$3,500,000] \$2,650,000;

Sec. 89. Section 407 of public act 17-2 of the June special session, as amended by section 35 of public act 18-178, section 81 of public act 21-111, section 71 of public act 23-205 and section 40 of public act 24-151, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 408 to 414, inclusive, of public act 17-2 of the June special session, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding [\$182,000,000] \$164,000,000.

Sec. 90. Subsection (b) of section 408 of public act 17-2 of the June special session, as amended by section 72 of public act 23-205, is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 91. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 2 of public act 20-1 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(1) Replacement, repair and repaving of the roads and sidewalks at the State Capitol Complex or alterations, renovations and restoration of the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building, including interior and exterior restoration and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, not exceeding \$1,800,000;

Sec. 92. Section 12 of public act 20-1, as amended by section 84 of public act 21-111 and section 341 of public act 22-118, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

House Bill No. 7288

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 13 to 19, inclusive, of public act 20-1, as amended by this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding [\$242,500,000] \$203,519,735.

Sec. 93. Subsection (b) of section 13 of public act 20-1 is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 94. Subsection (k) of section 13 of public act 20-1 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(k) For the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority: Grants-in-aid for capitalizing the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund, not exceeding [\$25,000,000] \$16,019,735.

Sec. 95. Section 31 of public act 20-1, as amended by section 86 of public act 21-111 and section 75 of public act 23-205, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 32 to 38, inclusive, of public act 20-1, as amended by this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding [\$209,000,000] \$169,000,000.

Sec. 96. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 32 of public act 20-1 is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 97. Subsection (k) of section 32 of public act 20-1 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(k) For the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority: Grants-in-aid for capitalizing the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund, not exceeding [\$25,000,000] \$10,000,000.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 98. Section 12 of public act 21-111, as amended by section 469 of public act 21-2 of the June special session, section 347 of public act 22-118 and section 77 of public act 23-205, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 13 to 19, inclusive, of public act 21-111, as amended by this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding [~~\$351,550,000~~] \$341,550,000.

Sec. 99. Subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of section 13 of public act 21-111, as amended by section 350 of public act 22-118, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(4) For the CareerConneCT workforce training programs, not exceeding [~~\$20,000,000~~] \$10,000,000, provided not more than \$5,000,000 may be used to capitalize the Connecticut Career Accelerator Program Account.

Sec. 100. Section 31 of public act 21-111, as amended by section 474 of public act 21-2 of the June special session and section 355 of public act 22-118, is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 32 to 38, inclusive, of public act 21-111, as amended by this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate, not exceeding [~~\$168,550,000~~] \$148,550,000.

Sec. 101. Subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of section 32 of public act 21-111 is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 102. Subsection (d) of section 359 of public act 22-118 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

House Bill No. 7288

(d) The Commissioner of Housing and the executive director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall seek a partnership with one or more hospitals located in the state to increase workforce housing options. Not later than January 1, [2023] 2026, the commissioner and executive director shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report detailing the status of any such partnership, any activities undertaken by the department and authority to increase workforce housing options and any recommendations on other methods to increase such housing options to the joint standing [committee] committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to housing and finance, revenue and bonding.

Sec. 103. Section 1 of public act 23-205 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The State Bond Commission shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of [this act] public act 23-205, as amended by this act, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the aggregate not exceeding [\$751,290,000] \$741,290,000.

Sec. 104. Subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 2 of public act 23-205 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(4) Purchase of electric vehicles and the construction and installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at state facilities, not exceeding [\$35,000,000] \$25,000,000.

Sec. 105. Subsection (a) of section 89 of public act 23-205 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in

House Bill No. 7288

principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [one] two hundred [fifty] seventy million dollars, provided [seventy-five] sixty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2024] 2026.

Sec. 106. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 92 of public act 23-205 are amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [sixty] ninety million dollars.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority for the purpose of capitalization.

Sec. 107. Subsection (a) of section 100 of public act 23-205 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [ten] fifteen million dollars. [, provided five million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2024.]

Sec. 108. Subsection (b) of section 57 of public act 24-151 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the purpose of [a program to provide rebates, at the point of sale, for the purchase of heat pumps intended for heating systems in the state, pursuant to section 16 of

House Bill No. 7288

substitute house bill 5004 of the current session, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A"] supporting the cost-effective deployment of heat pumps for thermal needs throughout the state.

Sec. 109. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than September 1, 2025, and every six months thereafter, the Department of Housing, in consultation with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to housing and finance, revenue and bonding. Such report shall include for the prior fiscal year, and the prior six months, the following information regarding funds obtained by the department pursuant to bond authorizations in section 8-336n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, sections 8 to 10, inclusive, and sections 27 to 29, inclusive, of public act 23-205, as amended by this act, or any similar public act:

(1) The program known as "Build for CT" and any other program administered by the department to address affordable housing, supportive housing, homelessness or workforce development housing for which the department used funds obtained pursuant to said bond authorizations, and the amount from each authorization provided to each such program. The information included pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision need not include information regarding the programs known as "Time to Own" and "Down Payment Assistance";

(2) A description of the department's programs that address affordable housing, supportive housing, homelessness and workforce development housing;

(3) For each use of funds under each program described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, a list of the number of projects that are approved, underway and completed, itemized by municipality; and

House Bill No. 7288

(4) For the programs known as "Time to Own" and "Down Payment Assistance", the number of applications received for each such program, the number of loans granted under each such program, the number of denied applications and aggregate information regarding the reasons for denial for each such program.

(b) The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall maintain information on its Internet web site regarding the programs known as "Time to Own" and "Down Payment Assistance". Such information shall include, but need not be limited to, the race, ethnicity, income and property location for the borrowers under each such program.

Sec. 110. Section 62 of public act 24-151 is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 111. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate thirty million dollars.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Office of Workforce Strategy for the purpose of supporting workforce innovation and sustainability.

(c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not

House Bill No. 7288

exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 112. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development; and

(2) "Greyfield" means any previously developed commercial retail or office property that (A) is economically nonviable in its current state and exhibits conditions that significantly complicate its redevelopment or reuse, as determined by the commissioner; and (B) is not currently eligible for any brownfield remediation and development program provided in chapter 588gg of the general statutes.

(b) On and after July 1, 2025, the commissioner may use bond funds and available resources to provide not more than fifty million dollars in the aggregate for grants or loans in support of major projects selected pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(c) On and after July 1, 2025, the commissioner, in coordination with

House Bill No. 7288

the Commissioner of Housing, the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority and the Capital Region Development Authority, may establish a greyfield revitalization program, which shall provide grants or loans to facilitate the repurposing of commercial retail and office space determined by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to be a greyfield and to provide grants to the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority or the Capital Region Development Authority to provide grants or loans to facilitate the repurposing of such commercial retail and office space. The commissioner shall develop a competitive application process and criteria to (1) evaluate applications submitted pursuant to this subsection, and (2) select projects for funding pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Eligible use of grant or loan funds include: (1) Architectural and engineering assessment of buildings and site readiness to determine suitability for conversion to multi-family housing; (2) demolition; (3) remediation and abatement of building materials that were used in accordance with the State Building Code when the structure was constructed; (4) renovation or conversion construction costs; (5) planning studies to assess the viability of one or more potential future project sites under the program; and (6) reasonable administrative expenses not to exceed five per cent of any grant awarded.

(e) Financial assistance awarded pursuant to this section shall be exempt from the provisions of section 32-462 of the general statutes.

(f) The commissioner may contract with nongovernmental entities, including, but not limited to, nonprofit organizations, economic and community development organizations, lending institutions, and technical assistance providers to carry out the provisions of this section.

Sec. 113. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established an account to be known as the "greyfield revitalization account", which

House Bill No. 7288

shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. There shall be deposited in the account: (1) The proceeds of bonds issued by the state for deposit into said account and used in accordance with this section; (2) interest or other income earned on the investment of moneys in the account; and (3) all funds required by law to be deposited in the account. Any balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding.

(b) All moneys received in consideration of financial assistance, including payments of principal and interest on any loans made pursuant to section 112 of this act, shall be credited to the account and shall become part of the assets of the account.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, proceeds from the sale of bonds available pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 4-66c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, may, with the approval of the Governor and the State Bond Commission, be used to capitalize the account.

(d) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development may use funds in the account (1) to provide financial assistance for the greyfield revitalization program established in section 112 of this act, and (2) for administrative costs not to exceed five per cent of such funds.

Sec. 114. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding section 15 of public act 14-98, as amended by this act, section 38 of public act 15-1 of the June special session, section 414 of public act 17-2 of the June special session, section 38 of public act 20-1, as amended by this act, section 38 of public act 21-111, as amended by this act, section 320 of public act 22-118, as amended by this act, or section 15 of public act 24-151, as amended by this act, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development may require, for any grant-in-aid not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars to a nonprofit organization sponsoring cultural and historic sites, a lien to be placed on real or personal property in favor of the state

House Bill No. 7288

to ensure that the amount of such grant-in-aid shall be repaid in the event of a change in use of any such property, provided, if the real or personal property for which such grant-in-aid was made is owned by the state, a municipality or a housing authority, no lien need be placed.

Sec. 115. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) On and after July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, may use bond funds, available authorized bond funds and available allocated bond funds to provide not more than twenty-five million dollars per fiscal year and not more than fifty million dollars in the aggregate for incentives in support of major projects selected pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) On and after July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development may establish a strategic supply chain program, which may provide grants, loans, subsidies or tax credits in support of proposed projects to establish, grow, upgrade or expand companies, facilities or workforce training efforts within the supply chains of major and emerging industries in the state, as determined by the commissioner. The department shall develop a competitive application process and criteria to (1) evaluate applications submitted pursuant to this subsection, and (2) select proposed projects for funding pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(c) Not later than June 30, 2029, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce regarding the projects funded pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Financial assistance awarded pursuant to this section shall be exempt from the provisions of section 32-462 of the general statutes.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 116. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate thirty million dollars.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of providing grants-in-aid for infrastructure projects necessary to support the development of housing or economic development in rural areas. Such infrastructure projects shall include, but need not be limited to, the establishment or expansion of utility services, such as water, electric distribution and sewer services. For the purposes of this subsection, "rural area" means (1) a municipality with a population of ten thousand or less, as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, or with a population density of less than five hundred persons per square mile, or (2) a census tract or town designated as rural by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, as amended from time to time.

(c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that

House Bill No. 7288

there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 117. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The State Bond Commission shall authorize the issuance of bonds of the state, in accordance with the provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate fifty million dollars for the Department of Housing. The amount authorized for the issuance and sale of such bonds in each of the following fiscal years shall not exceed the following corresponding amount for each such fiscal year, provided, to the extent the department does not provide for the use of all or a portion of such amount in any such fiscal year, such amount not provided for shall be carried forward and added to the authorized amount for the next succeeding fiscal year, and, provided further, the costs of issuance and capitalized interest, if any, may be added to the capped amount in each fiscal year, and each of the authorized amounts shall be effective on July first of the fiscal year indicated as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June Thirtieth	Amount
2026	\$12,500,000
2027	12,500,000
2028	12,500,000
2029	12,500,000

House Bill No. 7288

Total	\$50,000,000
-------	--------------

(b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Housing for the purpose of financing projects to create employment opportunities in the construction industry by developing affordable housing.

(c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section, and from time to time renewed. All bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

(d) Subject to the amount of limitations of the capping provisions in subsection (a) of this section, the principal amount of the bonds authorized under this section shall be deemed to be an appropriation and allocation of such amount, and such approval of such request shall be deemed the allotment by the Governor of such capital outlays within the meaning of section 4-85 of the general statutes.

Sec. 118. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the

House Bill No. 7288

state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate five hundred million dollars, provided two hundred fifty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Office of Policy and Management for the purpose of (1) benefiting the operation of the electric grid in the state, (2) promoting energy efficiency, (3) benefiting ratepayers, (4) reducing the annual costs of hardship protection measures and other hardship protections within the systems benefits charge, as defined in section 16-245l of the general statutes, to the average annual cost of such measures and protections in the five years from 2016 to 2020, inclusive, preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, and (5) funding any electric vehicle charging program established under section 16-244dd of the general statutes.

(c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state

House Bill No. 7288

of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 119. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate one hundred million dollars, provided fifty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Housing for the purpose of administering a middle housing development grant program to support housing authorities in expanding the availability of middle housing in municipalities having populations of fifty thousand or less as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

(c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that

House Bill No. 7288

there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 120. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate twelve million dollars, provided six million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Housing for the purpose of providing grants-in-aid to landlords who provide housing to formerly incarcerated individuals.

(c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond

House Bill No. 7288

Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 121. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, "child care facility" means a child care center, group child care home or family child care home that provides child care services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes.

(b) The Office of Early Childhood shall establish a competitive grant program to assist persons or entities licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-87e, inclusive, of the general statutes with the costs of planning and designing, constructing and renovating child care facilities. The office shall establish an application process and eligibility criteria for prioritizing grant applications and awarding grants that considers the scope of each design, construction or renovation project and the type of child care facility to be constructed or renovated. The office may (1) contract with a third party for the administration of such grant program and provision of technical assistance to grant applicants and recipients, and (2) expend funds from the Early Childhood Education Endowment to pay for the costs of providing technical assistance to grant applicants and recipients.

(c) In the case of any grant made pursuant to subsection (b) of this

House Bill No. 7288

section that is made to any person or entity licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-87e, inclusive, of the general statutes that is not a political subdivision of this state, the contract entered into for the receipt of such grant shall provide that if the premises for which such grant was made ceases, within ten years of the date of such grant, to be used as a child care facility, an amount equal to the amount of such grant, minus ten per cent per year for each full year which has elapsed since the date of such grant, shall be repaid to the state and that a lien shall be placed on such land in favor of the state to ensure that such amount shall be repaid in the event of such change in use, provided if the premises for which such grant was made are owned by the state, a municipality or a housing authority, no lien need be placed.

(d) The State Bond Commission may authorize the issuance of bonds of the state, in accordance with the provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate eighty million dollars. The amount authorized for the issuance and sale of such bonds in each of the following fiscal years shall not exceed the following corresponding amount for each such fiscal year, except that, to the extent the State Bond Commission does not provide for the use of all or a portion of such amount in any such fiscal year, such amount not provided for shall be carried forward and added to the authorized amount for the next succeeding fiscal year, and provided further, the costs of issuance and capitalized interest, if any, may be added to the capped amount in each fiscal year, and each of the authorized amounts shall be effective on July first of the fiscal year indicated as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June Thirtieth	Amount
2026	\$11,500,000
2027	11,500,000
2028	11,500,000
2029	11,500,000

House Bill No. 7288

2030	11,500,000
2031	11,500,000
2032	11,000,000
Total	\$80,000,000

(e) The proceeds of the sale of bonds as set forth in subsection (d) of this section shall be used by the Office of Early Childhood for the purpose of funding the competitive grant program described in subsection (b) of this section.

(f) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section, and from time to time renewed. All bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 122. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding section 320 of public act 22-118, as amended by this act, and section 19 of public act 23-205, as amended by this act, in the case of any grant-in-aid made pursuant to subsection (g) of section 314 of public act 22-118, as amended by this act, or subsection (g) of section 13 of public act 23-205, as amended by this act, in the amount of fifty thousand dollars or less, the Office of Early Childhood need not place a lien on the real property for which the grant-in-aid was made.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 123. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 8-37qq of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes of this section and sections 8-44a, 8-70, 8-78, 8-80, 8-114a, 8-117b, 8-119a, 8-119b, 8-119h, 8-119i, 8-119ee, 8-119hh, 8-119ii, 8-119jj, 8-169w, 8-214g, 8-216b, 8-218b, 8-219b, 8-387, 8-405, 8-410, 8-420, 16a-40b and 16a-40j, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Bond-financed state housing program" means any program administered by the Commissioner of Housing which provides financial assistance for housing acquisition, development, rehabilitation or support services, and which may be financed in whole or in part from the proceeds of the state's general obligation bonds, including: Acquisition of surplus land pursuant to section 8-37y, affordable housing projects pursuant to [section] sections 8-37pp and 8-336p, housing authority programs for social and supplementary services, project rehabilitation and improvement and energy conservation pursuant to section 8-44a, moderate rental housing pursuant to section 8-70, moderate cost housing pursuant to section 8-82, housing for elderly persons pursuant to section 8-114a, congregate housing for the elderly pursuant to section 8-119h, housing for low-income persons pursuant to section 8-119dd, financial assistance for redevelopment or urban renewal projects pursuant to section 8-154a, housing and community development pursuant to sections 8-169l and 8-216b, urban homesteading pursuant to subsection (a) of section 8-169w, community housing land bank and land trust program pursuant to section 8-214d, financial assistance for development of limited equity cooperatives and mutual housing pursuant to section 8-214f, community housing development corporations pursuant to sections 8-218 and 8-218a, financial assistance to elderly homeowners for emergency repairs or rehabilitation pursuant to section 8-219b, financial assistance for

House Bill No. 7288

removal of lead-based paint and asbestos pursuant to section 8-219e, home ownership loans pursuant to subsection (a) of section 8-286, housing programs for homeless persons pursuant to sections 8-356 and 8-357, grants to municipalities for financing low and moderate income rental housing pursuant to section 8-365, housing infrastructure grants and loans pursuant to section 8-387, private rental investment mortgage and equity program pursuant to sections 8-401 and 8-403, assistance for housing predevelopment costs pursuant to sections 8-410 and 8-411, residential subsurface sewage disposal system repair program pursuant to section 8-420, energy conservation loans pursuant to section 16a-40b, rent receivership pursuant to section 47a-56j, and any other such program now, heretofore or hereafter existing, and any additions or amendments to such programs.

(2) "Administrative expense" means any administrative or other cost or expense incurred by the state in carrying out the provisions of any [of the following] bond-financed state housing [programs] program, including the hiring of necessary employees and [the] entering [of] into necessary contracts. [: Housing authority programs for social and supplementary services, project rehabilitation and improvement, and energy conservation pursuant to section 8-44a, moderate rental housing pursuant to section 8-70, moderate cost housing pursuant to section 8-82, housing for elderly persons pursuant to section 8-114a, congregate housing for the elderly pursuant to section 8-119h, housing for low-income persons pursuant to section 8-119dd, urban homesteading pursuant to subsection (a) of section 8-169w, financial assistance for development of limited equity cooperatives and mutual housing pursuant to section 8-214f, financial assistance to elderly homeowners for emergency repairs or rehabilitation pursuant to section 8-219b, home ownership loans pursuant to subsection (a) of section 8-286, housing programs for homeless persons pursuant to sections 8-356 and 8-357, private rental investment mortgage and equity program pursuant to sections 8-401 and 8-403, assistance for housing predevelopment costs

House Bill No. 7288

pursuant to sections 8-410 and 8-411, residential subsurface sewage disposal system repair pursuant to section 8-420, and energy conservation loans pursuant to section 16a-40b.]

(3) "State service fee" means any fee or charge assessed or collected by the state for the purpose of paying for any administrative expense, pursuant to subsections (f) and (g) of section 8-44a with respect to housing authority programs for social and supplementary services, project rehabilitation and improvement, and energy conservation, subsection (c) of section 8-70 and section 8-72 with respect to moderate rental housing, subsection (b) of section 8-114a and subsection (a) of section 8-115a with respect to housing for elderly persons, section 8-119h and subsection (a) of section 8-115a with respect to congregate housing for the elderly, section 8-119jj and section 8-72 with respect to housing for low-income persons, subsection (c) of section 8-218b with respect to community housing development corporations, subsection (b) of section 8-219b with respect to financial assistance to elderly homeowners for emergency repairs and rehabilitation, and subsection (a) of section 8-405 with respect to the private rental mortgage and equity program.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any public or special act to the contrary, any administrative expense may be paid from the proceeds from the sale of the state's general obligation bonds for the bond-financed state housing program for which the administrative expense is incurred, to the extent approved by the State Bond Commission and allotted by the Governor for such purpose and provided such administrative expense shall not exceed one million dollars in any fiscal year.

Sec. 124. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section and sections 125 to 129, inclusive, of this act:

(1) "Authority" means the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority

House Bill No. 7288

created under section 8-244 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

(2) "Bank" means a bank or an out-of-state bank, each as defined in section 36a-2 of the general statutes;

(3) "Credit union" means a Connecticut credit union or a federal credit union, each as defined in section 36a-2 of the general statutes;

(4) "Department" means the Department of Banking;

(5) "Eligible borrower" means the owner or developer of a new construction residential building;

(6) "Eligible financial institution" means a bank or credit union that has a physical presence in this state; and

(7) "Residential building" has the same meaning as provided in section 8-440 of the general statutes.

Sec. 125. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The authority shall administer a "Homes for CT" loan program to assist eligible borrowers to obtain funding necessary for the construction of residential buildings by guaranteeing the repayment of loans made by eligible financial institutions to eligible borrowers, which loans (1) may have loan-to-value ratios in excess of typical underwriting standards, and (2) shall be subject to any conditions or limitations established by the authority, in consultation with representatives from the banking industry, and published on the authority's Internet web site. Under the program, the authority may also provide to eligible borrowers additional loans that shall be subordinate to the loans made to such eligible borrowers by eligible financial institutions. In accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 127 of this act, the authority shall process claims for the recovery of the outstanding principal amount of the loans made by eligible financial institutions and submit such claims to the

House Bill No. 7288

Comptroller for payment. Subject to the cessation of the processing of such claims under subsection (d) of section 127 of this act, the Comptroller shall pay from the General Fund all such claims that are submitted by the authority.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, any eligible financial institution may participate in the program after providing the department and the authority with advance written notice of the eligible financial institution's intention to participate in the program. Such notice shall be in the form and manner prescribed by the department and the authority, and shall include contact information for the eligible financial institution. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude an eligible financial institution that has elected to participate in the program from issuing loans to eligible borrowers outside of the program.

(2) An eligible financial institution may suspend its participation in, or withdraw from, the program after giving advance written notice to the department and the authority that specifies the date when such suspension or withdrawal will become effective, provided such date shall be at least five business days after the date when such notice is given. Such withdrawal or suspension shall not affect the eligible financial institution's ability to submit a guarantee claim on any loan for which the eligible financial institution provided notice to the authority pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this section prior to the effective date of the withdrawal or suspension.

(3) Not later than October 1, 2025, the department and the authority shall each publish on their Internet web sites a summary of the program and a list of the eligible financial institutions that have elected to participate in the program. The list shall be updated from time to time and shall include the contact information of each participating eligible financial institution. The department shall also provide information concerning the program to mortgage servicers licensed pursuant to

House Bill No. 7288

section 36a-718 of the general statutes.

(c) (1) The authority may develop, in consultation with representatives from the banking industry, one or more standard promissory note and mortgage deed forms that may be used by eligible financial institutions making loans pursuant to section 126 of this act.

(2) Not later than October 1, 2025, the authority shall develop, in consultation with representatives from the banking industry, (A) reasonable standards that an eligible financial institution may rely upon to demonstrate that such eligible financial institution made good faith collection efforts in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 127 of this act, and (B) a readily accessible communication portal by which participating eligible financial institutions may verify the most recently available total dollar amount of (i) loans of which the authority has been notified pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this section, and (ii) claims submitted to the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of section 127 of this act.

(3) The forms and standards developed pursuant to this subsection shall, to the extent feasible, be closely aligned with industry standards, but shall not require post-delinquency collection efforts extending beyond ninety days.

(d) Each eligible financial institution that agrees to make a loan to an eligible borrower pursuant to section 126 of this act shall:

(1) Not later than one business day after agreeing to make the loan, provide to the authority written notice that specifies the amount of the loan and any other information about the eligible borrower and the loan that the authority may request;

(2) Not later than seven business days after agreeing to make the loan, provide to the authority a copy of the promissory note for such loan and the mortgage deed that secures such promissory note; and

House Bill No. 7288

(3) On a monthly basis, provide to the authority a written report disclosing the status of the loan, including, but not limited to, the principal amount, the outstanding balance and the amount of any funds that the eligible financial institution has agreed to lend to the eligible borrower but has not yet disbursed.

(e) When the total amount of loans reported to the authority, including outstanding loans and loans that eligible financial institutions have agreed to make, reaches one hundred million dollars, the authority shall immediately close participation in the program and notify each eligible financial institution participating in the program. A participating eligible financial institution may condition the availability of any loan agreement on the availability of the program.

Sec. 126. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each eligible financial institution that participates in the program administered by the authority pursuant to subsection (a) of section 125 of this act may make loans to an eligible borrower under the program, provided:

(1) The eligible borrower (A) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the eligible financial institution that the proposed development of residential buildings meets the standards for such a development, which standards shall be established by the authority, and (B) shall provide to the authority a covenant that each dwelling unit, as defined in section 47a-1 of the general statutes, in such residential buildings, when offered for sale to the public, shall be sold only to individuals participating in a homebuyer loan program administered by the authority.

(2) The loan shall (A) be secured by a mortgage deed on the eligible borrower's residential buildings and all related improvements under development by the eligible borrower, (B) be made in accordance with the eligible financial institution's underwriting policy and standards, except that the loan may have a loan-to-value ratio in excess of typical

House Bill No. 7288

underwriting standards, and (C) bear interest at a rate that does not exceed the applicable rate of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston for short-term or long-term advances through the New England Fund program. For the purposes of this subdivision, "applicable rate" means the New England Fund rate that (i) is published on the Internet web site of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston as of the date the interest rate is locked in by the eligible borrower and eligible financial institution, and (ii) has an advance term that most closely corresponds to the term of the loan being made by the participating eligible financial institution.

(3) The loan proceeds shall be used by the eligible borrower only for eligible construction expenses. For the purposes of this subdivision, "eligible construction expenses" means (A) expenses that are necessary to (i) complete the construction of a residential building, or (ii) construct any improvements related to a residential building, and (B) any other expenses the authority determines to be necessary.

Sec. 127. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) An eligible financial institution that has made a good faith effort to collect the outstanding principal from a loan made pursuant to section 126 of this act may make a claim to the authority for recovery of an amount equal to the outstanding principal for such loan. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, if the eligible financial institution demonstrates to the satisfaction of the authority that the eligible financial institution made a good faith effort in accordance with the eligible financial institution's loan servicing and collection policies to collect the outstanding principal from the eligible borrower and any person other than the authority who issued a guarantee of the loan and the loan has been delinquent for four consecutive months, the authority shall submit the claim to the Comptroller for payment. Upon payment of a claim by the Comptroller, and as a condition of such payment, (1) the loan, including, but not limited to, any guarantee of the loan issued by a person other than the authority, shall be assigned to the state, and (2) the authority, as agent

House Bill No. 7288

for the state, shall have the right to continue collection efforts on the loan. Any amount necessary for payment by the Comptroller to honor loan guarantees under this section shall be deemed appropriated from the General Fund, and any funds collected by the authority in accordance with this subsection shall be deposited to the General Fund.

(b) The authority shall maintain records in the regular course of administration of the program, including, but not limited to, a record of loans issued and of payments made to honor loan guarantees issued under this section.

(c) The authority may terminate any loan guarantee if the eligible financial institution misrepresents any information pertaining to the guarantee or fails to comply with any requirement of this section in connection with the guarantee of the underlying loan.

(d) The total amount of claims processed by the authority and paid by the Comptroller to honor loan guarantees under this section shall not exceed ten million dollars. When the total amount of claims processed by the authority and paid by the Comptroller reaches ten million dollars, the authority shall immediately cease to process claims and shall notify the Comptroller and each eligible financial institution participating in the program that the authority has ceased honoring loan guarantees under the program.

Sec. 128. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Under the program administered by the authority pursuant to subsection (a) of section 125 of this act, the authority may, within available resources, make loans to eligible borrowers that are in addition to the loans made to such eligible borrowers by eligible financial institutions pursuant to section 126 of this act. The loans made by the authority shall be (1) subordinate to the loans made by eligible financial institutions, and (2) subject to such terms as the authority may establish, including, but not limited to, loan amounts, interest rates and terms to maturity.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 129. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Comptroller, the authority and the department may enter into a memorandum of understanding to carry out the provisions of sections 124 to 128, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 130. Subsection (a) of section 8-244 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is created a body politic and corporate to be known as the "Connecticut Housing Finance Authority". Said authority is constituted a public instrumentality and political subdivision of this state and the exercise by the authority of the powers conferred by this chapter and sections 124 to 129, inclusive, of this act shall be deemed and held to be the performance of an essential public and governmental function. The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the state. The board of directors of the authority shall consist of sixteen members as follows: (1) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the Commissioner of Housing, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Banking Commissioner and the State Treasurer, ex officio, or their designees, with the right to vote, (2) seven members to be appointed by the Governor, and (3) four members appointed as follows: One by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one by the minority leader of the Senate and one by the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The member initially appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve a term of five years; the member initially appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate shall serve a term of four years. The members initially appointed by the Senate minority leader shall serve a term of three years. The member initially appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall serve a term of two years. Thereafter, each member appointed by a member of the General Assembly shall serve a

House Bill No. 7288

term of five years. The members appointed by the Governor and the members of the General Assembly shall be appointed in accordance with section 4-9b and among them be experienced in all aspects of housing, including housing design, development, finance, management and state and municipal finance, and at least one of whom shall be selected from among the officers or employees of the state. At least one shall have experience in the provision of housing to very low, low and moderate income families. On or before July first, annually, the Governor shall appoint a member for a term of five years from said July first to succeed the member whose term expires and until such member's successor has been appointed, except that in 1974 and 1995 and quinquennially thereafter, the Governor shall appoint two members. The chairperson of the board shall be appointed by the Governor. The board shall annually elect one of its appointed members as vice-chairperson of the board. Members shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties hereunder but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance thereof. The Governor or appointing member of the General Assembly, as the case may be, shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired term. A member of the board shall be eligible for reappointment. Any member of the board may be removed by the Governor or appointing member of the General Assembly, as the case may be, for misfeasance, malfeasance or wilful neglect of duty. Each member of the board before entering upon such member's duties shall take and subscribe the oath of affirmation required by article XI, section 1, of the State Constitution. A record of each such oath shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the State. Each ex-officio member may designate such member's deputy or any member of such member's staff to represent such member at meetings of the board with full power to act and vote on such member's behalf.

Sec. 131. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Public school operator" means any (A) local or regional board of

House Bill No. 7288

education, (B) regional educational service center, (C) interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-264s of the general statutes, (D) endowed academy approved pursuant to section 10-34 of the general statutes, or (E) state charter school;

(2) "District repair and improvement project" means a capital expenditure project, approved by a public school operator, for any of the following: (A) The construction, renovation, repair or enlargement of school buildings or school grounds, including parking lots, athletic fields and playgrounds; (B) improvements to school facilities for compliance with health, safety or code requirements; or (C) the purchase, installation or maintenance of or improvements to fixed school infrastructure, including, but not limited to, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, plumbing, electrical systems and roofing;

(3) "Number of students enrolled" means the number of all students enrolled in a school or schools, as applicable, under the jurisdiction of a public school operator on October first or the full school day immediately preceding such date;

(4) "Number of students eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk" means the number of students enrolled in a school or schools, as applicable, under the jurisdiction of a public school operator on October first or the full school day immediately preceding such date, in families that meet the income eligibility guidelines established by the federal Department of Agriculture for free or reduced price meals or free milk under the National School Lunch Program, established pursuant to P.L. 79-396; and

(5) "Total need students" means the sum of: (A) The number of students enrolled for the school year; (B) thirty per cent of the number of students eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk; (C) fifteen per cent of the number of students eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk in excess of the number of students eligible for

House Bill No. 7288

free or reduced price meals or free milk that is equal to sixty per cent of the total number of students enrolled for the school year; (D) twenty-five per cent of the number of students enrolled who are multilingual learners, as defined in section 10-17o of the general statutes; and (E) thirty per cent of the number of students enrolled who require special education, as defined in section 10-76a of the general statutes.

(b) (1) There is established a public school district repair and improvement project program to assist public school operators with the costs of minor capital repairs, improvements and maintenance, mitigate such operators' need for more costly and extensive renovations and construction in the future and improve accessibility to safe and well-maintained school buildings and grounds for students and educators. On February first of each year, not more than the amount as authorized by the General Assembly for the fiscal year from the resources of the district repair and improvement account established under subsection (h) of this section shall be allocated to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, who shall allocate an amount to each public school operator in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. The secretary shall credit all such allocated moneys to a subaccount for each public school operator and make district repair and improvement project grants from such subaccounts to such public school operator pursuant to the provisions of this section. The secretary shall maintain records indicating, for each public school operator's subaccount, the amount credited to the subaccount each year, the amount paid out in district repair and improvement project grants and charged to the subaccount and the balance available for additional district repair and improvement project grants.

(2) No amounts allocated under this section shall be used to satisfy a local matching requirement for any state assistance program or for any school building project under section 10-283 of the general statutes.

(c) (1) Each allocation under subsection (b) of this section shall be

House Bill No. 7288

made to a public school operator in accordance with the following formula: (A) Fifty per cent of the amount shall be allocated pro rata on the basis of the following ratio: The public school operator's total need students enrolled in a school or schools, as applicable, under the jurisdiction of the public school operator for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be paid to the total need students enrolled in all such schools in the state for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be paid; (B) twenty per cent of the amount shall be allocated equally among all public school operators; and (C) thirty per cent of the amount shall be allocated pro rata on the basis of the following ratio: The total number of students enrolled in a school or schools, as applicable, under the jurisdiction of a public school operator for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be paid multiplied by the inverse of the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita of such public school operator, which shall be the numerator of the fraction, and the sum of the resulting products for all the public school operators, which shall be the denominator of the fraction.

(2) For the purposes of this subsection, the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita of a public school operator shall be determined as follows:

(A) For a local board of education, the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita shall be the same as the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita, as defined in section 10-261 of the general statutes, of the town of such board;

(B) For a regional board of education, a regional educational service center, an interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-264s of the general statutes or an endowed academy, the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita shall be determined by such entity's rank under section 10-285a of the general statutes, where the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita shall be the same as the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita of a town with the same ranking; and

House Bill No. 7288

(C) For a charter school, the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita shall be the same as the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita, as defined in section 10-261 of the general statutes, of the town in which such charter school is located.

(d) On March first of each year, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall notify each public school operator of the amount allocated to such public school operator pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section and shall post on said office's Internet web site such allocation amounts and the calculations for all public school operators.

(e) Allocated moneys credited to the subaccount of a public school operator in accordance with subsection (b) of this section shall be issued as a grant by the secretary to the public school operator not later than June thirtieth of each fiscal year. Such public school operator shall use such grants for reimbursement and costs associated with district repair and improvement projects.

(f) Not later than September 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each public school operator issued a grant pursuant to subsection (e) of this section in the preceding fiscal year shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in a form and manner prescribed by the secretary, describing each district repair and improvement project for which amounts were expended in such fiscal year and the amounts expended for each such project. Such report shall include a certification by the public school operator that (1) the district repair and improvement project was approved by the public school operator or a board, a council or other body responsible for overseeing such project, and (2) no grant money allocated under this section to such public school operator for such fiscal year was used to satisfy a local matching requirement for any state assistance program or for any school building project under section 10-283 of the general statutes. The secretary shall post all reports submitted pursuant to this subsection on said office's Internet web site.

House Bill No. 7288

(g) Each public school operator receiving a district repair and improvement project grant under this section shall retain, for a period of not less than three years following the completion of such project, detailed accounting records of all expenses incurred relative to the district repair and improvement project for which a grant is received. If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management determines that such records are not maintained or a review of such records indicates that such grant, or any portion thereof, was used for other than its intended purpose, the secretary shall provide written notification to the public school operator of such finding. Upon issuing a finding under this section, the secretary may require the public school operator to promptly pay to the state an amount equal to the amount of the grant or may cause the amount of any future grant made under this section to be reduced by such amount.

(h) There is established an account to be known as the "district repair and improvement account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the purposes of this section.

(i) For the purposes described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate sixty million dollars, provided thirty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026.

(j) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (i) of this section, shall be used by the Office of Policy and Management for the purposes of subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

House Bill No. 7288

(k) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 132. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than October 1, 2025, and quarterly thereafter until the completion of the construction of the facilities for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Department of Administrative Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and government administration and elections, concerning the status of the design, alteration, renovation and construction of such facilities.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 133. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) On or before January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, a five-year capital plan for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system and a description of the efforts undertaken in the prior year to increase enrollment in such system.

Sec. 134. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than October 1, 2025, and quarterly thereafter, the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, in consultation with the Commissioner of Early Childhood, shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, describing the coordination of efforts between the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and the Office of Early Childhood to construct, improve or equip child care centers on or near college and university campuses in the state.

Sec. 135. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) On or before January 1, 2027, and biennially thereafter, the Technical Education and Career System shall develop a five-year capital plan for such system and submit such plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding.

Sec. 136. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Administrative Services shall develop a plan to implement the installation of solar photovoltaic systems on developed state properties and submit such plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees

House Bill No. 7288

of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and government administration and elections.

Sec. 137. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall establish, within available resources, a program to provide grants-in-aid to nonprofit organizations that own or operate cultural and historic sites in the state for the purposes of making capital improvements. The commissioner shall (1) develop eligibility criteria and application forms, and (2) accept applications for such grants-in-aid on a continuing basis.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding. Such report shall include (1) the number of applications received by the commissioner during the previous calendar year for a grant-in-aid pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2) the total amount of funds requested in such applications.

Sec. 138. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding section 7-395 of the general statutes, prior to receiving any grants-in-aid pursuant to sections 13 and 32 of this act, the mayor of the city of Bridgeport shall submit a report to the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission established under section 7-394b of the general statutes and appear before the commission in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) Not later than September 1, 2025, the mayor of the city of Bridgeport shall submit to the commission a report, in writing, that includes a plan for corrective actions to ensure the city will not require supplemental education grants-in-aid in future fiscal years. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) cost containment policies

House Bill No. 7288

that may be adopted by the city, (2) adjustments to fiscal policies, (3) collaboration with one or more municipalities or local or regional boards of education to obtain shared services, (4) ways to maximize federal funding, (5) the identification of possible efficiencies in the provision of services, and (6) the prioritization of core services identified by the city.

(c) Not later than December 31, 2025, the mayor of the city of Bridgeport shall appear before the commission, at a time and place to be determined by the commission, to present such report and answer any questions from the commission.

Sec. 139. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than October 1, 2025, the chief executive officer of each municipality designated to receive a grant-in-aid pursuant to section 55 of this act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, that exceeds the amount of any grant-in-aid such municipality received pursuant to section 55 of public act 23-205, as amended by this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, by seventy-five per cent or more, shall appear before the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to discuss actions such municipality may take to mitigate such municipality's reliance on state funding in subsequent fiscal years. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, (1) cost containment policies that may be adopted by such municipality, (2) fiscal policy adjustments concerning the revenue and expenditures of such municipality, (3) collaboration with one or more other municipalities to obtain shared municipal services, (4) the identification of possible efficiencies in the provision of municipal services, and (5) the prioritization of core municipal services identified by such municipality. The secretary may require such officer to submit a written plan to implement the actions described in this subsection.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 55 of this act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, no municipality described in subsection (a) of this section shall receive the portion of the grant-in-aid pursuant to section 55 of this act that exceeds the amount of any grant-in-aid such

House Bill No. 7288

municipality received pursuant to section 55 of public act 23-205, as amended by this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, until the chief executive officer of such municipality appears before the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and, if applicable, submits a written plan pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 140. Sections 10-265r and 10-283b of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 141. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, having reviewed applications for state grants for public school building projects in accordance with section 10-283 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, on the basis of priorities for such projects and standards for school construction established by the State Board of Education, and having prepared a listing of all such eligible projects ranked in order of priority, as determined by said commissioner together with the amount of the estimated grant with respect to each eligible project, and having submitted such listing of eligible projects, prior to December 15, 2024, to a committee of the General Assembly established under section 10-283a of the general statutes for the purpose of reviewing such listing, is hereby authorized to enter into grant commitments on behalf of the state in accordance with said section 10-283a with respect to the priority listing of such projects and in such estimated amounts as approved by said committee prior to February 1, 2025, as follows:

School District School Project Number	Estimated Project Costs	Estimated Grant
FAIRFIELD Osborn Hill Elementary School 051-0157 A	\$597,500	\$155,768
FAIRFIELD		

House Bill No. 7288

North Stratfield Elementary School 051-0158 A	\$652,500	\$170,107
FAIRFIELD Fairfield Woods Middle School 051-0159 A	\$769,500	\$200,609
GREENWICH Old Greenwich School 057-0115 EA/RR	\$48,124,812	\$9,624,962
NORWICH John M. Moriarty Elementary School 104-0121 N	\$74,065,026	\$59,252,021
NORWICH Uncas Elementary School 104-0120 N	\$76,468,605	\$61,174,884
PLAINVILLE Middle School of Plainville 110-0064 RNV	\$61,915,000	\$40,467,644
REGION DISTRICT 5 Amity Regional High School 205-0046 A	\$3,152,596	\$1,351,203

(2) Previously Authorized Projects That Have Changed Substantially
in Scope or Cost which are Seeking Reauthorization.

School District	Authorized	Requested
School		
Project Number		
CTECS Platt Technical High School 900-0013 VT/EA		

Estimated...

House Bill No. 7288

Total Project Costs	\$124,566,000	\$175,231,500
Total Grant	\$124,566,000	\$175,231,500

Sec. 142. Subsection (e) of section 10-285a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) (1) If an elementary school building project for a new building or for the expansion of an existing building includes space for an early childhood care and education program that provides services for children from birth to five years, the percentage determined pursuant to this section for the entire school building project shall be increased by fifteen percentage points, but shall not exceed one hundred per cent. [for the portion of the building used primarily for such purpose.] Recipient districts shall maintain such early childhood care and education program for at least ten years.

(2) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for any school building project for a building or facility that will be used exclusively by a local or regional board of education for an early childhood care and education program that provides services for children from birth to five years shall be increased by fifteen percentage points, but shall not exceed one hundred per cent. Recipient districts shall maintain such early childhood care and education program for at least twenty years.

Sec. 143. Section 10-285a of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (l) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (l) If a school building project for a new building or for the renovation or expansion of an existing building includes plans for the expansion or creation of in-district special education programming and services, the percentage determined pursuant to this section shall be increased by fifteen percentage points, but shall not exceed one hundred per cent, for the portion of the project used primarily for such purpose,

House Bill No. 7288

provided the portion of such school building project that will be used primarily for such in-district special education programming and services shall be a part of a school building that is being used to provide a program of general education for nonspecial education students and is a part of the school building being constructed or renovated or expanded; and, provided further, any additional funding received by the local or regional board of education resulting from and related to the inclusion of such plans for the expansion or creation of in-district special education programming and services shall be expended for such construction or renovation or expansion.

Sec. 144. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-283 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) Each town or regional school district shall be eligible to apply for and accept grants for a school building project as provided in this chapter. Any town desiring a grant for a public school building project may, by vote of its legislative body, authorize the board of education of such town to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject such grant for the town. Any regional school board may vote to authorize the supervising agent of the regional school district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for and to accept or reject such grant for the district. Applications for such grants under this chapter shall be made by the superintendent of schools of such town or regional school district on the form provided and in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. [The application form shall require the superintendent of schools to affirm that the school district considered the maximization of natural light, the use and feasibility of wireless connectivity technology and, on and after July 1, 2014, the school safety infrastructure criteria, described in section 10-292r, in projects for new construction and alteration or renovation of a school building.] The Commissioner of Administrative

House Bill No. 7288

Services shall review, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, each grant application for a school building project for compliance with educational specifications. The Commissioner of Education shall evaluate, if appropriate, whether the project will assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall consult with the Commissioner of Education in reviewing grant applications submitted for purposes of subsection (a) of section 10-65 or section 10-76e on the basis of the educational needs of the applicant. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall review each grant application for a school building project for compliance with standards for school building projects pursuant to regulations, adopted in accordance with section 10-287c, and, on and after July 1, 2014, the school safety infrastructure criteria, described in section 10-292r. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of Quinebaug Valley Community College and Three Rivers Community College and the following entities that will operate an interdistrict magnet school that will assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, may apply for and shall be eligible to receive grants for school building projects pursuant to section 10-264h for such a school: (A) The Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical college, (B) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System on behalf of a state university, (C) the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut on behalf of the university, (D) the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, (E) cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a, and (F) any other

House Bill No. 7288

third-party not-for-profit corporation approved by the Commissioner of Education.

(2) All applications submitted prior to July first shall be reviewed promptly by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall estimate the amount of the grant for which such project is eligible, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-285a, as amended by this act, provided an application for a school building project determined by the Commissioner of Education to be a project that will assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, shall have until September first to submit an application for such a project and may have until December first of the same year to secure and report all local and state approvals required to complete the grant application. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall annually prepare a listing of all such eligible school building projects with the amount of the estimated grants for such projects and shall submit the same to the Governor, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the General Assembly on or before the fifteenth day of December, except as provided in section 10-283a, with a request for authorization to enter into grant commitments. On or before December thirty-first annually, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may submit comments and recommendations regarding each eligible project on such listing of eligible school building projects to the school construction committee, established pursuant to section 10-283a. Each such listing shall include a report on the following factors for each eligible project: [(i)] (A) An enrollment projection and the capacity of the school, including who conducted the enrollment projection for the school and the cost of conducting such enrollment projection, [(ii)] (B) a substantiation of the estimated total project costs, [(iii)] (C) the readiness of such eligible project to begin construction, [(iv)] (D) efforts made by

House Bill No. 7288

the local or regional board of education to redistrict, reconfigure, merge or close schools under the jurisdiction of such board prior to submitting an application under this section, [(v)] (E) enrollment and capacity information for all of the schools under the jurisdiction of such board for the five years prior to application for a school building project grant, [(vi)] (F) enrollment projections and capacity information for all of the schools under the jurisdiction of such board for the eight years following the date such application is submitted, including who conducted the enrollment projection for the school and the cost of conducting such enrollment projection, [(vii)] (G) the state's education priorities relating to reducing racial and economic isolation for the school district, and [(viii)] (H) an estimation of the total ineligible costs and an itemization of such ineligible costs for such project. On and after July 1, 2022, each such listing shall include an addendum that contains all grants approved pursuant to subsection (b) of this section during the prior fiscal year. For the period beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2012, no project may appear on the separate schedule of authorized projects which have changed in cost more than twice. On and after July 1, 2012, no project [, other than a project for a technical education and career school,] may appear on the separate schedule of authorized projects which have changed in cost more than once, except the Commissioner of Administrative Services may allow a project to appear on such separate schedule of authorized projects a second time if the town or regional school district for such project can demonstrate that exigent circumstances require such project to appear a second time on such separate schedule of authorized projects. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, no projects which have changed in scope or cost to the degree determined by the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall be eligible for reimbursement under this chapter unless it appears on such list. The percentage determined pursuant to section 10-285a, as amended by this act, at the time a school building project on such schedule was originally authorized shall be used for purposes of the

House Bill No. 7288

grant for such project. On and after July 1, 2006, a project that was not previously authorized as an interdistrict magnet school shall not receive a higher percentage for reimbursement than that determined pursuant to section 10-285a, as amended by this act, at the time a school building project on such schedule was originally authorized. The General Assembly shall annually authorize the Commissioner of Administrative Services to enter into grant commitments on behalf of the state in accordance with the commissioner's categorized listing for such projects as the General Assembly shall determine. The Commissioner of Administrative Services may not enter into any such grant commitments except pursuant to such legislative authorization. Any regional school district which assumes the responsibility for completion of a public school building project shall be eligible for a grant pursuant to subdivision (5) or (6), as the case may be, of subsection (a) of section 10-286 when such project is completed and accepted by such regional school district.

(3) (A) All final calculations completed by the Department of Administrative Services for school building projects shall include a computation of the state grant for the school building project amortized on a straight line basis over a twenty-year period for school building projects with costs equal to or greater than two million dollars and over a ten-year period for school building projects with costs less than two million dollars. Any town or regional school district which abandons, sells, leases, demolishes or otherwise redirects the use of such a school building project to other than a public school use or a public use during such amortization period shall refund to the state the unamortized balance of the state grant remaining as of the date the abandonment, sale, lease, demolition or redirection occurs. The amortization period for a project shall begin on the date the project was accepted as complete by the local or regional board of education. [A town or regional school district required to make a refund to the state pursuant to this subdivision may request forgiveness of such refund if the building is

House Bill No. 7288

redirected for public use. The Department of Administrative Services shall include as an addendum to the annual school construction priority list all those towns requesting forgiveness. General Assembly approval of the priority list under section 10-283a, containing such request shall constitute approval of such request.] This subdivision shall not apply to projects to correct safety, health and other code violations or to remedy certified school indoor air quality emergencies approved pursuant to subsection (b) of this section or projects subject to the provisions of section 10-285c.

(B) If the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, that operates an interdistrict magnet school makes private use of any portion of a school building in which such operator received a school building project grant pursuant to this chapter, such operator shall annually submit a report to the Commissioner of Education that demonstrates that such operator provides an equal to or greater than in-kind or supplemental benefit of such institution's facilities to students enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school that outweighs the private use of such school building. If the commissioner finds that the private use of such school building exceeds the in-kind or supplemental benefit to magnet school students, the commissioner may require such institution to refund to the state the unamortized balance of the state grant.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding the application date requirements of this section, at any time within the limit of available grant authorization and within the limit of appropriated funds, the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, may approve applications for grants and make payments for such grants, for any of the following reasons: (A) To assist school building projects to remedy damage from fire and catastrophe, (B) to

House Bill No. 7288

correct safety, health and other code violations, (C) to replace roofs, including the replacement or installation of skylights as part of the roof replacement project, (D) to remedy a certified school indoor air quality emergency, (E) to install insulation for exterior walls and attics, [or] (F) to purchase and install a limited use and limited access elevator, windows, photovoltaic panels, wind generation systems, building management systems or portable classroom buildings, provided portable classroom building projects shall not create a new facility or cause an existing facility to be modified so that the portable buildings comprise a substantial percentage of the total facility area, as determined by the commissioner, or (G) to upgrade heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems or make other improvements to indoor air quality in school buildings subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) The commissioner shall not award a grant under subparagraph (G) of subdivision (1) of this subsection to any applicant that, on or after July 1, 2026, has not certified compliance with the uniform inspection and evaluation of an existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning system pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-220, as amended by this act. The following expenses shall not be eligible for reimbursement under this subsection: Routine maintenance and cleaning of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, and work performed at or on a public school administrative or service facility that is not located or housed within a public school building. Recipients of a grant under subparagraph (G) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be responsible for the routine maintenance and cleaning of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system and provide training to school personnel and building maintenance staff concerning the proper use and maintenance of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

Sec. 145. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 10-287 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

House Bill No. 7288

thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(4) All orders and contracts for any other consultant services, including, but not limited to, consultant services rendered by an owner's representatives, construction administrators, program managers, environmental professionals, planners and financial specialists, shall comply with the public selection process described in subdivision (2) of this subsection. [No costs associated with an order or contract for such consultant services shall be eligible for state financial assistance under this chapter unless such order or contract receives prior approval from the Commissioner of Administrative Services in writing or through a written electronic communication.]

Sec. 146. Section 10-287d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

For the purposes of funding (1) grants to projects that have received approval of the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to section 10-287, as amended by this act, subsection (a) of section 10-65 and section 10-76e, and (2) grants to assist school building projects to remedy safety and health violations and damage from fire and catastrophe, [and (3) technical education and career school projects pursuant to section 10-283b,] the State Treasurer is authorized and directed, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of section 3-20, to issue bonds of the state from time to time in one or more series in an aggregate amount not exceeding thirteen billion eight hundred sixty-two million one hundred sixty thousand dollars. Bonds of each series shall bear such date or dates and mature at such time or times not exceeding thirty years from their respective dates and be subject to such redemption privileges, with or without premium, as may be fixed by the State Bond Commission. They shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest and the full faith and credit of the state is pledged for the payment of the interest thereon and the principal thereof as the same shall become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state

House Bill No. 7288

with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due. The State Treasurer is authorized to invest temporarily in direct obligations of the United States, United States agency obligations, certificates of deposit, commercial paper or bank acceptances such portion of the proceeds of such bonds or of any notes issued in anticipation thereof as may be deemed available for such purpose.

Sec. 147. Section 10-66hh of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall establish, within available bond authorizations, a grant program to assist state charter schools in financing (1) school building projects, as defined in section 10-282, (2) general improvements to school buildings, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-265h, and (3) repayment of debt incurred for school building projects. The governing authorities of such state charter schools may apply for such grants to the Department of Education at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. The commissioner shall give preference to (A) applications that provide for matching funds from nonstate sources, or (B) applications that do not provide matching funds from nonstate sources if the accountability index score, as defined in section 10-223e, for such applicant meets or exceeds the state-wide average accountability index score for at least two of the previous three school years.

(b) All final calculations for grant awards pursuant to this section in an amount equal to or greater than two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall include a computation of the state grant amount amortized on a straight line basis over a ten-year period. Any state charter school which abandons, sells, leases, demolishes or otherwise redirects the use of a school building which benefited from such a grant award during such

House Bill No. 7288

amortization period, including repayment of debt for the purchase, renovation or improvement of the building, shall refund to the state the unamortized balance of the state grant remaining as of the date that the abandonment, sale, lease, demolition or redirection occurred. The amortization period shall begin on the date the grant award is paid. A state charter school required to make a refund to the state pursuant to this subsection may request forgiveness of such refund if the building is redirected for public use.

Sec. 148. Subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(3) (A) For the period commencing July 1, [2026] 2022, and ending and including June 30, 2031, each local or regional board of education shall provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system within each school building under its jurisdiction. During such period, the board shall provide such inspection for at least twenty per cent of the schools under its jurisdiction on or before June 30, 2027, and in each subsequent year until each such school has been inspected. Each such school shall be so inspected every five years [thereafter] after the date of its last inspection under this subdivision. The Department of Administrative Services may, upon request of a local or regional board of education, grant a waiver of the provisions of this subparagraph if the department finds that (i) there is an insufficient number of certified testing, adjusting and balancing technicians, industrial hygienists certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS Credentialing, or mechanical engineers to perform such inspection and evaluation, or (ii) such board has scheduled such inspection and evaluation for a date in the subsequent year. Such waiver shall be valid for a period not to exceed one year.

(B) Such inspection and evaluation shall be performed by a certified

House Bill No. 7288

testing, adjusting and balancing technician, an industrial hygienist certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS Credentialing, or a mechanical engineer. Such heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems inspection and evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to: (i) Testing for maximum filter efficiency, (ii) physical measurements of outside air delivery rate, (iii) verification of the appropriate condition and operation of ventilation components, (iv) measurement of air distribution through all system inlets and outlets, (v) verification of unit operation and that required maintenance has been performed in accordance with the most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, (vi) verification of control sequences, (vii) verification of carbon dioxide sensors and acceptable carbon dioxide concentrations indoors, and (viii) collection of field data for the installation of mechanical ventilation if none exist. The ventilation systems inspection and evaluation shall identify to what extent each school's current ventilation system components, including any existing central or noncentral mechanical ventilation system, are operating in such a manner as to provide appropriate ventilation to the school building in accordance with most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The inspection and evaluation shall result in a written report, and such report shall include any corrective actions necessary to be performed to the mechanical ventilation system or the heating, ventilation and air conditioning infrastructure, including installation of filters meeting the most optimal level of filtration available for a given heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, installation of carbon dioxide sensors and additional maintenance, repairs, upgrades or replacement. Any such corrective actions shall be performed, where appropriate, by a contractor, who is licensed in accordance with chapter 393. Any local or regional board of education conducting an inspection and evaluations pursuant to this subsection shall (I) make available for public inspection

House Bill No. 7288

the results of such inspection and evaluation at a regularly scheduled meeting of such board and on the Internet web site of such board and on the Internet web site, if any, of each individual school, and (II) submit the report and results of such inspection and evaluation to the Department of Administrative Services using the form developed pursuant to section 10-231h. A local or regional board of education shall not be required to provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation under this subdivision for any school building that will cease to be used as a school building within the three years from when such inspection and evaluation is to be performed. Any local or regional board of education that has provided for an inspection that was performed in a different format, but is deemed equivalent by the department, may use such inspection in lieu of a uniform inspection and evaluation under this subdivision.

Sec. 149. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the school building project at Middlefield Memorial School in Regional District 13 with costs not to exceed seventy-six million one hundred thirty thousand dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided Regional District 13 files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or

House Bill No. 7288

the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring that the description of a project type for a school building project be made at the time of application for a school building project grant and the provisions of subdivision (18) of section 10-282 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section 10-282 concerning the definition of renovation, Regional District 13 may change the description of the school building project at Middlefield Memorial School to a renovation project and subsequently qualify as a renovation, as defined in subdivision (18) of said section 10-282.

Sec. 150. Section 195 of public act 24-151 is repealed and the following is inserted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2023, the new construction project at the new middle school in the town of Ansonia shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 151 of [this act] public act 24-151 and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Ansonia files an application for such school building project prior to [October 1, 2024] July 1, 2026, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building

House Bill No. 7288

project, the town of Ansonia may use the reimbursement rate of eighty-seven per cent for the new construction project at the new middle school.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the town of Ansonia may use the reimbursement rate of eighty-seven per cent for the construction of a central administration facility as part of the new construction project at the new middle school.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-286 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services limiting reimbursement to one-half of the eligible percentage of the net eligible cost of construction to a town for construction, the town of Ansonia shall receive full reimbursement of the reimbursement percentage described in subdivision (1) of this subsection of the net eligible cost for the construction of a central administration facility as part of the new construction project at the new middle school.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-286 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the calculation of grants using the state standard space specifications, the town of Ansonia shall be exempt from the state standard space specifications for the purpose of the calculation of the grant for the new construction project at the new middle school.

Sec. 151. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-292 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the

House Bill No. 7288

State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services requiring that a bid not be let out until plans and specifications have been approved by the Department of Administrative Services, the town of Glastonbury shall be reimbursed for eligible project costs for a project for alterations and code violations at Naubuc Elementary School (Project Number 054-099 A/CV), provided the town of Glastonbury meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

Sec. 152. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-292 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services requiring that a bid not be let out until plans and specifications have been approved by the Department of Administrative Services, the town of Ashford shall be reimbursed for eligible project costs for a school building project at Ashford School (Project Number 003-0017 CV/OT), provided the town of Ashford meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

Sec. 153. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-286 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the Department of Administrative Services or the State Board of Education pursuant to said section concerning the calculation of grants using the state standard space specifications, the town of Cheshire shall be exempt from the state standard space specifications for the purpose of the calculation of the grant for the new construction project at the North End Elementary School.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-285a of the general statutes or any regulation adopted

House Bill No. 7288

by the Department of Administrative Services or the State Board of Education pursuant to said section concerning the use of a building or facility that will be used exclusively by a local or regional board of education for an early childhood care and education program that provides services for children from birth to five years for at least twenty years, the school building project at the North End Elementary School shall qualify as such an early childhood care and education program for twenty years and the reimbursement percentage for the town of Cheshire shall be increased by fifteen percentage points for said project.

Sec. 154. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-286 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the Department of Administrative Services or the State Board of Education pursuant to said section concerning the calculation of grants using the state standard space specifications, the town of Cheshire shall be exempt from the state standard space specifications for the purpose of the calculation of the grant for the new construction project at the Norton Elementary School.

Sec. 155. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section prohibiting a school building project from appearing on the separate schedule of authorized projects which have changed in cost more than once, the new construction project at Westhill High School (Project Number 135-0280 N) in the town of Stamford with costs not to exceed four hundred forty-six million dollars shall be included in subdivision (2) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Stamford meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 156. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, for any school building project that was previously authorized and that has changed substantially in scope or cost and is seeking reauthorization, the new construction project at the New Roxbury Elementary School (Project Number 23DASY135281N0623) in the town of Stamford with costs not to exceed one hundred thirty million dollars shall be included in subdivision (2) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Stamford meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

Sec. 157. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, the town of North Haven shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs associated with the new construction project at North Haven High School (Project Number 101-0046 N), provided such reimbursement for such ineligible costs do not exceed two million six hundred thousand dollars.

Sec. 158. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the school building project at King Street Primary School in the town of Danbury with costs not to exceed

House Bill No. 7288

seven million dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Danbury files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the town of Danbury may use the reimbursement rate of eighty per cent for the school building project at King Street Primary School.

Sec. 159. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the school building project at Macdonough Elementary School in the town of Middletown with costs not to exceed forty-eight million nine hundred thousand dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Middletown files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general

House Bill No. 7288

statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the reimbursement percentage determined pursuant to said section shall be increased by fifteen percentage points for the town of Middletown for the school building project at Macdonough Elementary School.

Sec. 160. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the alteration project at Keigwin Elementary School in the town of Middletown with costs not to exceed two million dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Middletown files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the reimbursement percentage determined pursuant to said section shall be increased by fifteen percentage points for the town of Middletown for the alteration project at Keigwin Elementary School.

Sec. 161. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of

House Bill No. 7288

section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, and subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the town of New Haven shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs associated with the school building projects at the Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy for Global Awareness (Project Number 093-0351 N) and Hill Central School (Project Number 093-0353 N), provided such reimbursement for such ineligible costs do not exceed seventeen million eight hundred twenty-four thousand three hundred forty-eight dollars.

(b) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall offset the remaining amount of ineligible costs associated with the projects in subsection (a) of this section against the amount due to the town of New Haven for the project at Bowen Field (Project Number 093-0367).

(c) The town of New Haven shall expend the amounts in subsections (a) and (b) of this section to cover the local share of the cost to the district for any school building projects for which an application is made and approved on and after July 1, 2025.

Sec. 162. Section 204 of public act 24-151 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, the town of Farmington shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs (1) for the new construction project at Farmington High School (Project Number 052-0076 N) and the board of education/central administration facility project at Farmington High School (Project Number 052-0077 BOE), and (2) provided such reimbursement for such ineligible costs for such projects do not exceed one million eight hundred thousand dollars.]

House Bill No. 7288

Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-287 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring that all orders and contracts be awarded after a public invitation to bid, expenses under contracts let by the town of Farmington for architectural and other professional services for (1) the new construction project at Farmington High School (Project Number 052-0076 N), and (2) the board of education/central administration facility project at Farmington High School (Project Number 052-0077 BE) may be reimbursed, provided such project complies with all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes and regulations adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter.

Sec. 163. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the new construction project at Highcrest Elementary School in the town of Wethersfield with costs not to exceed seventy-three million five hundred four thousand three hundred twenty-nine dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Wethersfield files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

Sec. 164. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services

House Bill No. 7288

pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the school building project at Samuel Webb Elementary School in the town of Wethersfield with costs not to exceed one hundred six million dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Wethersfield files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

Sec. 165. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the reimbursement percentage determined pursuant to said section shall be increased by fifteen percentage points for the town of Wethersfield for any school building project at Highcrest Elementary School, Samuel Webb Elementary School and Charles Wright Elementary School, for which an application is submitted to the Department of Administrative Services, pursuant to section 10-283 of the general statutes, on or before June 30, 2030.

Sec. 166. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc., shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs associated with the new magnet school project at the Connecticut River Academy (Project

House Bill No. 7288

Number 542-0001 MAG/N), provided such reimbursement for such ineligible costs do not exceed two million seven hundred sixty-four thousand four hundred ninety-three dollars.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-287i of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section, requiring payment of the state share of eligible project costs and filing notice of authorization of funding for the local share of project costs, the Commissioner of Administrative Services may pay both the state share of eligible project costs and the local share of eligible project costs to Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc., for the new magnet school project at the Connecticut River Academy (Project Number 542-0001 MAG/N), provided (1) such local share of eligible project costs do not exceed two million seven hundred thirty-two thousand six hundred sixty-four dollars, and (2) the project is in compliance with the provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes and any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education.

Sec. 167. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc., shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs associated with the new magnet school and site acquisition project at the Early Childhood Magnet School (Project Number 542-0002 MAG/N/PS), provided such reimbursement for such ineligible costs do not exceed three hundred sixty-nine thousand eight hundred thirteen dollars.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-287i of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section, requiring payment of the state share of eligible project costs and filing

House Bill No. 7288

notice of authorization of funding for the local share of project costs, the Commissioner of Administrative Services may pay both the state share of eligible project costs and the local share of eligible project costs to Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc., for the new magnet school and site acquisition project at the Early Childhood Magnet School (Project Number 542-0002 MAG/N/PS), provided (1) such local share of eligible project costs do not exceed eight hundred eleven thousand three hundred forty-eight dollars, and (2) the project is in compliance with the provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes and any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education.

Sec. 168. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc., shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs associated with the new magnet school and site acquisition project at the Pathways Academy of Design and Technology (Project Number 542-0003 MAG/N/PS), provided such reimbursement for such ineligible costs do not exceed one million seven hundred sixty-six thousand two hundred forty-five dollars.

Sec. 169. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, and section 10-286g of the general statutes concerning the waiver of audit deficiencies, the town of Fairfield shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs and audit deficiencies associated with the extension and alteration project at Mill Hill Elementary School (Project Number 093-0367), provided such reimbursement for such ineligible costs and audit deficiencies do not exceed six hundred thousand dollars.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 170. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section prohibiting a school building project from appearing on the separate schedule of authorized projects which have changed in cost more than once, the magnet school project at ACES @ Chase (Project Number 244-0044 MAG) with costs not to exceed eighty-four million four hundred thirty-five thousand two hundred eighty dollars shall be included in subdivision (2) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

Sec. 171. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the alteration project at the Norwich Free Academy campus in the town of Norwich with costs not to exceed five million six hundred ten thousand dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided Norwich Free Academy files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or

House Bill No. 7288

the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, Norwich Free Academy shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs for the alteration project at the Norwich Free Academy campus in the town of Norwich for ordinary resurfacing, maintenance, repairs and replacements, repair of site improvements and artificial turf.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-286 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the calculation of grants using the state standard space specifications, Norwich Free Academy shall be exempt from the state standard space specifications for the purpose of the calculation of the grant for the school building project at the Norwich Free Academy.

Sec. 172. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the new construction project for the special education program elementary school in the town of Bridgeport with costs not to exceed seventy-eight million dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Bridgeport files an application for such school building project prior to September 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that

House Bill No. 7288

a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the town of Bridgeport may use the reimbursement rate of ninety-five per cent for the new construction project for the special education program elementary school.

Sec. 173. Section 128 of public act 21-111, as amended by section 130 of public act 23-205, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall waive any audit deficiencies for the town of Hartford related to costs associated with the projects at (1) the University High School of Science and Engineering (Project Number 064-0287 MAG/N), (2) Capitol Preparatory Magnet School (Project Number 064-0290 MAG/EA), (3) R. J. Kinsella Magnet School (Project Number 064-0292 MAG/E), (4) Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker (Project Number 064-0293 MAG/EA), (5) Hartford Public High School (Project Number 064-0246 RNV/E), (6) Fisher Magnet School (Project Number 064-0291 MAG/EA), (7) Webster School (Project Number 064-0270 EA), and (8) Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (Project Number 064-0279 MAG/N).

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, the town of Hartford shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs for the projects described in subsection (a) of this section in an amount not to exceed nineteen million two hundred thirty-nine thousand four hundred thirty-two dollars, provided the town of Hartford expends said nineteen million two hundred thirty-nine thousand four hundred thirty-two dollars to (1) cover deficits associated with the projects described in subsection (a) of this section, or (2) cover the local share of the cost to the town for the [(1)] (A) alteration project at Expeditionary Learning

House Bill No. 7288

Academy at Moylan School (Project Number 23DASY064319A0623), [(2)] (B) alteration project at Parkville Community School (Project Number 23DASY0644320A0623), [(3)] (C) alteration project at McDonough Middle School (Project Number 23DASY064321A0623), [(4)] (D) renovation project at Bulkeley High School (Project Number 064-0313 RNV), and [(5)] (E) board of education/central administration facility project at Bulkeley High School (Project Number 064-0314 BE).

Sec. 174. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the town of New London may use the reimbursement rate of ninety-five per cent for a cost increase, not to exceed ten million dollars, approved by the Commissioner of Administrative Services on or before July 1, 2025, for the new construction project at East End Elementary School (Project Number 095-0090 N).

Sec. 175. Section 182 of public act 24-151 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2023, the [renovation] new construction project at Central Middle School in the town of Greenwich with costs not to exceed one hundred twelve million seventeen thousand dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 151 of this act and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Greenwich files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2024, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the

House Bill No. 7288

general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the town of Greenwich may use the reimbursement rate of twenty per cent for the [renovation] new construction project at Central Middle School.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-286 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the calculation of grants using the state standard space specifications, the town of Greenwich shall be exempt from the state standard space specifications for the purpose of the calculation of the grant for the [renovation] new construction project at Central Middle School.

Sec. 176. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the reimbursement percentage determined pursuant to said section shall be increased by fifteen percentage points for the town of Willington for any school building project for which an application is submitted to the Department of Administrative Services, pursuant to section 10-283 of the general statutes, on or before June 30, 2027.

Sec. 177. Section 9 of public act 25-168 is amended to read as follows

House Bill No. 7288

(Effective July 1, 2025):

The following sums are appropriated from the TOURISM FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
Statewide Marketing	4,500,000	4,500,000
Hartford Urban Arts Grant	242,371	242,371
New Britain Arts Council	39,380	39,380
Westville Village Renaissance Alliance	145,000	145,000
Neighborhood Music School	200,540	200,540
Greater Hartford Community Foundation Travelers Championship	150,000	150,000
CT Convention & Sports Bureau	[500,000]	500,000
Nutmeg Games	40,000	40,000
Discovery Museum	196,895	196,895
National Theatre of the Deaf	78,758	78,758
Connecticut Science Center	546,626	546,626
CT Flagship Producing Theaters Grant	360,000	360,000
Performing Arts Centers	787,571	787,571
Performing Theaters Grant	900,600	900,600
Arts Commission	1,497,298	1,497,298
Art Museum Consortium	887,313	887,313
Litchfield Jazz Festival	29,000	29,000
Arte Inc.	20,735	20,735
CT Virtuosi Orchestra	15,250	15,250
Barnum Museum	50,000	50,000
Various Grants	1,090,000	1,090,000
Creative Youth Productions	300,000	300,000
Music Haven	100,000	100,000
West Hartford Pride	80,000	80,000
Amistad Center for Arts and Culture	100,000	100,000

House Bill No. 7288

Leffingwell House Museum	50,000	50,000
CT Main Street Center	350,000	350,000
Norwalk International Cultural Exchange - NICE Festival	50,000	50,000
Ball & Socket Arts	300,000	300,000
Greater Hartford Arts Council	74,079	74,079
Stepping Stones Museum for Children	80,863	80,863
Maritime Center Authority	803,705	803,705
Connecticut Humanities Council	1,185,000	1,360,000
Amistad Committee for the Freedom Trail	36,414	36,414
New Haven Festival of Arts and Ideas	414,511	414,511
New Haven Arts Council	77,000	77,000
Beardsley Zoo	400,000	400,000
Mystic Aquarium	322,397	472,397
Northwestern Tourism	400,000	400,000
Eastern Tourism	400,000	400,000
Central Tourism	400,000	400,000
Twain/Stowe Homes	81,196	81,196
Cultural Alliance of Fairfield	52,000	52,000
Stamford Downtown Special Services District	50,000	50,000
AGENCY TOTAL	17,884,502	18,709,502

Sec. 178. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of \$500,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Office of Policy and Management, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available in said fiscal year to provide a grant to CT Convention & Sports Bureau.

Sec. 179. Subsection (d) of section 36 of public act 25-168 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) The sum of \$100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of [this act] public act 25-168 to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of [\$25,000] \$100,000 of such amount appropriated for the fiscal year

House Bill No. 7288

ending June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal years for robotics.

Sec. 180. Section 473 of public act 25-168 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of [section 4-66b] subsection (e) of section 4-66p of the general statutes, the grants awarded to the following municipalities during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, pursuant to said [section] subsection shall be as follows:

Grantee	Grant Amount For Fiscal Year 2026	Grant Amount For Fiscal Year 2027
Branford	100,000	100,000
Bridgeport	11,059,559	11,059,559
Danbury	2,218,855	2,218,855
Enfield	100,000	-
Naugatuck	583,399	683,399
New Haven	19,421,822	19,421,822
New London	2,112,913	2,112,913
Stamford	2,246,049	2,246,049
Stratford	400,000	400,000
Voluntown	60,000	60,000
West Hartford	400,000	400,000

Sec. 181. Subsection (j) of section 45a-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(j) There shall be transferred from time to time from the Probate Court Administration Fund such budgeted amounts as are established in accordance with section 45a-85 or such expenditures as are authorized pursuant to subsection (c) of section 45a-84 for the proper administration of each court of probate. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, on June 30, 2013, and annually thereafter, any balance in the Probate Court Administration Fund in excess of an

House Bill No. 7288

amount equal to [fifteen] twenty per cent of the total expenditures authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of section 45a-84 for the immediately succeeding fiscal year shall be transferred to the General Fund.

Sec. 182. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of \$300,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Office of Policy and Management, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available to provide support to the Office of Consumer Counsel for staffing the Office of State Broadband within the Office of Consumer Counsel.

Sec. 183. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Active service" means service with a participating municipality for which contributions are required pursuant to subsection (f) of this section;

(2) "Aggregate service" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-425 of the general statutes;

(3) "Average annual pay" means the average annual amount of the regular pay an employee received during the five years of active service in which the employee received the highest amount of regular pay;

(4) "Base pay" means the annual salary, wages or earnings of an employee, not including other pay, payments received pursuant to chapter 568 of the general statutes or payouts for accrued vacation time, sick leave or compensatory time;

(5) "Continuous service" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-425 of the general statutes;

(6) "Fund" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-425 of the general statutes;

House Bill No. 7288

(7) "Member" means a member of the municipal employees retirement plan under part II of chapter 113 of the general statutes;

(8) "MERS 2.0" means the set of rules applicable to members who first become eligible for membership on or after the applicable date set forth in subsection (b) of this section;

(9) "Other pay" means overtime pay, bonuses and all other compensation of an employee other than an employee's regular pay;

(10) "Public safety employee" means a uniformed member of a municipality's paid fire department or a regular member of a municipality's paid police department; and

(11) "Regular pay" means the base pay of an employee, plus other predictable ongoing compensation as determined pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes by the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement Commission, provided overtime pay shall not be included as predictable ongoing compensation.

(b) The set of rules set forth under this section shall be known as MERS 2.0, which shall operate as another benefit tier within the municipal employees retirement plan set forth in part II of chapter 113 of the general statutes.

(1) Any municipality not participating in the municipal employees retirement system may enroll in MERS 2.0 on any date on or after the later of (A) July 1, 2026, or (B) the date of the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement that was applicable to such municipality and in effect on July 1, 2026. For a municipality that has enrolled in MERS 2.0 pursuant to this subdivision, any member who first becomes eligible for membership in the municipal employees retirement system on any date on or after the date of such enrollment shall be enrolled in MERS 2.0.

House Bill No. 7288

(2) For a participating municipality, any member who first becomes eligible for membership in the municipal employees retirement system on any date on or after the later of (A) July 1, 2027, or (B) the date of the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement that was applicable to the member's position and in effect on July 1, 2027, shall be enrolled in MERS 2.0.

(c) The provisions of part II of chapter 113 of the general statutes shall apply to MERS 2.0 in the same manner and with the same force and effect as if the provisions of said part had been incorporated in full into this section and had expressly referred to MERS 2.0, unless excepted under this section. Where there is a conflict between a provision of said part and this section, the provisions of this section shall prevail with respect to MERS 2.0.

(d) Any member participating in MERS 2.0 shall be eligible for retirement and, provided such member has had five years of continuous service or fifteen years of active aggregate service in a participating municipality, to receive a retirement allowance upon completing the following:

(1) (A) Thirty years of aggregate service in a participating municipality, or (B) five years of continuous service and upon attaining the age of sixty-five years; and

(2) For members who are public safety employees, (A) twenty-five years of aggregate service in a participating municipality, or (B) five years of continuous service and upon attaining the age of fifty-five years.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, any member of MERS 2.0, other than a public safety employee, who (1) is separated from the service of the municipality by which the member is employed, except for cause, (2) has completed at least five years of

House Bill No. 7288

continuous service but fewer than thirty years of aggregate service, and (3) has not attained the age of sixty-five years, shall have the option of receiving a retirement allowance at any time on or after attaining the age of fifty-five years, provided the retirement allowance shall be payable in such amount as determined by the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement Commission to be the actuarial equivalent of the retirement allowance that would have been payable except for the election of such option. Retirement allowances under subsection (d) of this section shall not be subject to the actuarial reduction under this subsection.

(f) Each member participating in MERS 2.0 shall contribute to the fund five per cent of such member's regular pay, except that each member who is a public safety employee shall contribute to the fund eight per cent of such member's regular pay.

(g) (1) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, after retirement, in accordance with the provisions of this section, each member participating in MERS 2.0 shall receive, during such member's lifetime, a retirement allowance payable in monthly installments equal to one-twelfth of one and eight-tenths per cent of the member's average annual pay or, for members who are public safety employees, one-twelfth of two and two-tenths per cent of such employee's average annual pay, multiplied by the number of months of such member's aggregate service.

(2) For the purpose of calculating a member's average annual pay, the member's regular pay for a year in which such member held more than one position or in which the regular pay for such member's position changed shall be the sum of the regular pay for all positions held by the member during such year, except that the regular pay for each position shall be multiplied by the fraction of one year for which the member held such position.

(h) The provisions of the following sections shall apply to members

House Bill No. 7288

participating in MERS 2.0, as applicable: (1) Section 7-432 of the general statutes concerning disability retirement allowances; (2) section 7-433b of the general statutes concerning survivors' benefits for firemen and policemen; (3) subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 7-439g of the general statutes concerning preretirement death benefits; and (4) subsection (a) and subparagraph (G) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 7-439b of the general statutes concerning cost of living adjustments.

Sec. 184. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2026, the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement Commission shall create a defined contribution retirement plan to be known as the MERS defined contribution plan.

(b) (1) Each member of the municipal employees retirement system shall contribute one-fourth of one per cent of such member's pay to the MERS defined contribution plan.

(2) In addition to the contributions under subdivision (1) of this subsection, each member participating in MERS 2.0 shall contribute five per cent of such member's other pay to the MERS defined contribution plan, except that each member who is a public safety employee shall contribute eight per cent of such member's other pay to the MERS defined contribution plan.

(3) Payroll deductions for each member of the MERS defined contribution plan shall be made by the appropriate municipal employer.

(4) Each participating municipality shall contribute to the MERS defined contribution plan an amount equal to the contributions required under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section from members participating in MERS 2.0 who are employees of such municipality.

(5) The Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement Commission shall serve as the administrator of the MERS 2.0 defined contribution

House Bill No. 7288

plan. Said commission may (A) make deposits or payments to such plan, subject to the terms of such plan, and (B) contract with a private corporation or private institution for the provision of consolidated billing services and other administrative services for such plan.

(6) As used in this section, "MERS 2.0", "other pay" and "public safety employee" have the same meanings as provided in section 183 of this act.

Sec. 185. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement Commission may establish and implement an annuity plan that shall be an alternative to the municipal employees retirement system under part II of chapter 113 of the general statutes, provided any such annuity plan is approved with the unanimous vote of the trustees set forth in subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection (b) of section 7-448a of the general statutes. No municipality participating in the municipal employees retirement system as of the date such plan is implemented shall be eligible to participate in such annuity plan. The commission shall prescribe the manner in which such annuity plan may be adopted by any municipality, as defined in section 7-425 of the general statutes, that is not participating in the municipal employees retirement system.

(b) Any such annuity plan shall provide that a municipality that adopts such plan shall have the option to transfer to such plan the accounts and assets of any defined contribution retirement plan previously adopted by such municipality. Payroll deductions for each member of the annuity plan implemented under this section shall be made by the appropriate municipal employer.

(c) The State Comptroller shall serve as the administrator of the annuity plan established under this section. The State Comptroller may (1) enter into contractual agreements on behalf of the state with members of such plan to defer any portion of such member's

House Bill No. 7288

compensation from the adopting municipality, (2) make deposits or payments to such plan, subject to the terms of such plan, and (3) contract with a private corporation or private institution for the provision of consolidated billing services and other administrative services for such plan.

Sec. 186. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 5-257 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(c) Each employee and each member of the General Assembly insured under subsection (b) of this section shall contribute to the cost of the life insurance a sum equal to twenty cents biweekly for each thousand dollars of life insurance. The State Comptroller shall deduct such amount from the employees' or members' pay and shall pay the premiums on such policy or policies. Any dividends or other refunds or rate credits shall inure to the benefit of the state and shall be applied to the cost of such insurance.

(d) (1) The insurance of any employee insured under this section shall cease on termination of employment, and of any member of the General Assembly at the end of such member's term of office, subject to any conversion privilege provided in the group life insurance policy or policies. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the amounts of life insurance of insured employees retired in accordance with any retirement plan for state employees shall be as follows:

(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision:

(i) The amount of life insurance of an insured employee retired before, on or after July 1, 1998, and prior to July 1, 2025, with twenty-five or more years of state service, as defined in section 5-196, or a member of the General Assembly who is retired on or after July 1, 1988, with twenty-five or more years of service, shall be one-half of the

House Bill No. 7288

amount of life insurance for which the employee was insured immediately before retirement, provided in no case shall the amount be less than ten thousand dollars; [, those]

(ii) The amount of life insurance of an insured employee retired on or after July 1, 2025, with twenty-five or more years of credited state service shall be one-half of the amount of life insurance for which the employee was insured immediately before retirement, provided in no case shall the amount be less than ten thousand dollars. For the purposes of this clause, "credited state service" means service during which a state employee or other eligible individual described in section 5-259 is eligible to participate in a state-sponsored retirement system, except the teachers' retirement system and the municipal employees retirement system, and includes credit granted for military service.

(B) Those with less than twenty-five years of service shall receive the proportionate amount that such years of service is to twenty-five years rounded off to the nearest hundred dollars of coverage. [, except that the]

(C) The amount of life insurance of an insured employee who is retired on or after July 1, 1982, under the provisions of section 5-173 shall be one-half of the amount of life insurance for which the employee was insured immediately before retirement, regardless of the number of years of service by such employee.

(2) In no case shall a retired employee be required to contribute to the cost of any such reduced insurance. For the purposes of this section, no employee shall be deemed to be retired as long as such employee's employment continues under subsections (b) and (d) of section 5-164.

Sec. 187. Subsection (a) of section 20-206*ll* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

House Bill No. 7288

(a) The commissioner shall issue a license as a paramedic to any applicant who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant has met the requirements of section 20-206mm. The commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. [The application fee shall be one hundred fifty dollars.] The license may be renewed annually pursuant to section 19a-88 for a fee of one hundred fifty-five dollars. No fee shall be required for the application for a license under this section.

Sec. 188. Section 424 of public act 25-168 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 189. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 12-18b of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2022] 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter:

(1) The total amount of the grants paid to a municipality or fire district pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall not be lower than the total amount of the payment in lieu of taxes grants received by such municipality or fire district for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

(2) If the total of grants payable to each municipality and fire district in accordance with the provisions of [subsections (b) and (e)] subsection (b) of this section exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of said subsection for a fiscal year:

(A) Each tier one municipality shall receive fifty-three per cent of the grant amount payable to such municipality as calculated under subsection (b) of this section;

(B) Each tier two municipality shall receive forty-three per cent of the grant amount payable to such municipality as calculated under

House Bill No. 7288

subsection (b) of this section; and

(C) Each tier three municipality shall receive thirty-three per cent of the grant amount payable to such municipality as calculated under subsection (b) of this section.

(3) Each municipality designated as an alliance district pursuant to section 10-262u or in which more than fifty per cent of the property is state-owned real property shall be classified as a tier one municipality.

(4) Each fire district shall receive the same percentage of the grant amount payable to the municipality in which it is located.

(5) (A) If the total of grants payable to each municipality and fire district in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of said subsection, but such appropriated amount exceeds the amount required for grants payable to each municipality and fire district in accordance with the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, the amount of the grant payable to each municipality and fire district shall be increased proportionately.

(B) If the total of grants payable to each municipality and fire district in accordance with the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of said subdivisions, the amount of the grant payable to each municipality and fire district shall be reduced proportionately, except that no grant shall be reduced below the amount set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section and sections 12-19b and 12-20b:

(1) The grant payable to any municipality or fire district with respect to a campus of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs

House Bill No. 7288

Connecticut Healthcare Systems shall be one hundred per cent; and

(2) For any municipality receiving payments under section 15-120ss, property located in such municipality at Bradley International Airport shall not be included in the calculation of any state grant in lieu of taxes pursuant to this section. [;]

[(3) The city of Bridgeport shall be due five million dollars, annually, which amount shall be in addition to the amount due such city pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) or (d) of this section;

(4) There shall be an amount due the town of Voluntown, with respect to any state-owned forest, of an additional sixty thousand dollars, annually, for reimbursement to municipalities for loss of taxes on private tax-exempt property;

(5) The amount due the town of Branford, with respect to the Connecticut Hospice located in said town, shall be one hundred thousand dollars, annually, for reimbursement to municipalities for loss of taxes on private tax-exempt property; and

(6) The amount due the city of New London, with respect to the United States Coast Guard Academy located in said city, shall be one million dollars, annually, for reimbursement to municipalities for loss of taxes on private tax-exempt property.]

Sec. 190. Section 4-66p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There is established a fund to be known as the "Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing fund. The fund shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the purposes of providing grants pursuant to subsections (c) to [(f)] (g), inclusive, of this section.

House Bill No. 7288

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, ten million dollars shall be transferred from such fund not later than April fifteenth for the purposes of grants under section 10-262h.

(c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, moneys sufficient to make motor vehicle property tax grants payable to municipalities pursuant to subsection (c) of section 4-66l shall be expended not later than August first annually by the secretary.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, moneys sufficient to make the grants payable pursuant to subsections (d) and (e) of section 12-18b shall be expended by the secretary.

(e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, each municipality or district listed below shall receive the following supplemental revenue sharing grant payable not later than October thirty-first annually:

Grantee	Grant Amount
Andover	43,820
Ansonia	-
Ashford	44,498
Avon	142,054
Barkhamsted	-
Beacon Falls	-
Berlin	258,989
Bethany	26,746
Bethel	-
Bethlehem	40,552
Bloomfield	291,027
Bolton	11,053
Bozrah	-
Branford	-
Bridgeport	6,059,559
Bridgewater	-

House Bill No. 7288

Bristol	234,651
Brookfield	272,396
Brooklyn	-
Burlington	34,417
Canaan	24,132
Canaan Fire District	100,000
Canterbury	94,624
Canton	-
Chaplin	34,779
Cheshire	241,134
Chester	-
Clinton	288,473
Colchester	134,167
Colebrook	-
Columbia	28,393
Cornwall	-
Coventry	113,156
Cromwell	-
Danbury	1,218,855
Darien	-
Deep River	-
Derby	205,327
Durham	244,059
Eastford	-
East Granby	-
East Haddam	-
East Hampton	120,397
East Hartford	200,959
East Haven	-
East Lyme	524,097
Easton	-
East Windsor	-
Ellington	-
Enfield	-
Essex	-
Fairfield	191,245
Farmington	802,461
Franklin	25,666
Glastonbury	385,930

House Bill No. 7288

Goshen	-
Granby	-
Greenwich	-
Griswold	-
Groton	466,668
Guilford	496,560
Haddam	-
Hamden	1,646,236
Hampton	28,585
Hartford	15,792,632
Hartland	76,110
Harwinton	39,036
Hebron	125,020
Kent	-
Killingly	268,063
Killingworth	155,954
Lebanon	162,740
Ledyard	-
Lisbon	139,316
Litchfield	46,905
Lyme	-
Madison	175,790
Manchester	780,354
Mansfield	3,291,730
Marlborough	48,977
Meriden	622,306
Middlebury	15,067
Middlefield	14,971
Middletown	-
Milford	1,130,086
Monroe	443,723
Montville	20,897
Morris	-
Naugatuck	283,399
New Britain	2,176,332
New Canaan	-
New Fairfield	265,666
New Hartford	-
New Haven	16,921,822

House Bill No. 7288

Newington	-
New London	1,112,913
New Milford	-
Newtown	267,960
Norfolk	9,911
North Branford	152,031
North Canaan	11,334
North Haven	-
North Stonington	-
Norwalk	1,780,046
Norwich	210,834
Old Lyme	-
Old Saybrook	-
Orange	221,467
Oxford	267,543
Plainfield	-
Plainville	-
Plymouth	-
Pomfret	23,434
Portland	-
Preston	-
Prospect	73,271
Putnam	71,039
Redding	57,277
Ridgefield	117,659
Rocky Hill	65,602
Roxbury	-
Salem	132,694
Salisbury	-
Scotland	13,960
Seymour	-
Sharon	-
Shelton	-
Sherman	-
Simsbury	-
Somers	240,198
Southbury	74,062
Southington	-
South Windsor	57,854

House Bill No. 7288

Sprague	-
Stafford	-
Stamford	1,846,049
Sterling	-
Stonington	218,992
Stratford	-
Suffield	206,051
Thomaston	-
Thompson	4,459
Tolland	322,977
Torrington	72,539
Trumbull	604,706
Union	-
Vernon	330,755
Voluntown	-
Wallingford	-
Warren	-
Washington	-
Waterbury	5,582,559
Waterford	-
Watertown	-
Westbrook	-
West Hartford	-
West Haven	-
Weston	70,181
Westport	66,133
Wethersfield	-
Willington	-
Wilton	93,135
Winchester	105,432
Windham	1,349,376
Windsor	357,943
Windsor Locks	150,116
Wolcott	136,938
Woodbridge	120,477
Woodbury	-
Woodstock	-
TOTAL	74,672,468

House Bill No. 7288

(2) If the total of grants payable to each municipality and district in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of said subdivision, the amount of the grant payable to each municipality and district shall be reduced proportionately.

(f) In addition to the payments due to municipalities and districts under subsection (e) of this section, the following amounts shall be due to the following:

(1) The city of Bridgeport shall be due five million dollars, annually;

(2) The town of Voluntown, with respect to any state-owned forest, shall be due sixty thousand dollars, annually, for reimbursement to municipalities for loss of taxes on private tax-exempt property;

(3) The town of Branford, with respect to the Connecticut Hospice located in said town, shall be due one hundred thousand dollars, annually, for reimbursement to municipalities for loss of taxes on private tax-exempt property; and

(4) The city of New London, with respect to the United States Coast Guard Academy located in said city, shall be due one million dollars, annually, for reimbursement to municipalities for loss of taxes on private tax-exempt property.

~~[(f)]~~ (g) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, moneys remaining in the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund, including moneys accrued to the fund during such fiscal year but received after the end of such fiscal year, shall be expended not later than October first following the end of each such fiscal year by the secretary for the purposes of the municipal revenue sharing grants established pursuant to subsection (d) of section 4-66l.

(2) The amount of the grant payable to a municipality in any year in

House Bill No. 7288

accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount available for such grants in the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 191. Section 22a-245 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No person shall establish or operate a redemption center without receiving approval to operate such a redemption center and annually registering with the commissioner on a form provided by the commissioner with such information as the commissioner deems necessary, including (1) the name of the business principals of the redemption center and the address of the business; (2) the name and address of the sponsors and dealers to be served by the redemption center; (3) the types of beverage containers to be accepted; (4) the hours of operation; and (5) whether beverage containers will be accepted from consumers. The operator of the redemption center shall report to the commissioner any change in [procedure to the commissioner within] the information described in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection not later than forty-eight hours [of] after such change. Any person establishing a redemption center shall have the right to determine what kind, size and brand of beverage container shall be accepted. Any redemption center may be established to serve all persons or to serve certain specified dealers and shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter. Any redemption center that accepts more than two thousand five hundred containers from any one individual in one day shall create and obtain from such person a record of such person's name, the license plate number of any vehicle used to transport the containers to such redemption center, a copy of such person's driver's license, the collection points of the empty containers and the number of containers tendered. The redemption center shall obtain from such person a certification that, to the best of such person's knowledge,

House Bill No. 7288

the beverage containers were originally sold as filled beverages in this state and were not previously redeemed. No redemption center shall accept more than five thousand containers in any one day from any person except for a nonprofit organization or a verified fundraising activity. Each redemption center and reverse vending machine operator shall retain the records required by this subsection for a period of not less than two years. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may examine the accounts and records of any redemption center and reverse vending machine operator that are maintained pursuant to this section or any provision of this chapter, including, but not limited to, any related accounts and records including receipts, disbursements and any other item the commissioner deems appropriate.

(b) A dealer shall not refuse to accept at such dealer's place of business, from any person any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the dealer, or refuse to pay to such person the refund value of a beverage container unless (1) such container contains materials which are foreign to the normal contents of the container; (2) such container is not labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section 22a-244; (3) such dealer sponsors, solely or with others, a redemption center which is located within a one-mile radius of such place of business and which accepts beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by such dealer at such place of business; or (4) there is established by others, a redemption center which is located within a one-mile radius of such place of business and which accepts beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by such dealer at such place of business. A dealer shall redeem an empty container of a kind, size or brand the sale of which has been discontinued by such dealer for not less than sixty days after the last sale by the dealer of such kind, size or brand of beverage container. Sixty days before such date, the dealer shall post, at the point of sale, notice of the last date on which the discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage container shall be

House Bill No. 7288

redeemed.

(c) A distributor shall not refuse to accept from a dealer or from an operator of a redemption center, located and operated exclusively within the territory of the distributor or whose operator certifies to the distributor that redeemed containers were from a dealer located within such territory, any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the distributor, or refuse to pay to such dealer or redemption center operator the refund value of a beverage container unless such container contains materials which are foreign to the normal contents of the container or unless such container is not labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section 22a-244. A distributor shall remove any empty beverage container from the premises of a dealer serviced by the distributor or from the premises of a redemption center sponsored by dealers serviced by the distributor, provided such premises are located within the territory of the distributor. No redemption center shall remove any beverage container from its premises or transfer such containers between premises under its control before tendering such containers for removal by a distributor unless authorized to do so, in writing, by the distributor. The distributor shall pay the refund value to dealers in accordance with the schedule for payment by the dealer to the distributor for full beverage containers and shall pay such refund value to operators of redemption centers not more than twenty days after receipt of the empty container. For the purposes of this subsection, a redemption center shall be considered to be sponsored by a dealer if (1) the dealer refuses to redeem beverage containers and refers consumers to the redemption center, or (2) there is an agreement between the dealer and the operator of the redemption center requiring the redemption center to remove empty beverage containers from the premises of the dealer. A distributor shall redeem an empty container of a kind, size or brand of beverage container the sale of which has been discontinued by the distributor for not less than one hundred fifty days after the last delivery of such kind, size or brand

House Bill No. 7288

of beverage container. Not less than one hundred twenty days before the last date such containers may be redeemed, the distributor shall notify such dealer who bought the discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage container that such distributor shall not redeem an empty beverage container of such kind, size or brand of beverage containers.

(d) In addition to the refund value of a beverage container, a distributor shall pay to any dealer or operator of a redemption center a handling fee of at least two and one-half cents for each container of beer, hard seltzer, hard cider or other malt beverage and three and one-half cents for each beverage container of mineral waters, soda water and similar carbonated soft drinks or noncarbonated beverage returned for redemption. A distributor shall not be required to pay to a manufacturer the refund value of a nonrefillable beverage container.

(e) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of sections 22a-243 to 22a-245, inclusive. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for the redemption of beverage containers dispensed through automatic reverse vending machines, the use of vending machines that reimburse consumers for the redemption value of beverage containers, scheduling for redemption by dealers and distributors and for exemptions or modifications to the labeling requirement of section 22a-244.

(f) For the purposes of this section, "refund value" means the refund value established by subsection (a) of section 22a-244.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section, no person shall tender to a dealer, redemption center, reverse vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator for the purpose of obtaining a refund value or handling fee for any empty beverage container that the person knows or has reason to know was not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container or that was

House Bill No. 7288

previously redeemed through a dealer, redemption center, reverse vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator.

(h) Each dealer, redemption center or reverse vending machine operator shall post where empty containers are redeemed a conspicuous "Redemption Warning" sign using at least a one-inch font that states the following: "Returning empty beverage containers for refund that were not purchased in Connecticut or that were previously redeemed is illegal. Any person who returns empty beverage containers that the person knows or has reason to know were not originally sold in this state as filled beverage containers or that were previously redeemed shall be subject to fines and state enforcement action. Connecticut General Statutes section 22a-245.".

(i) Each operator of a redemption center shall report quarterly to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, on a form provided by the commissioner, the number and type of containers such operator redeems, aggregated by each town in which such operator operates, each record created by such redemption center pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any such other redemption information the commissioner deems necessary. Any redemption center that fails to submit a quarterly report pursuant to this subsection may be denied an annual registration pursuant to this section.

Sec. 192. Subsection (b) of section 22a-245f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) No person shall redeem more than two hundred forty beverage containers [at any one time] in any one day at a dealer or dealer's reverse vending machine.

Sec. 193. Section 22a-243 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

House Bill No. 7288

For purposes of sections 22a-243 to 22a-245c, inclusive:

(1) "Carbonated beverage" means beer or other malt beverages, hard seltzer [, hard cider] and mineral waters, soda water and similar carbonated soft drinks in liquid form and intended for human consumption. "Carbonated beverage" does not include any product that contains wine or spirits or any infused beverage, as defined in section 21-a-245;

(2) "Noncarbonated beverage" means any water, including flavored water, plant water, nutritionally enhanced water, juice, juice drink, tea, coffee, kombucha, plant infused drink, sports drink or energy drink and any beverage that is identified through the use of letters, words or symbols on such beverage's product label as a type of water, juice, tea, coffee, kombucha, plant infused drink, sports drink or energy drink but excluding mineral water. "Noncarbonated beverage" does not include any product that contains wine or spirits, any food for special dietary use, as defined in 21 USC 350(c)(3), [or] any medical food, as defined in 21 USC 360ee(b)(3), or any infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425;

(3) "Beverage container" means the individual, separate, sealed glass, metal or plastic bottle, can, jar or carton containing three liters or less of a carbonated beverage, or two and one-half liters or less of a noncarbonated beverage. "Beverage container" does not include any such bottle, can, jar or carton that contains less than one hundred fifty milliliters of any such carbonated or noncarbonated beverage;

(4) "Consumer" means every person who purchases a beverage in a beverage container for use or consumption;

(5) "Dealer" means every person who engages in the sale of beverages in beverage containers to a consumer but does not include a redemption center;

House Bill No. 7288

(6) "Distributor" means every person who engages in the sale of beverages in beverage containers to a dealer in this state including any manufacturer who engages in such sale and includes a dealer who engages in the sale of beverages in beverage containers on which no deposit has been collected prior to retail sale;

(7) "Manufacturer" means every person bottling, canning or otherwise filling beverage containers for sale to distributors or dealers or, in the case of private label brands, the owner of the private label trademark;

(8) "Place of business of a dealer" means the fixed location at which a dealer sells or offers for sale beverages in beverage containers to consumers;

(9) "Redemption center" means any facility [established] for which the primary business is to redeem empty beverage containers from consumers or to collect and sort empty beverage containers from dealers and to prepare such containers for redemption by the appropriate distributors;

(10) "Use or consumption" includes the exercise of any right or power over a beverage incident to the ownership thereof, other than the sale or the keeping or retention of a beverage for the purposes of sale;

(11) "Nonrefillable beverage container" means a beverage container which is not designed to be refilled and reused in its original shape;

(12) "Deposit initiator" means the first distributor to collect the deposit on a beverage container sold to any person within this state; and

(13) "Reverse vending machine" means a mechanical device that accepts used beverage containers from consumers and provides a means of refunding the refund value for such beverage container to the user of such device.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 194. Section 22a-244 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (e) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (e) No dealer shall collect or charge a refund value pursuant to this section for a beverage container that is not purchased in this state.

Sec. 195. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this section, "academy" and "basic training" have the same meanings as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

(b) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall examine criminal justice courses offered by colleges and universities in the state, and determine (1) whether any such courses are equivalent to courses required as part of basic training at the academy, and (2) under what conditions an individual attending the academy for basic training need not complete a course at the academy because the individual completed an equivalent course at a college or university in the state. Not later than January 1, 2026, the council shall submit a report of such examination and determination, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall establish a pilot program with the University of New Haven to permit an individual who attends the academy for basic training to complete such training by taking (1) courses related to legal issues at such university, and (2) the remaining courses at the academy. Not later than January 1, 2027, the council shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall include (A) a description of the pilot program; (B) an analysis of the impact of such program on police recruitment and training

House Bill No. 7288

procedures and resources; and (C) recommendations on whether to terminate, continue, revise or expand such program.

Sec. 196. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall include recommendations for a schedule of bonuses to be awarded to individuals upon entering service as a police officer, as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, and to be awarded to such officers based on years of service, in order to encourage individuals to begin and continue careers as police officers. The department and council may consult with chiefs of municipal police departments and any other individuals or entities in developing such recommendations.

Sec. 197. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly develop a career pathway to assist police officers in obtaining higher education degrees. Such pathway shall include a schedule of credits that officers may receive at each constituent unit of higher education, as defined in section 10a-1 of the general statutes, for the training such officers received in order to be certified, and maintain their certification, as police officers pursuant to section 7-294d of the general statutes. Such boards and council shall promote such pathway in order to encourage police officers to earn higher education degrees.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general

House Bill No. 7288

statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall include the pathway and schedule developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and a description of plans to promote such pathway.

Sec. 198. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in conjunction with the State Board of Labor Relations, shall study the feasibility of the state entering into negotiations with the employee organization that is the representative of state police officers to seek amendments to any collective bargaining agreement to establish conditions under which a state police officer who retired from service as such an officer may return to such service and (1) resume earning credit toward retirement benefits, in the same manner as such officer earned such credit prior to such officer's retirement, and (2) be eligible for earning the same benefits as such officer was eligible for prior to such officer's retirement. Not later than January 1, 2026, the department and board shall jointly submit a report on the results of such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 199. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section, "law enforcement unit" and "police officer" have the same meanings as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

(b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall investigate ways to develop and enhance programs and initiatives that address the mental health needs of police officers. Such investigation shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of peer-to-peer support programs, programs that train officers to help themselves and fellow officers deal with mental health issues associated with their jobs, programs that employ a psychologist or other mental health professionals within a law enforcement unit to assist officers with

House Bill No. 7288

their mental health needs, employee assistance programs and any other programs and resources that may address the mental health needs of police officers. In conducting such investigation, the department shall consult with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, law enforcement units throughout the state, employee organizations that represent police officers and any other entities the commissioner deems appropriate.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall include the results of such investigation, a list of programs, services and resources identified as best practices that could be implemented by law enforcement units across the state to address the mental health needs of officers and any recommendations for legislation.

Sec. 200. (*Effective from passage*) The Legislative Commissioners' Office shall, in codifying the provisions of this act, make such technical, grammatical and punctuation changes as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this act, including, but not limited to, correcting inaccurate internal references.

Sec. 201. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Banking shall conduct a study regarding the establishment of limited purpose trust companies in the state. Not later than December 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, concerning the results of such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to banking. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, recommendations for legislation necessary to authorize the establishment of limited purpose trust companies in the state.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 202. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of \$600,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Office of Policy and Management, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall not lapse on said date and shall continue to be available for the same purpose during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

Sec. 203. Section 472 of public act 25-168 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall grant additional municipal aid, from Other Expenses, as follows: (1) To the city of New Haven, \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; and (2) to the towns of Ledyard and Montville, [~~\$500,000~~] \$800,000 to each town for [~~each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and~~] the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

Sec. 204. (*Effective from passage*) Section 434 of public act 25-168 shall take effect October 1, 2026, and be applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2026.

Sec. 205. Section 28 of public act 25-93 is repealed and following is inserted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

For the school year commencing July 1, 2026, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education [~~shall~~] may hire or designate an existing employee to serve as an instructional support partner in each school or in each school building under the jurisdiction of such board. An instructional support partner shall (1) alleviate the administrative burden of teachers, including, but not limited to, the administrative burden of the individualized education program process, scheduling of and taking minutes during planning and placement team meetings, attending professional development trainings, attending trainings for individualized interventions for students, attending testing, and serving as a designated staff member

House Bill No. 7288

for the purposes of specialized responsibilities, (2) assist school-based personnel in improving the delivery and administration of the individualized education program process, (3) collaborate with parents and school personnel regarding instructional decision-making for students with disabilities, (4) pursue and attend trainings and professional development on student interventions as a representative of the school or school building, and plan and deliver professional learning activities to staff, parents and others to increase achievement for students with disabilities on the basis of such training, and (5) consult with school-based instructional staff regarding individualized education program development and writing, extended school year, behavioral interventions and transition plans for students with disabilities. Any person hired or designated to serve as the instructional support partner for the school or school building shall spend at least fifty per cent of their time performing the responsibilities described in this section.

Sec. 206. Section 4b-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There shall be a State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration to consist of twelve members to be appointed as follows: Two members shall be appointed by the Governor, two by the speaker of the House of Representatives, two by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one by the House minority leader, one by the Senate minority leader, two members of the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, one appointed by each of the chairmen of said committee, and one member of the Historic Preservation Council appointed by its chairperson. The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee, shall be an ex-officio member of the commission and shall attend its meetings. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by the original appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term. The members shall serve without compensation for

House Bill No. 7288

their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The commission shall meet at least quarterly, and more often on the call of the chairman or on the written request of a majority of the members. The commission may designate subcommittees to carry out its functions. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned.

(b) The commission: (1) Shall undertake a continuing review and study of the State Capitol building and grounds, with a view to developing a master plan for the preservation and restoration of the Capitol, including necessary structural changes, consistent with the original historical character of the building, with due regard being given to enhancing the interior and exterior beauty of the building, making better use of existing space and reducing public safety hazards; (2) shall implement the process for identifying and commissioning additional statues to be added to the exterior of the State Capitol building developed by the State Historical Commission pursuant to section 208 of this act; (3) may consult with state, federal or private agencies with respect ~~[thereto]~~ to the duties set forth in this subsection, and disseminate information on its activities; and ~~[(3)]~~ (4) shall report on its activities to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management annually or as often as the committee shall direct. The Department of Administrative Services shall provide professional staff assistance to the commission when available. If such assistance cannot be provided within a reasonable time, the commission may, with the approval of the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, retain technical advisors to assist in reviewing project plans and work.

(c) The commission is authorized to accept gifts, donations and grants from the federal government or other public or private sources for the purpose of such preservation and restoration.

House Bill No. 7288

(d) The Joint Committee on Legislative Management may undertake capital expenditure programs for which capital funds are authorized, in connection with such preservation and restoration, including, but not limited to, to commission additional statues using the process implemented by the State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration under subsection (c) of this section. Such programs shall be carried out by the committee, pursuant to plans and specifications approved by the commission and in accordance with the bidding procedures in part II of chapter 60. The commission shall adopt regulations establishing basic artistic standards in keeping with the original historical character of the Capitol to assist the committee in the preparation of plans and specifications.

(e) The commission shall be an independent body within the Legislative Department for administrative purposes only.

Sec. 207. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than February 1, 2026, the State Historical Commission shall (1) develop a plan for the installation of exterior placards or other signage around the exterior of the State Capitol building to provide a written historical explanation of the various statues and other markers on the exterior of the State Capitol building for the public, and (2) submit such plan to the State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration and the Joint Committee on Legislative Management. The State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration shall make recommendations concerning implementation of such plan to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management.

Sec. 208. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established a State Historical Commission, which shall be an independent body within the Legislative Department for administrative purposes only. The commission shall examine and make recommendations to the legislative, executive and judicial branches on questions of memorialization and commemoration related to Connecticut and

House Bill No. 7288

United States history.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following members: (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who is a representative of CT Humanities; (2) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut Library Association; (3) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who is a representative of the Connecticut Democracy Center; (4) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History; (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a representative of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut; (7) two appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a representative of the Freeman Center for History and Community, Inc.; (8) the Chief Court Administrator, or a designee; (9) the State Historian; (10) the State Librarian; and (11) the State Historic Preservation Officer. Any member of the commission appointed under subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of this subsection may be a member of the General Assembly.

(c) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later than September 1, 2025. Appointed members of the commission shall serve for three-year terms which shall commence on the date of appointment. Members shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed.

(d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the commission from among the members of the commission. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not later than September 15, 2025.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

House Bill No. 7288

General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government administration shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

(f) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

(g) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(h) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

(i) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: To (1) issue reports and recommendations to all three branches of government concerning historical questions of memorialization and commemoration related to Connecticut and United States history, either upon the request of any executive, legislative or judicial department, board, commission or other agency of the state or upon its own initiative, including, but not limited to, developing the process required under subsection (j) of this section; (2) obtain from any executive, legislative or judicial department, board, commission or other agency of the state such assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the purposes of this section; (3) accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and (4) perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in this section.

(j) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commission shall (1) develop a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues to be added to the exterior of the State Capitol building that reflect the diversity, character and accomplishments of the state, and (2) submit a

House Bill No. 7288

report detailing such process to the State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration for implementation. Thereafter, the commission shall update such process as often as it deems necessary, and submit any revisions to the process to the State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration.

(k) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government administration. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, a summary of the activities of the commission during the prior year and any policy changes and amendments to the general statutes necessary to implement the recommendations of the commission.

Sec. 209. Section 31-57e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commercial enterprise" means any form of commercial conduct or a particular commercial transaction or act, including the operation of a casino, which relates to or is connected with any profit-making pursuit;

(2) "Labor organization" means any organization which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment, or of other mutual aid or protection in connection with employment;

(3) "Tribe" means any federally recognized Indian tribe which is subject to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, P.L. 100-497, 25 USC 2701 et seq.

House Bill No. 7288

(b) The state shall not provide any funds or services which directly or indirectly assist any tribe engaged in a commercial enterprise until the tribe adopts an Employment Rights Code established pursuant to subsection [(e)] (d) of this section, unless such funds or services are (1) required by federal or state law, (2) were agreed to in writing prior to July 1, 1993, or (3) are provided to a project which is covered by federal or state employment regulations or employment rights laws. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the state from enforcing any civil or criminal law, or any gaming regulation at a commercial enterprise owned or operated by a tribe, or to require the state to enforce a violation of any criminal law which would not be a violation if it occurred outside tribal land. The Governor, upon consulting with the leaders of the General Assembly, may waive the restrictions set forth in this subsection in the event of a declared emergency.

[(c)] The state shall oppose any application by a tribe, pursuant to 25 CFR chapter 151, to convert any parcel of fee interest land to federal trust status. The conversion shall be deemed contrary to the interest of the state and its residents.]

[(d)] (c) The Governor shall include in each future proposal by the state in negotiations conducted pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a provision requiring the adoption of an Employment Rights Code established pursuant to subsection [(e)] (d) of this section. The Governor shall employ his best efforts to ensure that any final agreement, compact or contract established under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act includes an Employment Rights Code in accordance with subsection [(e)] (d) of this section.

[(e)] (d) The Employment Rights Code referred to under this section shall include the following provisions:

(1) A commercial enterprise subject to tribal jurisdiction shall not, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification or need,

House Bill No. 7288

refuse to hire or employ or bar or discharge from employment any individual or discriminate against him or her in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of the individual's race, color, religious creed, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, ancestry, age, present or past history of mental disorder, intellectual disability, sexual orientation, learning or physical disability, political activity, union activity or the exercise of rights protected by the United States Constitution. This subdivision shall not be construed to restrict the right of a tribe to give preference in hiring to members of the tribe.

(2) A commercial enterprise subject to tribal jurisdiction shall not deny any individual, including a representative of a labor organization, seeking to ensure compliance with this section, access to employees of the tribe's commercial enterprise during nonwork time in nonwork areas. The tribe shall not permit any supervisor, manager or other agent of the tribe to restrict or otherwise interfere with such access.

(3) When a labor organization claims that it has been designated or selected for the purposes of collective bargaining by the majority of the employees in a unit appropriate for such purposes, the labor organization may apply to an arbitrator to verify the claim pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection. If the arbitrator verifies that the labor organization has been designated or selected as the bargaining representative by a majority of the employees in an appropriate unit, the tribe shall, upon request, recognize the labor organization as the exclusive bargaining agent and bargain in good faith with the labor organization in an effort to reach a collective bargaining agreement. However, the arbitrator shall disallow any claim by a labor organization that is dominated or controlled by the tribe.

(4) (A) Any individual or organization claiming to be injured by a violation of any provision of this subsection shall have the right to seek binding arbitration under the rules of the American Arbitration

House Bill No. 7288

Association. Such individual or organization shall file a demand for arbitration with the tribe not later than one hundred eighty days after the employee or labor organization knows or should know of the tribe's violation of any provision of this subsection. The demand shall state, in plain language, the facts giving rise to the demand.

(B) The demand for arbitration shall also be served upon the Connecticut office of the American Arbitration Association. Absent settlement, a hearing shall be held in accordance with the rules and procedures of the American Arbitration Association. The costs and fees of the arbitrator shall be shared equally by the tribe and the labor organization.

(C) The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties and shall be subject to judicial review and enforcement against all parties in the manner prescribed by chapter 909.

(5) A tribe shall not retaliate against any individual who exercises any right under the Employment Rights Code. Any individual or organization claiming to be injured by a violation of the provisions of this section shall have the right to seek binding arbitration pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection.

[(f)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Governor may negotiate an agreement with a tribe which establishes rights for employees of commercial enterprises subject to tribal jurisdiction in addition to those provided under the Employment Rights Code established under subsection [(e)] (d) of this section.

Sec. 210. Section 46a-81aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The provisions of subsection (a) of section 4a-60, subsection (c) of section 8-169s, section 8-265c, subsection (c) of section 8-294, section 8-315, subsection (a) of section 10-15c, section 10-153, subsection (b) of

House Bill No. 7288

section 10a-6, subsection (a) of section 11-24b, sections 16-245r and 16-247r, subsection (b) of section 28-15, section 31-22p, subsection [(e)] (d) of section 31-57e, sections 32-277, 38a-358 and 42-125a, subsection (c) of section 42-125b, subsection (a) of section 46a-58, subsection (a) of section 46a-59, subsection (b) of section 46a-60, subsection (a) of section 46a-64, subsections (a) and (e) of section 46a-64c, subsection (a) of section 46a-66, subsection (a) of section 46a-70, subsection (a) of section 46a-71, subsection (b) of section 46a-72, subsection (a) of section 46a-73, subsection (a) of section 46a-75, subsection (a) of section 46a-76, subsections (b) and (c) of section 52-571d and section 53-37a that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression shall not apply to a religious corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society with respect to the employment of individuals to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society of its activities, or with respect to matters of discipline, faith, internal organization or ecclesiastical rule, custom or law which are established by such corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society.

Sec. 211. Section 148 of public act 25-168 is repealed (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 212. Subsection (a) of section 31-53 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Each contract for the construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair of any public works project by the state or any of its agents, or by any political subdivision of the state or any of its agents, including, on and after July 1, 2025, each contract for off-site custom fabrication for any such public works project, shall contain the following provision: "The wages paid on an hourly basis to any person performing the work of any mechanic,

House Bill No. 7288

laborer or worker on the work herein contracted to be done and the amount of payment or contribution paid or payable on behalf of each such person to any employee welfare fund, as defined in subsection (i) of this section, shall be at a rate equal to the rate customary or prevailing for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the town in which such public works project is being constructed. Any contractor who is not obligated by agreement to make payment or contribution on behalf of such persons to any such employee welfare fund shall pay to each mechanic, laborer or worker as part of such person's wages the amount of payment or contribution for such person's classification on each pay day." For purposes of this subsection, "off-site custom fabrication" means the fabrication of mechanical systems that are fabricated at a site located within the state other than the location of a public works project, but are fabricated specifically for such public works project, including plumbing systems, heating systems, cooling systems, pipefitting systems, ventilation systems or exhaust duct systems. "Off-site custom fabrication" does not include components or materials that are stock shelf items or readily available.

Sec. 213. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than August 1, 2025, the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, or their designees, shall convene a working group to study and develop recommendations concerning the family entertainment landscape in this state. The working group shall study and develop recommendations concerning:

(1) The family entertainment options available, and the family entertainment venues located, in this state, including, but not limited to, live family entertainment venues such as theaters, concert halls and motion picture theaters;

(2) Any means available to increase the family entertainment options available, and support the family entertainment venues located, in this

House Bill No. 7288

state by, among other things, (A) ensuring that all families and patrons have access to such options and venues, including, but not limited to, patrons with disabilities, and (B) providing financial and other incentives, such as tax credits for capital improvements, swipe fee reform and the establishment or modification of entertainment districts, to ensure that such venues are economically viable;

(3) The benefits and ramifications of disclosing to viewers the actual start time of a motion picture before the viewers enter the room where the motion picture is to be displayed, and any means available to make such disclosure that are both practically and technologically viable;

(4) Any other means available to provide consumers with greater transparency and thereby enhance the overall consumer experience and promote economic growth; and

(5) Any other matters the members of the working group deem relevant for the purposes of this section.

(b) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, or their designees, shall serve as chairpersons of the working group.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection. Such report shall disclose the results of the study conducted, and recommendations developed, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

Sec. 214. Section 10a-19m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

House Bill No. 7288

(a) On or before January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Higher Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to reimburse certain persons for student loan payments. The Office of Higher Education may approve the participation of any person in the student loan reimbursement program who (1) (A) attended a public or independent institution of higher education in the state and graduated with [an associate or a bachelor's] a degree, (B) holds an occupational or professional license or certification issued pursuant to title 20, [or] (C) is granted a hardship waiver by the commissioner, pursuant to a waiver application submitted by such person in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, or (D) was enrolled in the practical nurse education program at Stone Academy during the period commencing November 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2023, and such person (i) did not complete such program, (ii) has not participated in a (I) teach-out, as defined in section 10a-22m, or (II) proctored comprehensive predictor examination administered by an institution of higher education identified by the Office of Higher Education, and (iii) submits evidence that (I) such person filed a closed school loan discharge application not later than six months prior to applying for the student loan reimbursement program, and (II) such person's student loan was not discharged as a result of such application; (2) is a resident of the state, as defined in section 12-701, and has been a resident of the state for not less than five years, as determined by the commissioner; (3) has (A) a [Connecticut] federal adjusted gross income of not more than one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars and files a return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual or a married individual filing separately, or (B) a [Connecticut] federal adjusted gross income of not more than one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and files a return under the federal income tax as a head of household, a married individual filing jointly or a surviving spouse, as defined in Section 2(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time; and (4) has a student loan.

House Bill No. 7288

(b) Persons who qualify under subsection (a) of this section may apply to the Office of Higher Education to participate in the student loan reimbursement program at such time and in such manner as the commissioner of said office prescribes. [Not later than January 1, 2025, the] The commissioner shall post on said office's Internet web site the (1) qualifications for a hardship waiver described in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of said subsection, and (2) forms required to apply for the student loan reimbursement program and a hardship waiver. The application for the student loan reimbursement program shall include, but not be limited to, an option for a person to disclose such person's demographic information.

(c) (1) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall award grants to persons approved to participate in the student loan reimbursement program on a first-come, first-served basis, provided such person meets the requirements of this subsection.

(2) (A) Each participant in the program shall complete not less than fifty volunteer hours for each year of participation in the student loan reimbursement program. Volunteer hours shall be completed by volunteering for (i) a nonprofit organization that is [registered with the Department of Consumer Protection or] exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, (ii) a municipal government in the state, [for not less than fifty unpaid hours for each year of participation in the student loan reimbursement program] or (iii) the armed forces of the United States. Volunteer hours shall be unpaid, except hours for military service may be paid, and volunteer hours may be applied for two years after completing such hours. For purposes of this section, "volunteer hours" shall include, but need not be limited to, (I) with respect to nonprofit organizations, service on the board of directors [for] of a nonprofit organization [and military service] or volunteering for a

House Bill No. 7288

religious organization, (II) volunteering as a firefighter or emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 19a-175, for a nonprofit organization or a municipal government, (III) military service, and (IV) hours of unpaid work completed as a student for any certificate or degree program that requires the completion of such hours as a part of such program. A participant may combine the volunteer hours for one or more organizations to fulfill the requirement of this subdivision.

(B) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall grant a hardship waiver for volunteer hours (i) for each participant who applies for such hardship waiver and has a medical condition or disability that prevents such participant from completing volunteer hours pursuant to the written determination of such participant's treating health care provider, and (ii) automatically for each participant who was approved for the program pursuant to subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

(3) Each participant in the program shall annually submit to the Office of Higher Education, in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, [a] (A) a statement from a student loan servicer that includes the amounts for the outstanding loan balance for such student loan and the total of the year-to-date payments made on such student loan, [and] (B) a form documenting the number of volunteer hours completed by such participant that is (i) signed by such participant's supervisor or other employee of the nonprofit organization or municipal government for which such participant volunteered, [or, for military service, such participant's commanding officer,] and (ii) notarized, provided a participant may submit other documentation, as prescribed by the office, to show completion of military service or unpaid student work hours, and (C) for volunteer hours at a nonprofit organization, including, but not limited to, a religious organization, evidence of current certification from the Internal Revenue Service that such nonprofit organization is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section

House Bill No. 7288

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time.

(4) The Office of Higher Education shall reimburse each program participant who meets the requirements of this section for student loan payments paid by such participant during the preceding calendar year, but in an amount of not more than five thousand dollars, annually, provided no person shall participate in the student loan reimbursement program for more than four years or receive more than twenty thousand dollars in aggregate reimbursement for student loan payments.

(d) The Office of Higher Education may use up to two and one-half per cent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this section, annually, for program administration, promotion and recruitment activities.

(e) Not later than July 1, 2026, and each January and July thereafter, the Commissioner of Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies on the operation and effectiveness of the program and any recommendations to expand the program.

Sec. 215. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the Office of Higher Education for the student loan reimbursement program, established pursuant to section 10a-19m of the general statutes shall not lapse on June 30, 2025, and such funds shall be carried forward and made available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for the same purpose.

Sec. 216. Section 10a-1h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There is established a Higher Education Financial Sustainability

House Bill No. 7288

Advisory Board, which shall be part of the Legislative Department.

(b) The board shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies;

(2) The members of the higher education subcommittee of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies;

(3) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement; and

(4) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

(c) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall jointly serve as chairpersons of the board. Such chairpersons of the board shall schedule the first meeting of the board, which shall be held not later than September 1, 2024. The board shall meet at least quarterly thereafter. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(d) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies shall serve as administrative staff of the board.

(e) The board shall have the following powers and duties: (1) Meet

House Bill No. 7288

with the administrators of each public institution of higher education and The University of Connecticut Health Center to accept and review the information set forth in subsection (f) of this section and to discuss barriers to meeting state workforce needs, developing economic growth and achieving or maintaining affordable tuition; (2) obtain from any executive department, board, commission or other agency of the state such assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the purposes of this section; (3) upon review of the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Educational Alignment and Need, submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the General Assembly recommendations for each sustainability plan of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, and the funding required pursuant to such plan; and ~~[(3)]~~ (4) perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in this section.

(f) Each public institution of higher education and The University of Connecticut Health Center shall each submit to the board, upon the request of the chairpersons of the board, the following information:

(1) A detailed financial report for the current fiscal year, subsequent fiscal year and five preceding fiscal years that identifies each source of revenue, category of expense and any assumptions upon which such reports are based;

(2) If the detailed financial report for the current fiscal year or subsequent fiscal year projects a deficiency, a detailed plan that eliminates such deficiency;

(3) A summary and general ledger account code analysis of the unrestricted net position of such institution for the most recently completed fiscal year;

(4) The number of full-time and part-time students enrolled

House Bill No. 7288

disaggregated by in-state and out-of-state;

(5) The number of vacant and filled employment positions disaggregated by bargaining unit and management confidential type with corresponding average salaries from the first payroll in October of such fiscal year;

(6) A summary of cost drivers for such institution;

(7) A summary of budget constraints affecting (A) workforce developments, economic development efforts and student quality of life, including, but not limited to, time required for degree completion, and (B) research productivity and faculty retention and recruitment; and

(8) Any other financial, operational, performance or other outcome information, metrics or data requested by the board.

(g) The board may require a public institution of higher education to submit the information set forth in subsection (f) of this section on a disaggregated basis.

(h) There is established the Subcommittee on Educational Alignment and Need, which shall be a subcommittee of the board and consist of the (1) chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and higher education and employment advancement, (2) Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, (3) chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or their designees, who shall be members of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, and (4) chairperson and vice-chairperson of the faculty advisory committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education, established pursuant to section 10a-3a, or their designees, who shall be members of the faculty advisory committee. The Subcommittee on

House Bill No. 7288

Educational Alignment and Need shall (A) monitor the expenditures of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, (B) review each plan developed by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities for its sustainability, and (C) make recommendations to the board regarding each sustainability plan and the funding required pursuant to such plan.

Sec. 217. Section 191 of public act 25-168 is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 218. Section 10-262h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

[(a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount; and (2) any town not designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to ninety-five per cent of its base grant amount.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount plus four and one-tenth per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount minus twenty-five per cent of its grant adjustment, except any such town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount.

(c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, each

House Bill No. 7288

town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus ten and sixty-six-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus eight and thirty-three-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment, except any such town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus ten and sixty-six-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus sixteen and sixty-seven-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an

House Bill No. 7288

equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

(f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus twenty per cent of its grant adjustment; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.]

[(g)] (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus fifty-six and five tenths per cent of its grant adjustment; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district, shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as

House Bill No. 7288

applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(h)] (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to [its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus fourteen and twenty-nine-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment] the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(i)] (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to [its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus sixteen and sixty-seven-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment] the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an

House Bill No. 7288

equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(j)] (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus [twenty] fourteen and twenty-nine-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(k)] (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus [twenty-five] sixteen and sixty-seven-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district

House Bill No. 7288

shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(l)] (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus [thirty-three and thirty-three-one-hundredths] twenty per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(m)] (g) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2031, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus [fifty] twenty-five per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town

House Bill No. 7288

designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

(h) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2032, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus thirty-three and thirty-three-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

(i) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2033, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus fifty per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an

House Bill No. 7288

amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(n)] (j) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2032] 2034, and each fiscal year thereafter, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant, except any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (1) its fully funded grant, (2) its base grant amount, or (3) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

Sec. 219. Subsection (e) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(e) Each local and regional board of education shall establish a school district curriculum committee. The committee shall recommend, develop, review and approve all curriculum for the local or regional school district. Each local and regional board of education shall (1) make available all curriculum approved by the committee and all associated curriculum materials in accordance with the requirements of the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 USC 1232h, and (2) for the school year commencing July 1, 2026, and each school year thereafter, post objectives and scope and sequence of approved curriculum on the Internet web site of such board.

Sec. 220. Section 334 of public act 25-168 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the Commissioner of Social Services shall distribute not more than fifty-five million dollars in the aggregate in supplemental funding to nursing homes. The

House Bill No. 7288

Commissioner of Social Services [may] shall adjust the distribution of such funds proportionately to stay within the funding allocated, if necessary, to support a two and one-half per cent wage increase on July 1, 2027, for nursing, nurse's aide, dietary, housekeeping, laundry and maintenance and plant operation personnel, and [an] a minimum hourly rate of twenty-six dollars for nurse's aides by January 1, 2028, with any remainder to be used for other wage increases and other minimum increases for nursing, nurse's aide, dietary, housekeeping, laundry and maintenance and plant operation personnel. Facilities determined eligible for such supplemental funding that receive such funding for the purpose of providing wage increases but do not provide such increases may be subject to recoupment of any state funding paid to such nursing homes for such purpose.

Sec. 221. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall distribute not more than five million dollars in the aggregate in supplemental funding to providers of residential services that contract with the Department of Developmental Services.

Sec. 222. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall, from within an available pool of one hundred five million dollars, increase the rates for providers contracted with the Department of Developmental Services to support wage increases.

Sec. 223. Sections 231 and 232 of public act 25-168 are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 224. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, twelve million dollars of the Magnet Schools appropriation provided to the Department of Education for said fiscal year shall be distributed proportionally based on the share of students enrolled in interdistrict magnet school programs operated by entities that are (1) not a local or

House Bill No. 7288

regional board of education, (2) the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173 of the general statutes, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, or (3) any other third-party, not-for-profit corporation approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Sec. 225. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There shall be, in any municipality with a population of at least one hundred forty thousand, an election monitor for the municipal election in 2025 and the state election in 2026 to detect and prevent irregularity and impropriety in the management of election administration procedures and the conduct of said elections in such municipality. The office of the Secretary of the State shall contract with one or more individuals to serve in such capacity as election monitor until December 31, 2026, unless such contract is terminated for any reason by the Secretary of the State prior to said date. Such election monitor shall: (1) Not be considered a state employee; (2) be compensated in accordance with such contract; and (3) be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties. Costs related to the service of such election monitor shall be paid from moneys appropriated to the Secretary for such purpose. Any such municipality shall provide for such election monitor any office space, supplies, equipment and services necessary to properly carry out the duties and responsibilities of the position. As used in this section, "population" means the estimated number of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

(b) An election monitor appointed under subsection (a) of this section shall: (1) Oversee the municipal primary and election in 2025 in such municipality, including, but not limited to, absentee ballots, early voting, same-day election registration and voting at polling places on the days of the primary and the election; (2) oversee the state primary

House Bill No. 7288

and election in 2026 in such municipality, including, but not limited to, absentee ballots, early voting, same-day election registration and voting at polling places on the days of the primary and the election; (3) oversee each special election in 2025 and 2026, if any; (4) conduct inspections, inquiries and investigations relating to any duty or responsibility under title 9 of the general statutes to be carried out by any official of the municipality or appointee of such official; (5) have access to all records, data and material maintained by or available to any such official or appointee; (6) issue periodic reports on a schedule agreed to by the Secretary of the State; and (7) immediately report to the Secretary any irregularity or impropriety in the performance of any duty or responsibility under title 9 of the general statutes to be carried out by any official of the municipality or appointee of such official. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the State Elections Enforcement Commission from taking any action authorized under section 9-7b of the general statutes.

(c) The Secretary of the State shall, using moneys appropriated pursuant to this section, develop and conduct a town-wide bilingual public awareness campaign in such municipality to educate members of the public regarding title 9 of the general statutes and such members' rights thereunder.

Sec. 226. Subsection (d) of section 9-7a of the general statutes, as amended by section 9 of public act 25-26, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the commission shall, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, employ such employees as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, section 9-7b, as amended by [this act] public act 25-26, and section 9-623, including an executive director, and may apply to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection or to the Chief State's Attorney for necessary investigatory personnel, which the

House Bill No. 7288

same are hereby authorized to provide.

(2) (A) On or before March 1, 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, the commission shall [, with the advice and consent of both houses of the General Assembly, appoint an executive director in the manner prescribed in this subdivision, to] appoint an executive director to take office on the first day of March in the year of such appointment. An executive director so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the commission but not longer than four years after [such appointment] taking office, unless reappointed under the provisions of [this subdivision] subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director, the commission shall appoint a successor to serve at the pleasure of the commission but not longer than the unexpired portion of the term, unless reappointed under the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.

(B) The commission may reappoint an executive director to serve at the pleasure thereof but not longer than an additional four years after the conclusion of the initial appointment. Prior to any such reappointment, the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections and government oversight shall jointly hold a public hearing, and the executive director being reappointed shall appear before such committees at such public hearing, for the purpose of reviewing the operations, achievements and future initiatives of the State Elections Enforcement Commission and the health of the Citizens' Election Program. An executive director who has been reappointed shall not be reappointed again.

[(B) On or before February 1, 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, the commission shall submit a nomination for executive director to both houses of the General Assembly. Both houses shall immediately refer the nomination to the committee on executive nominations, which shall report thereon by resolution within fifteen calendar days from the date of reference. The General Assembly, by resolution, shall confirm or

House Bill No. 7288

reject the nomination. If confirmed, the nominee shall take office on the first day of March in the year in which the appointment is submitted. If either house of the General Assembly rejects the nomination before the first day of March in the year in which it is submitted, the procedure prescribed in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision shall be followed.

(C) If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director while the General Assembly is in regular session, the commission shall, not later than thirty days after the occurrence of the vacancy, submit its nomination to fill the vacancy to both houses of the General Assembly. Both houses shall immediately refer the nomination to the committee on executive nominations, which shall report thereon by resolution within fifteen legislative days from the date of reference. The General Assembly, by resolution, shall confirm or reject such nomination. If the General Assembly confirms the nomination within thirty calendar days after it is submitted, the nominee shall forthwith take office to serve at the pleasure of the commission but not longer than the original appointee could have served under his or her appointment. If either house of the General Assembly rejects the nomination within thirty calendar days after it is submitted, the commission shall, within thirty calendar days, submit another nomination to the General Assembly, provided, if any nomination is submitted less than thirty calendar days before the date established by the Constitution for adjournment of the General Assembly, and the General Assembly fails to confirm or reject the nomination before such adjournment on said date, the procedure prescribed in subparagraph (D) of this subdivision shall be followed.

(D) If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director while the General Assembly is not in regular session, it shall be filled by the commission until the sixth Wednesday of the next session of the General Assembly. At the beginning of the next regular session of the General Assembly, the commission shall submit the name of the vacancy appointee to the General Assembly and the procedure prescribed in

House Bill No. 7288

subparagraph (C) of this subdivision shall be followed.

(E) No person whose name has been submitted by the commission and whose nomination has been rejected by resolution of the General Assembly shall serve in the office of executive director during the term of the General Assembly which rejected him or her.]

Sec. 227. Section 244 of public act 25-168 is repealed. (*Effective June 30, 2025*)

Sec. 228. Section 435 of public act 25-168 is amended by adding subsection (f) as follows (*Effective June 30, 2025*):

(NEW) (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the South Meadows site shall be included as a basis for any payment in lieu of taxes made by the state to the city of Hartford for any such payment made on or after the effective date of this section until such site is redeveloped.

Sec. 229. Section 456 of public act 25-168 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 230. (NEW) (*Effective June 30, 2025*) No power or action of the South Meadows development district, as established in section 442 of public act 25-168, shall be deemed to supersede or to authorize any conflict with federal law or with any federal aviation regulation concerning control of Hartford Brainard Airport.

Sec. 231. Subsection (b) of section 435 of public act 25-168 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 30, 2025*):

(b) On June 30, 2025, after the close of business for the Capital Region Development Authority, the South Meadows site and any tangible or intangible personal property associated therewith shall be transferred from the MIRA Dissolution Authority to the Capital Region

House Bill No. 7288

Development Authority and the balance of the resources of the MIRA Dissolution Authority relating to the South Meadows site, after the transfer under section [461 of this act] 436 of public act 25-168 has been made, shall be transferred to the Capital Region Development Authority. The transferred funds shall be deposited in a separate bank account or accounts from all other funds of the Capital Region Development Authority and shall be used in such amounts and at such times as determined by the Capital Region Development Authority for the purposes of maintaining, remediating, developing redeveloping or taking any other action associated with the South Meadows site that is deemed necessary by the Capital Region Development Authority. The Capital Region Development Authority may hire managers previously employed by the MIRA Dissolution Authority with expertise in engineering, construction, power assets, and environmental compliance to carry out any activity the Capital Region Development Authority is authorized or required to undertake with respect to the South Meadows site.

Sec. 232. Subsection (e) of section 435 of public act 25-168 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 30, 2025*):

(e) (1) Commencing June 30, 2025, the South Meadows site and any personal property located thereon shall not be subject to the tax imposed by chapter 203 of the general statutes until the commencement of a development or redevelopment project under section [463 of this act] 438 of public act 25-168.

(2) The property transferred under this section shall be included in the MIRA Dissolution Authority's financial reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and shall not be included in the Capital Region Development Authority's financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. For the purposes of such financial reports, the property shall be treated as having been transferred to the Capital Region Development Authority on July 1, 2025, with current carrying values.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 233. Section 31-57s of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (j) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (j) (1) A local or regional board of education that provides paid sick leave or any other paid leave, or combination of other paid leave, that is accrued at a greater rate than the rate described in subsection (a) of this section to school employees, as defined in section 53a-65, may require such school employees to use accrued paid sick leave at the increment prescribed in the collective bargaining agreement negotiated by the organization designated or elected as the exclusive bargaining representative for such school employees, provided such local or regional board of education shall not prohibit such employees from using the maximum amount of accrued hours described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section for the purposes provided in subsection (a) of section 31-57t.

(2) A municipal employer, as defined in section 7-467, that provides paid sick leave or any other paid leave, or combination of other paid leave, that is accrued at a greater rate than the rate described in subsection (a) of this section to police officers, firefighters or employees of a public works department may require such police officers, firefighters or employees of a public works department to use accrued paid sick leave at the increment prescribed in the collective bargaining agreement negotiated by the organization designated or elected as the exclusive bargaining representative for such employees, provided such municipal employer shall not prohibit such police officers, firefighters or employees of a public works department from using the maximum amount of accrued hours described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section for the purposes provided in subsection (a) of section 31-57t. For purposes of this subsection, "public works department" means a municipal department responsible for the construction, regulation or maintenance of all things in the nature of public works and improvements.

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 234. Section 31-49e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

As used in this section and sections 31-49f to 31-49u, inclusive:

(1) "Authority" means the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority established in section 31-49f. "Authority" does not mean an appointing authority;

(2) "Base period" means (A) the first four of the five most recently completed quarters, or (B) the alternative method of calculating base period established by the authority pursuant to section 31-49h for a covered employee that is employed by a public school operator or a nonpublic elementary or secondary school in a position that does not require professional certification under chapter 166;

(3) "Base weekly earnings" means (A) an amount equal to one twenty-sixth, rounded to the next lower dollar, of a covered employee's total wages, as defined in subsection (b) of section 31-222 and self-employment income, as defined in 26 USC 1402(b), as amended from time to time, earned during the two quarters of the covered employee's base period in which such earnings were highest, provided self-employment income shall be included only if the recipient has enrolled in the program pursuant to section 31-49m, or (B) the alternative method of calculating base weekly earnings established by the authority pursuant to section 31-49h for a covered employee that is employed by a public school operator or a nonpublic elementary or secondary school in a position that does not require professional certification under chapter 166;

(4) "Covered employee" means an individual who has earned not less than two thousand three hundred twenty-five dollars in subject earnings during the employee's highest earning quarter within the base period and (A) is presently employed by an employer, (B) has been

House Bill No. 7288

employed by an employer in the previous twelve weeks, or (C) is a self-employed individual or sole proprietor and Connecticut resident who has enrolled in the program pursuant to section 31-49m;

(5) "Covered public employee" means an individual who is (A) employed in state service, as defined in section 5-196, and who is not in a bargaining unit established pursuant to sections 5-270 to 5-280, inclusive, [or] (B) a member of a collective bargaining unit whose exclusive collective bargaining agent negotiates inclusion in the program, in accordance with chapter 68, sections 7-467 to 7-477, inclusive, or sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive, or (C) employed by a public school operator in a position that does not require a professional certification under chapter 166. If a municipal employer, as defined in section 7-467, or a [local or regional board of education] public school operator negotiates inclusion in the program for members of a collective bargaining unit, "covered public employee" also means an individual who is employed by such municipal employer or [local or regional board of education] public school operator and who is not in a bargaining unit established under sections 7-467 to 7-477, inclusive, or sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive;

(6) "Employ" means to allow or permit to work;

(7) "Employee" means an individual engaged in service to an employer in this state in the business of the employer;

(8) "Employer" means a person engaged in any activity, enterprise or business or a federally recognized tribe that has entered into a memorandum of understanding pursuant to section 31-49u, who employs one or more employees, and includes any person who acts, directly or indirectly, in the interest of an employer to any of the employees of such employer and any successor in interest of an employer. "Employer" does not mean the federal government, the state or a municipality, a [local or regional board of education] public school

House Bill No. 7288

operator or a nonpublic elementary or secondary school, except that the state, a municipal employer or [local or regional board of education] public school operator is an employer with respect to each of its covered public employees and a nonpublic elementary or secondary school is an employer with respect to each individual employed by such nonpublic elementary or secondary school in a position that does not require a professional certification under chapter 166;

(9) "Family and medical leave compensation" or "compensation" means the paid leave provided to covered employees from the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund;

(10) "Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority Board" means the board of directors established in section 31-49f;

(11) "Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program" or "program" means the program established in section 31-49g;

(12) "Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund" or "trust" means the trust fund established in section 31-49i;

(13) "Health care provider" has the same meaning as provided in section 31-51kk;

(14) "Municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-245;

(15) "Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, business trusts, legal representatives or any organized group of persons;

(16) "Public school operator" means a local or regional board of education, an interdistrict magnet school operator, including an interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-264s, a state or local charter school, an endowed or incorporated academy approved

House Bill No. 7288

by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-76d or a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a;

[(16)] (17) "Serious health condition" has the same meaning as provided in section 31-51kk; and

[(17)] (18) "Subject earnings" means total wages, as defined in subsection (b) of section 31-222 and self-employment income as defined in 26 USC 1402(b), as amended from time to time, that shall not exceed the Social Security contribution and benefit base, as determined pursuant to 42 USC 430, as amended from time to time, provided self-employment income shall be included only if the recipient has enrolled in the program pursuant to section 31-49m.

Sec. 235. Section 31-49h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The board, on behalf of the authority, and for the purpose of implementing the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program established in section 31-49g, shall adopt written procedures in accordance with the provisions of section 1-121 for the purposes of:

(1) Adopting an annual budget and plan of operations, including a requirement of board approval before such budget or plan may take effect;

(2) Adopting bylaws for the regulation of the affairs of the board and the conduct of its business;

(3) Hiring, dismissing, promoting and compensating employees of the authority and instituting an affirmative action policy;

(4) Acquiring real and personal property and personal services, including requiring board approval for any nonbudgeted expenditure in excess of five thousand dollars;

House Bill No. 7288

(5) Contracting for financial, legal and other professional services, and requiring that the authority solicit proposals not less than every three years for each such service used by the board;

(6) Using surplus funds to the extent authorized under sections 31-49f to 31-49t, inclusive, or any other provisions of the general statutes;

(7) Establishing an administrative process by which grievances, complaints and appeals regarding employment at the authority are reviewed and addressed by the board; and

(8) Implementing the provisions of sections 31-49e to 31-49t, inclusive, or other provisions of the general statutes, as appropriate.

(b) The Paid Family and Medical Leave Authority may:

(1) Adopt an official seal and alter the same at the pleasure of the board;

(2) Maintain an office at such place or places in the state as the board may designate;

(3) Sue and be sued, and plea and be impleaded, in its own name;

(4) Establish criteria and guidelines for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to be offered pursuant to this section, sections 31-49f and 31-49g and sections 31-49i to 31-49t, inclusive;

(5) Employ staff, agents and contractors as may be necessary or desirable and fix the compensation of such persons;

(6) Design, establish and operate the program to ensure transparency in the management of the program through oversight and ethics review of plan fiduciaries;

(7) Design and establish a process by which employees and self-

House Bill No. 7288

employed individuals or sole proprietors who have enrolled in the program pursuant to section 31-49m shall contribute a portion of their subject earnings to the trust;

(8) Evaluate and establish a process by which employers may credit employee contributions to the trust through payroll deposit;

(9) Ensure that contributions to the trust collected from employees and self-employed individuals or sole proprietors who have enrolled in the program pursuant to section 31-49m shall not be used for any purpose other than providing compensation to covered employees, educating and informing persons about the program and paying the operational, administrative and investment costs of the program;

(10) Establish and maintain a secure Internet web site that displays all public notices issued by the authority and such other information as the authority deems relevant and necessary for the implementation of the program and for the education of the public regarding the program;

(11) Establish policies, or written procedures in accordance with the provisions of section 1-121, as appropriate, including, but not limited to, policies or procedures:

(A) Establishing a process to determine whether an individual meets the requirements for compensation under this section, including the certification required for establishing eligibility for such compensation;

(B) Establishing methods by which any books, records, documents, contracts or other papers relevant to the eligibility of a covered employee shall be examined, or caused to be produced or examined;

(C) Establishing methods by which witnesses who provide information relevant to a covered employee's claim for family and medical leave compensation may be summoned and examined under oath;

House Bill No. 7288

(D) Ensuring the confidentiality of records and documents relating to medical certifications, recertifications and medical histories of covered employees and covered employees' family members pursuant to section 31-5100;

(E) Establishing the percentage of subject earnings each employee and self-employed individuals or sole proprietors who have enrolled in the program pursuant to section 31-49m shall contribute to the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund, provided such percentage shall not exceed one-half of one per cent;

(F) Certifying the ongoing solvency of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund and adjusting the compensation offered to covered employees as necessary to ensure the solvency of the fund as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 31-49g, provided the contribution percentage established by the Authority pursuant to subdivision (5) of this section has reached the statutory maximum; [and]

(G) Determining whether an employer meets the requirements for the administration of a private plan, including the approval, oversight and termination of such private plan, and developing any potential alternate measure of subject earnings for the purposes of calculating compensation under such plans; and

(H) Establishing an alternative method of calculating the base period and base weekly earnings for a covered employee that is employed by a public school operator or a nonpublic elementary or secondary school in a position that does not require professional certification under chapter 166;

(12) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, and to the extent consistent with federal law, (A) use state administrative data collected by any agency for the purposes of carrying out and implementing such program, including, but not limited to, eligibility

House Bill No. 7288

determination, benefit calculation, program planning, recipient outreach and continuous improvement and program evaluation, including assessment of longitudinal impact; and (B) share user data and other data collected through program administration with other state agencies for purposes, including, but not limited to, improving delivery of benefits and services to program participants and other persons, streamlining eligibility determination for programs administered by other agencies, recipient outreach and continuous improvement and program evaluation, including assessment of longitudinal impact. Expenses incurred for activities undertaken pursuant to this subdivision, as well as compensation paid to other state agencies for any associated costs, shall be considered appropriate administrative expenses of the program; [.]

(13) Enter into agreements with any department, agency, office or instrumentality of the United States or this state to carry out the purposes of the program, including, but not limited to:

(A) Memoranda of understanding with the Labor Department and other state agencies regarding (i) the gathering or dissemination of information necessary for the operations of the program, subject to such obligations of confidentiality as may be agreed or required by law, (ii) the sharing of costs incurred pursuant to the gathering and dissemination of such information, and (iii) the reimbursement of costs for any enforcement activities conducted pursuant to section 31-49r. Each state agency may also enter into such memoranda of understanding;

(B) Memoranda of understanding with the Department of Revenue Services and the Labor Department for (i) the collection of employee contributions, and (ii) the reimbursement of costs by the authority for any costs incurred related to the collection of employee contributions. The Department of Revenue Services and the Labor Department shall also enter into such memoranda of understanding; and

House Bill No. 7288

(C) Memoranda of understanding with the Labor Department for (i) the adjudication of claims by covered employees aggrieved by a denial of compensation under the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, and (ii) the reimbursement of costs by the authority for any costs incurred by the Labor Department related to the adjudication of contested claims or penalties imposed pursuant to section 31-49r. The Labor Department shall also enter into such memoranda of understanding; [.]

(14) Make and enter into any contract or agreement necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and execution of its powers. The contracts and agreements entered into by the authority shall not be subject to the approval of any other state department, office or agency, provided copies of all such contracts shall be maintained by the authority as public records, subject to the proprietary rights of any party to such contracts. No contract shall contain any provision in which any contractor derives any direct or indirect economic benefit from denying or otherwise influencing the outcome of any claim for benefits. The standard criteria for the evaluation of proposals relating to claims processing, web site development, database development, marketing and advertising, in the event the authority seeks the services of an outside contractor for such tasks, and for the evaluation of proposals relating to all other contracts in amounts equal to or exceeding two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall include, but need not be limited to: (A) Transparency, (B) cost, (C) efficiency of operations, (D) quality of work related to the contracts issued, (E) user experience, (F) accountability, and (G) a cost-benefit analysis documenting the direct and indirect costs of such contracts, including qualitative and quantitative benefits that will result from the implementation of such contracts. The establishment of additional standard criteria shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the board after such criteria have been posted on a public Internet web site maintained by the authority for notice and comment for at least one week prior to such vote; [.] and

House Bill No. 7288

(15) Do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the provisions of sections 31-49e to 31-49t, inclusive.

Sec. 236. Section 31-51kk of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

As used in sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive:

(1) "Eligible employee" means (A) an employee who has been employed for at least three months immediately preceding [his or her] such employee's request for leave by the employer with respect to whom leave is requested, or (B) an employee of a public school operator or a nonpublic elementary or secondary school (i) whose position does not require a professional certification under chapter 166, and (ii) who has been employed for at least three months during the previous twelve-month period by such public school operator or nonpublic elementary or secondary school with respect to whom leave is requested;

(2) "Employ" includes to allow or permit to work;

(3) "Employee" means any person engaged in service to an employer in this state in the business of the employer;

(4) "Employer" means a person engaged in any activity, enterprise or business who employs one or more employees, and includes any person who acts, directly or indirectly, in the interest of an employer to any of the employees of such employer and any successor in interest of an employer. "Employer" does not include a municipality, a [local or regional board of education,] public school operator or a nonpublic elementary or secondary school, except that a public school operator or a nonpublic elementary or secondary school is an employer with respect to its eligible employees;

(5) "Employment benefits" means all benefits provided or made available to employees by an employer, including group life insurance,

House Bill No. 7288

health insurance, disability insurance, sick leave, annual leave, educational benefits and pensions, regardless of whether such benefits are provided by practice or written policy of an employer or through an "employee benefit plan", as defined in Section 1002(3) of Title 29 of the United States Code;

(6) "Family member" means a spouse, sibling, son or daughter, grandparent, grandchild or parent, or an individual related to the employee by blood or affinity whose close association the employee shows to be the equivalent of those family relationships;

(7) "Grandchild" means a grandchild related to a person by (A) blood, (B) marriage, (C) adoption by a child of the grandparent, or (D) foster care by a child of the grandparent;

(8) "Grandparent" means a grandparent related to a person by (A) blood, (B) marriage, (C) adoption of a minor child by a child of the grandparent, or (D) foster care by a child of the grandparent;

(9) "Health care provider" means (A) a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery by the state in which the doctor practices; (B) a podiatrist, dentist, psychologist, optometrist or chiropractor authorized to practice by the state in which such person practices and performs within the scope of the authorized practice; (C) an advanced practice registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife or clinical social worker authorized to practice by the state in which such person practices and performs within the scope of the authorized practice; (D) Christian Science practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts; (E) any health care provider from whom an employer or a group health plan's benefits manager will accept certification of the existence of a serious health condition to substantiate a claim for benefits; (F) a health care provider as defined in subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of this subdivision who practices in a country other than the United States, who

House Bill No. 7288

is licensed to practice in accordance with the laws and regulations of that country; or (G) such other health care provider as the Labor Commissioner determines, performing within the scope of the authorized practice. The commissioner may utilize any determinations made pursuant to chapter 568;

(10) "Municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-245;

(11) "Parent" means a biological parent, foster parent, adoptive parent, stepparent, parent-in-law or legal guardian of an eligible employee or an eligible employee's spouse, an individual standing in loco parentis to an eligible employee, or an individual who stood in loco parentis to the eligible employee when the employee was a child;

(12) "Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, business trusts, legal representatives or organized groups of persons;

(13) "Public school operator" has the same meaning as provided in section 31-49e;

[(13)] (14) "Reduced leave schedule" means a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee;

[(14)] (15) "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves (A) inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, nursing home or residential medical care facility; or (B) continuing treatment, including outpatient treatment, by a health care provider;

[(15)] (16) "Sibling" means a brother or sister related to a person by (A) blood, (B) marriage, (C) adoption by a parent of the person, or (D) foster care placement;

House Bill No. 7288

[(16)] (17) "Son or daughter" means a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or, in the alternative, a child of a person standing in loco parentis, or an individual to whom the employee stood in loco parentis when the individual was a child; and

[(17)] (18) "Spouse" means a person to whom one is legally married.

Sec. 237. Section 31-51rr of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each political subdivision of the state shall provide the same family and medical leave benefits under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-3, and 29 CFR 825.112 to [(1)] any employee of such political subdivision who is a party to a marriage in which the other party is of the same sex as the employee, and who has been employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least one thousand two hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period, which benefits shall be the same as are provided to an employee who is a party to a marriage in which the other party is of the opposite sex of such employee. [, (2) on or after the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, a paraeducator who has been employed in an educational setting for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period, or (3) on or after October 1, 2024, any person employed by a local or regional board of education who does not hold a professional certification under chapter 166 and has been employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period.]

(b) [(1)] Any employee of a political subdivision of the state who has worked at least twelve months and one thousand two hundred fifty hours for such employer during the previous twelve-month period [, (2)

House Bill No. 7288

on or after the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, a paraeducator who has been employed in an educational setting for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period, or (3) on or after October 1, 2024, any person employed by a local or regional board of education who does not hold a professional certification under chapter 166 and has been employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period] may request leave in order to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor, provided such employee may be required, prior to the inception of such leave, to provide sufficient written certification from the physician of such employee, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse of the proposed organ or bone marrow donation and the probable duration of the employee's recovery from such donation.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing leave in addition to the total of twelve workweeks of leave during any twelve-month period provided under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-3.

(d) The Labor Department shall enforce compliance with the provisions of this section.

[(e) For the purposes of subdivision (2) of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, no hours of service worked by a paraeducator prior to the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section shall be included in the requisite nine hundred fifty hours of service.

(f) The Labor Commissioner shall adopt regulations for the provision of family and medical leave benefits to paraeducators employed in an educational setting pursuant to this section.]

House Bill No. 7288

Sec. 238. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of Revenue Services, shall conduct an assessment on the anticipated economic impact of the proposed Connecticut United Football club stadium. Such assessment shall include, but need not be limited to, an evaluation of (1) the anticipated economic impact of such proposed stadium on the city of Bridgeport and the state, and (2) when it is reasonably likely that the state may receive a return on a one hundred twenty-seven million dollar state bonding investment, taking into consideration revenue generated from such proposed stadium via payroll taxes, sales and use taxes and other revenue sources. Not later than October 1, 2025, the Department of Economic and Community Development shall submit a report on the results of such assessment to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Governor's Action:

Approved June 30, 2025