



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1529

Public Act No. 25-175

AN ACT REVISING THE EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL REFERENDA AND EQUITY JOINT VENTURES AND CONCERNING CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION'S NETWORK OF SCHOOLS, THE REPORTING OF CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL INFORMATION, THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS AND THE DEFERRALS OF CERTAIN TOWNS' REAL PROPERTY REVALUATIONS.

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

Section 1. Section 22a-20b of the general statutes, as amended by section 2 of public act 25-169, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[Notwithstanding] On and after September 30, 2025, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any special act, municipal charter or ordinance, in any municipality having a population of sixteen thousand persons or fewer, as of the most recent decennial census of the United States, any elector or voter of such municipality may petition for a town referendum, in accordance with the applicable provisions of sections 7-7 and 7-9, for the reversal of any approval or denial, as applicable, of a permit by the commissioner pursuant to section 22a-20a, that is based on the considerations required by subsection (g) of said section. An affirmative vote of such electorate shall constitute the

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reversal of any such approval or denial, as applicable, of such permit notwithstanding such approval or denial by the commissioner, as applicable.

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Section 15 of public act 25-101 shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Sec. 3. Section 222 of public act 25-174 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):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 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] increase the rates for contracted services by (1) three and three-tenths per cent and an additional three per cent for providers of residential services that contract with the Department of Developmental Services effective July 1, 2027, and (2) three and three-tenths per cent and an additional three per cent for providers of residential services that contract with the Department of Developmental Services effective January 1, 2028.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-223h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) [The] For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2028, inclusive, the Commissioner of Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a commissioner's network of schools to improve student academic achievement in low-performing schools. The commissioner may select not more than twenty-five schools in any single school year that have been classified as a category four school or a category five school pursuant to section 10-223e to participate in the commissioner's network of schools, except the commissioner shall not

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select any additional school to participate in the commissioner's network of schools on or after July 1, 2025. The commissioner shall issue guidelines regarding the development of turnaround plans, and such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, annual deadlines for the submission or nonsubmission of a turnaround plan and annual deadlines for approval or rejection of turnaround plans. The commissioner shall give preference for selection in the commissioner's network of schools to such schools (1) that volunteer to participate in the commissioner's network of schools, provided the local or regional board of education for such school and the representatives of the exclusive bargaining unit for certified employees chosen pursuant to section 10-153b mutually agree to participate in the commissioner's network of schools, (2) in which an existing collective bargaining agreement between the local or regional board of education for such school and the representatives of the exclusive bargaining unit for certified employees chosen pursuant to section 10-153b will have expired for the school year in which a turnaround plan will be implemented, or (3) that are located in school districts that (A) have experience in school turnaround reform, or (B) previously received a school improvement grant pursuant to Section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq. [The commissioner may select not more than five schools in any single school year from a single school district to participate in the commissioner's network of schools.] Each school so selected shall begin implementation of a turnaround plan, as described in subsection (d) of this section. Each school so selected shall participate in the commissioner's network of schools for three school years, and may continue such participation for an additional year, not to exceed two additional years, upon approval from the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of subsection (h) of this section, except a school that is participating in the commissioner's network of schools on the effective date of this section may continue such participation for an additional year or an additional two years. The commissioner shall provide funding, technical assistance

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and operational support to schools participating in the commissioner's network of schools and may provide financial support to teachers and administrators working at a school that is participating in the commissioner's network of schools. All costs attributable to developing and implementing a turnaround plan in excess of the ordinary operating expenses for such school shall be paid by the State Board of Education.

Sec. 5. Subsection (h) of section 10-223h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(h) Each school participating in the commissioner's network of schools shall participate for three school years, and may continue such participation for an additional year, not to exceed two additional years, upon approval from the State Board of Education, ~~[. Before]~~ except a school that is participating in the commissioner's network of schools on the effective date of this section may continue such participation for an additional year or an additional two years. On and after July 1, 2025, before the end of the third year that a school is participating in the commissioner's network of schools, the commissioner shall conduct an evaluation ~~[to determine whether such school is prepared to exit the commissioner's network of schools. In determining whether such school may exit the commissioner's network of schools, the commissioner shall consider whether the local or regional board of education has the capacity to ensure that such school will maintain or improve its student academic performance. If the commissioner determines that such school is ready to exit the commissioner's network of schools, the]~~ of the school's participation in the commissioner's network of schools. The local or regional board of education for such school shall develop, in consultation with the commissioner, a plan, subject to the approval by the State Board of Education, for the transition of such school back to full control by the local or regional board of education. ~~[If such school is not ready to exit the commissioner's network of schools and participates~~

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in the commissioner's network of schools for an additional year, the commissioner shall conduct an evaluation in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Before the end of the fifth year that a school is participating in the commissioner's network of schools, the commissioner shall develop, in consultation with the local or regional board of education for such school, a plan, subject to the approval by the State Board of Education, for the transition of such school back to full control by the local or regional board of education.]

Sec. 6. Section 10-248a 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, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, municipal charter, home rule ordinance or other ordinance, a local board of education may deposit into a nonlapsing account any unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted appropriation for education, provided (1) such deposited amount does not exceed two per cent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for such prior fiscal year, (2) each expenditure from such account shall be made only for educational purposes, and (3) each such expenditure shall be authorized by the local board of education for such town.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, each local board of education shall compile a report regarding the nonlapsing, unexpended funds account described in this section, including, but not limited to, the total balance of the account, the amount deposited into such account in a fiscal year and an accounting of the expenditures made from such account, and submit such report to the Department of Education.

Sec. 7. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof

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(Effective July 1, 2025):

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional board of education, by a majority vote of its members, may create a reserve fund for educational expenditures. Such fund shall thereafter be termed "reserve fund for educational expenditures". The aggregate amount of annual and supplemental appropriations by a district to such fund shall not exceed two per cent of the annual district budget for such fiscal year. Annual appropriations to such fund shall be included in the share of net expenses to be paid by each member town. Supplemental appropriations to such fund may be made from estimated fiscal year end surplus in operating funds. Interest and investment earnings received with respect to amounts held in the fund shall be credited to such fund. The board shall annually submit a complete and detailed report of the condition of such fund to the member towns. Upon the recommendation and approval by the regional board of education, any part or the whole of such fund may be used for educational expenditures. Upon the approval of any such expenditure an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated for the educational expenditure for which it has been authorized. Any unexpended portion of such appropriation remaining shall revert to said fund. If any authorized appropriation is set up pursuant to the provisions of this subsection and through unforeseen circumstances the board is unable to expend the total amount of such appropriation, the board, by a majority vote of its members, may terminate such appropriation which then shall no longer be in effect. Such fund may be discontinued, after the recommendation and approval by the regional board of education, and any amounts held in the fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the district. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, each board shall make available, and annually update, information regarding such fund, including, but not limited to, the total balance of the fund, the amount deposited into such fund in a fiscal year and an accounting of the

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expenditures made from such fund.

Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (76) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any person otherwise eligible for a 2023 grand list exemption pursuant to said subdivision in the town of Berlin, except that such person failed to file the required statement within the time period prescribed, shall be regarded as having filed such statement in a timely manner if such person files such statement not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section and pays the late filing fee pursuant to section 12-81k of the general statutes. Upon confirmation of the receipt of such fee and verification of the exemption eligibility of such property, the assessor shall approve the exemption for such property. If taxes, interest or penalties have been paid on the property for which such exemption is approved, the town of Berlin shall reimburse such person in an amount equal to the amount by which such taxes, interest and penalties exceed any taxes payable if the statement had been filed in a timely manner.

Sec. 9 (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (76) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any person otherwise eligible for a 2024 grand list exemption pursuant to said subdivision in the town of Berlin, except that such person failed to file the required statement within the time period prescribed, shall be regarded as having filed such statement in a timely manner if such person files such statement not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section and pays the late filing fee pursuant to section 12-81k of the general statutes. Upon confirmation of the receipt of such fee and verification of the exemption eligibility of such property, the assessor shall approve the exemption for such property. If taxes, interest or penalties have been paid on the property for which such exemption is approved, the town of Berlin shall reimburse such person in an amount equal to the amount by which such taxes, interest and penalties

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exceed any taxes payable if the statement had been filed in a timely manner.

Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (76) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any person otherwise eligible for a 2023 grand list exemption pursuant to said subdivision in the town of Canton, except that such person failed to file the required statement within the time period prescribed, shall be regarded as having filed such statement in a timely manner if such person files such statement not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section and pays the late filing fee pursuant to section 12-81k of the general statutes. Upon confirmation of the receipt of such fee and verification of the exemption eligibility of such property, the assessor shall approve the exemption for such property. If taxes, interest or penalties have been paid on the property for which such exemption is approved, the town of Canton shall reimburse such person in an amount equal to the amount by which such taxes, interest and penalties exceed any taxes payable if the statement had been filed in a timely manner.

Sec. 11. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (76) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any person otherwise eligible for a 2023 grand list exemption pursuant to said subdivision in the town of Manchester, except that such person failed to file the required statement within the time period prescribed, shall be regarded as having filed such statement in a timely manner if such person files such statement not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section and pays the late filing fee pursuant to section 12-81k of the general statutes. Upon confirmation of the receipt of such fee and verification of the exemption eligibility of such property, the assessor shall approve the exemption for such property. If taxes, interest or penalties have been paid on the property for which such exemption is approved, the town of Manchester shall reimburse such person in an

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amount equal to the amount by which such taxes, interest and penalties exceed any taxes payable if the statement had been filed in a timely manner.

Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (76) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any person otherwise eligible for a 2024 grand list exemption pursuant to said subdivision in the town of Milford, except that such person failed to file the required statement within the time period prescribed, shall be regarded as having filed such statement in a timely manner if such person files such statement not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section and pays the late filing fee pursuant to section 12-81k of the general statutes. Upon confirmation of the receipt of such fee and verification of the exemption eligibility of such property, the assessor shall approve the exemption for such property. If taxes, interest or penalties have been paid on the property for which such exemption is approved, the town of Milford shall reimburse such person in an amount equal to the amount by which such taxes, interest and penalties exceed any taxes payable if the statement had been filed in a timely manner.

Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (76) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any person otherwise eligible for a 2022 grand list exemption pursuant to said subdivision in the city of New Haven, except that such person failed to file the required statement within the time period prescribed, shall be regarded as having filed such statement in a timely manner if such person files such statement not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section and pays the late filing fee pursuant to section 12-81k of the general statutes. Upon confirmation of the receipt of such fee and verification of the exemption eligibility of such property, the assessor shall approve the exemption for such property. If taxes, interest or penalties have been paid on the property for which such exemption

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is approved, the city of New Haven shall reimburse such person in an amount equal to the amount by which such taxes, interest and penalties exceed any taxes payable if the statement had been filed in a timely manner.

Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (76) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any person otherwise eligible for a 2023 grand list exemption pursuant to said subdivision in the town of Newington, except that such person failed to file the required statement within the time period prescribed, shall be regarded as having filed such statement in a timely manner if such person files such statement not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section and pays the late filing fee pursuant to section 12-81k of the general statutes. Upon confirmation of the receipt of such fee and verification of the exemption eligibility of such property, the assessor shall approve the exemption for such property. If taxes, interest or penalties have been paid on the property for which such exemption is approved, the town of Newington shall reimburse such person in an amount equal to the amount by which such taxes, interest and penalties exceed any taxes payable if the statement had been filed in a timely manner.

Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 12-62 of the general statutes or any municipal charter, special act or home rule ordinance, the town of Newington may defer the implementation of the revaluation of real property required for the assessment year commencing October 1, 2025, until the assessment year commencing October 1, 2026, provided such deferral is approved by the legislative body of said town. The rate maker, as defined in section 12-131 of the general statutes, in said town may prepare new rate bills under the provisions of chapter 204 of the general statutes to carry out the provisions of this section. Any required revaluation subsequent to any deferred implementation of a revaluation pursuant to this section

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shall recommence at the point in the schedule prescribed pursuant to section 12-62 of the general statutes that said town was following prior to such deferral.

Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 12-62 of the general statutes or any municipal charter, special act or home rule ordinance, the town of Trumbull may defer the implementation of the revaluation of real property required for the assessment year commencing October 1, 2025, until the assessment year commencing October 1, 2026, provided such deferral is approved by the legislative body of said town. The rate maker, as defined in section 12-131 of the general statutes, in said town may prepare new rate bills under the provisions of chapter 204 of the general statutes to carry out the provisions of this section. Any required revaluation subsequent to any deferred implementation of a revaluation pursuant to this section shall recommence at the point in the schedule prescribed pursuant to section 12-62 of the general statutes that said town was following prior to such deferral.

Sec. 17. Sections 36, 37, 41 and 42 of public act 25-93 are repealed.
(*Effective from passage*)

Governor's Action:
Approved July 1, 2025