

General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 9995



Offered by:

REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY, 133rd Dist. SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **7157**

File No. 628

Cal. No. 389

"AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES."

- 1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
- 2 following in lieu thereof:
- 3 "Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 19a-411 of the general statutes is
- 4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1,
- 5 2025):
- 6 (b) The report of examinations conducted by the Chief Medical
- 7 Examiner, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, an associate medical
- 8 examiner or an authorized assistant medical examiner, and of the
- 9 autopsy and other scientific findings may be made available to the
- 10 public only through the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and in
- accordance with this section, section 1-210 and the regulations of the
- 12 [commission] Commission on Medicolegal Investigations. Any person
- may obtain copies of such records upon such conditions and payment
- of such fees as may be prescribed by the commission, except that (1) no

15 person with a legitimate interest in the records shall be denied access to 16 such records, [and] (2) no person may be denied access to records 17 concerning a person in the custody of the state at the time of death, and 18 (3) no parent or sibling eighteen years of age or older of a child under 19 eighteen years of age who is the subject of such records shall be charged 20 <u>a fee to obtain copies of such records</u>. As used in this section, a "person 21 in the custody of the state" [is] means a person committed to the custody 22 of [(1)] (A) the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a 23 correctional institution or facility or a community residence, [(2)] (B) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or [(3)] (C) the Commissioner 24 25 of Developmental Services.

- Sec. 2. Section 19a-197a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):
- 28 (a) As used in this section, "emergency medical services personnel" 29 means (1) any emergency medical responder certified pursuant to 30 sections 20-206ll and 20-206mm, (2) any class of emergency medical 31 technician certified pursuant to sections 20-206ll and 20-206mm, 32 including, but not limited to, any advanced emergency medical 33 technician, [(2)] and (3) any paramedic licensed pursuant to sections 20-34 206ll and 20-206mm. [, and (3) any emergency medical responder 35 certified pursuant to sections 20-206ll and 20-206mm.]
 - (b) Any emergency medical services personnel who has been trained, in accordance with national standards recognized by the Commissioner of Public Health, in the administration of epinephrine using (1) an automatic prefilled cartridge [injectors] <u>injector</u>, similar automatic injectable equipment, or <u>a</u> prefilled vial and syringe, or (2) any other method of administration approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, including, but not limited to, a nasal spray, and who functions in accordance with written protocols and the standing orders of a licensed physician serving as an emergency medical services medical director shall administer epinephrine, if available, using such [injectors] <u>injector</u>, equipment, [or] prefilled vial and syringe, <u>nasal spray or other device of administration</u> when the use of epinephrine is

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deemed necessary by the emergency medical services personnel for the treatment of a patient. All emergency medical services personnel shall receive such training in accordance with the national standards recognized by the commissioner, except an emergency medical responder, as defined in section 20-206jj, need only be trained to utilize means of administration of epinephrine that is within such responder's scope of practice, as determined in accordance with section 19a-179a.

- (c) All licensed or certified ambulances shall be equipped with epinephrine in such injectors, equipment, [or] prefilled vials and syringes, nasal spray or other device of administration to be administered as described in subsection (b) of this section and in accordance with written protocols and standing orders of a licensed physician serving as an emergency medical services medical director.
- Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 20-73b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2025):
 - (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each physical therapist licensed pursuant to this chapter shall complete a minimum of twenty hours of continuing education during each registration period. For purposes of this section, registration period means the twelvemonth period for which a license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 and is current and valid. The continuing education shall be in areas related to the individual's practice, except, (1) on and after January 1, 2022, such continuing education shall include not less than two hours of training or education on [(1)] (A) screening for posttraumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and [(2)] (B) suicide prevention, [training,] during the first registration period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter, and (2) on and after January 1, 2026, such continuing education shall include not less than two hours of training or education on ethics and jurisprudence during the first registration period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every two years thereafter. The requirement described in [subdivision (2)] subparagraph

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81 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection may be satisfied by the 82 completion of the evidence-based youth suicide prevention training 83 program administered pursuant to section 17a-52a. Qualifying 84 continuing education activities include, but are not limited to, courses 85 offered or approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or 86 any component of the American Physical Therapy Association, a 87 hospital or other licensed health care institution or a regionally

accredited institution of higher education.

- Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) No health system, as defined in section 19a-508c of the general statutes, or health care provider shall require a patient to provide bank account information, a credit card number, a debit card number or any other form of electronic payment to be kept on file with the health system or health care provider as a prerequisite to seeing the patient for an office visit or providing any health care service to the patient.
- 96 (b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be considered an 97 unfair trade practice pursuant to section 42-110b of the general statutes.
 - (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (1) affect a patient's obligation to pay for health care services, or (2) prohibit a health care provider from requesting, collecting or storing bank, credit or debit card or other payment-related information if the patient agrees to provide such information.
- Sec. 5. Section 52-146d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- As used in <u>this section and</u> sections [52-146d to 52-146i] <u>52-146e to 52-</u> 106 146j, inclusive, as amended by this act:
- (1) "Authorized representative" means (A) [a person] <u>an individual</u>
 108 empowered by a <u>person or</u> patient to assert the confidentiality of
 109 communications or records [which] <u>that</u> are privileged under <u>this</u>
 110 <u>section and</u> sections [52-146c] <u>52-146e</u> to 52-146i, inclusive, <u>as amended</u>
 111 <u>by this act</u>, or (B) if a <u>person or</u> patient is deceased, his or her personal

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representative or next of kin, or (C) if a <u>person or patient</u> is incompetent to assert or waive his <u>or her privileges [hereunder] under said sections</u>, (i) a guardian or conservator who has been or is appointed to act for the <u>person or patient</u>, or (ii) for the purpose of maintaining confidentiality until a guardian or conservator is appointed, the <u>person's or patient's</u>

117 nearest relative;118 (2) ["Commu

- (2) ["Communications and records"] "Communication and record" means [all] each oral and written [communications and records] communication and the written record of such communication thereof relating to diagnosis or treatment of a person's or patient's mental condition between the person or patient and a psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider, or between a member of the person's or patient's family and a psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider, or between [any of] such [persons] person, patient, psychologist, psychiatrist or family member and [a person] an individual participating under the supervision of a psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider in the accomplishment of the objectives of diagnosis and treatment, wherever made, including [communications and records which occur] a communication and record that occurs in or [are] is prepared at a mental health facility;
- 132 (3) "Consent" means [consent] <u>voluntary agreement</u> given in writing 133 by the <u>person or patient or his or her</u> authorized representative;
 - (4) "Identifiable" and ["identify a patient" refer to communications and records which contain (A) names] "identify a person or patient" mean information in a communication and record, including (A) the name of the person or patient or other descriptive data from which [a person] an individual acquainted with the person or patient might reasonably recognize the person or patient as the person or patient referred to, or (B) [codes or numbers which are] a code or number that is in general use outside of the mental health facility [which] that prepared the [communications and records] communication and record, which code or number would identify the person or patient to such persons who understand such code or number;

(5) "Mental health facility" includes any hospital, clinic, ward, psychologist's office, psychiatric mental health provider's office or other facility, public or private, [which] that provides inpatient or outpatient service, in whole or in part, relating to the diagnosis or treatment of a person's or patient's mental condition;

- 150 (6) "Patient" means [a person] <u>an individual</u> who communicates with 151 or is treated by a psychiatric mental health provider in diagnosis or 152 treatment;
- 153 (7) "Person" means an individual who consults a psychologist for purposes of diagnosis or treatment;
- 155 [(7)] (8) "Psychiatric mental health provider" means a physician 156 specializing in psychiatry and licensed under the provisions of sections 157 20-9 to 20-12, inclusive, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378 who is board certified as a psychiatric mental health 158 159 provider by a certifying body, including, but not limited to, the 160 American Nurses Credentialing Center [, a person] or the American 161 Academy of Nurse Practitioners, an individual licensed to practice 162 medicine who devotes a substantial portion of his or her time to the 163 practice of psychiatry or [a person] an individual reasonably believed by the patient to be so qualified; and 164
- 165 (9) "Psychologist" means an individual licensed to practice 166 psychology pursuant to chapter 383.
- Sec. 6. Section 52-146e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):
 - (a) [All communications and records as defined in section 52-146d] Each communication and record shall be confidential and [shall be] subject to the provisions of sections 52-146d to 52-146j, inclusive, as amended by this act. Except as provided in sections 52-146f to 52-146i, inclusive, as amended by this act, no [person may] individual shall disclose or transmit any [communications and records] communication or record thereof, or the substance or any part or [any] resume thereof,

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176 [which identify a] that identifies a person or patient to any [person]

- individual, corporation or governmental agency without the consent of
- the person or patient or his or her authorized representative.
- (b) Any consent given <u>by a person or patient</u> to waive the confidentiality <u>of a communication or record thereof</u> shall specify to
- [what person] which individual or agency the information [is to] may
- be disclosed and to what use it will be put by such individual or agency.
- 183 Each person and patient shall be informed that his or her refusal to grant
- consent will not jeopardize his or her right to obtain present or future
- treatment except where disclosure of the [communications and records]
- 186 <u>communication and record</u> is necessary for the treatment.
- 187 (c) The person or patient or his or her authorized representative may
- 188 withdraw any consent given under the provisions of this section at any
- time in a writing addressed to the [person] <u>individual</u> or office in which
- 190 the original consent was filed. Withdrawal of consent shall not affect
- 191 [communications or records] <u>a communication or record thereof</u>
- disclosed prior to notice of the withdrawal.
- 193 Sec. 7. Section 52-146f of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 194 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 195 Consent of the <u>person or</u> patient shall not be required for the
- 196 disclosure or transmission of [communications or records] a
- 197 <u>communication and record</u> of the <u>person or</u> patient in the following
- 198 situations: [as specifically limited:]
- (1) [Communications or records may be disclosed to other persons]
- 200 A psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider may (A) disclose a
- 201 <u>communication and record to any other individual</u> engaged in the
- 202 diagnosis or treatment of the person or patient, [or may be transmitted]
- 203 and (B) transmit the communication and record to another mental
- 204 health facility to which the person or patient is admitted for diagnosis
- or treatment if the psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider
- 206 [in possession of the communications or records] determines that the

disclosure or transmission is needed to accomplish the objectives of diagnosis or treatment of the person or patient. The psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider shall inform the person or patient informed] that the [communications or records] communication and record will be so disclosed or transmitted. For purposes of this subsection, [persons] an individual in professional training [are to] to become a psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider shall be considered as engaged in the diagnosis or treatment of the [patients] person or patient.

- (2) [Communications or records may be disclosed] A psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider may disclose a communication and record when the psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider determines that there is substantial risk of imminent physical injury by the person or patient to himself, herself or others or when a psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider, in the course of diagnosis or treatment of the person or patient, finds it necessary to disclose the [communications or records] communication and record for the purpose of placing the person or patient in a mental health facility, by certification, commitment or otherwise, provided the provisions of sections 52-146d to 52-146j, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall continue in effect after the person or patient is in the facility.
- (3) Except as provided in section 17b-225, a psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider may disclose the name, address and fees for [psychiatric] services provided by a psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider to a person or patient [may be disclosed to individuals or agencies] to any individual or agency involved in the collection of fees for such services. In cases where a dispute arises over the fees or claims or where additional information is needed to substantiate the fee or claim, the disclosure of further information shall be limited to the following: (A) That the [person] individual was in fact a person or patient of the psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider; (B) the diagnosis of the person or patient; (C) the dates and duration of treatment of the person or patient; and (D) a general

description of the treatment [, which] <u>provided to the person or patient</u>
that shall include evidence that a treatment plan exists and has been
carried out and evidence to substantiate the necessity for admission and
length of stay in a health care institution or facility. If further
information is required, the party seeking the information shall proceed
in the same manner provided for hospital patients in section 4-105.

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- (4) [Communications made to or records] A communication and record made by a psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider in the course of a psychological or psychiatric examination ordered by a court or made in connection with the application for the appointment of a conservator by the Probate Court for good cause shown may be disclosed at judicial or administrative proceedings in which the person or patient is a party, or in which the question of his or her incompetence because of mental illness is an issue, or in appropriate pretrial proceedings, provided (A) the court finds that the person or patient has been informed before making the [communications] communication to the psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider that any [communications will] communication made to the psychologist or psychiatric mental health provider shall not be confidential, and [provided the communications] (B) the communication and record shall be admissible only on issues involving the person's or patient's mental condition.
- (5) [Communications or records] A communication and record may be disclosed in a civil proceeding in which the <u>person or patient</u> introduces his <u>or her mental condition</u> as an element of his <u>or her claim</u> or defense, or, after the <u>person's or patient's death, when his or her condition is introduced by a party claiming or defending through or as a beneficiary of the <u>person or patient and the court or judge finds that it is more important to the interests of justice that the [communications] <u>communication and record</u> be disclosed than that the relationship between <u>person and psychologist or patient and psychiatric mental health provider be protected.</u></u></u>
- 272 (6) [Communications or records] A communication and record may

be disclosed to (A) the Commissioner of Public Health in connection with any inspection, investigation or examination of an institution, as defined in subsection (a) of section 19a-490, authorized under section 19a-498, or (B) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services in connection with any inspection, investigation or examination authorized under subsection (f) of section 17a-451.

- (7) [Communications or records] A communication and record may be disclosed to a member of the immediate family or legal representative of the victim of a homicide committed by the person or patient where such person or patient has, on or after July 1, 1989, been found not guilty of such offense by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13, provided (A) such family member or legal representative requests the disclosure of such [communications or records] communication and record not later than six years after such finding, and [provided further, such communications] (B) such communication and record shall only be available during the pendency of, and for use in, a civil action relating to such person or patient found not guilty pursuant to section 53a-13.
- (8) If a provider of behavioral health services that contracts with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services requests payment, the name and address of the person <u>or patient</u>, a general description of the types of services provided, and the amount requested shall be disclosed to the department, provided notification that such disclosure will be made [is] <u>shall be</u> sent, in writing, to the person <u>or patient</u> at the earliest opportunity prior to such disclosure. In cases where a dispute arises over the fees or claims, or where additional information is needed to substantiate the claim, the disclosure of further information shall be limited to additional information necessary to clarify only the following: (A) That the person [in fact] <u>or patient</u> received the behavioral health services in question, (B) the dates of such services, and (C) a general description of the types of services. Information the department receives pursuant to this subdivision shall be disclosed only to federal or state auditors and only as necessary for the purposes of auditing.

Sec. 8. Section 52-146g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

- (a) [A person] <u>An individual</u> engaged in research may have access to [psychiatric communications and records which identify patients] <u>a</u> communication and record that identifies a person or patient where needed for such research, if such [person's] <u>individual's</u> research plan is first submitted to and approved by the director of the mental health facility or [his] <u>such director's</u> designee.
 - (b) The [communications and records] <u>communication and record</u> shall not be removed from the mental health facility [which] <u>that</u> prepared them. Coded data or data [which] <u>that</u> does not identify a <u>person or</u> patient may be removed from a mental health facility, provided the key to the code shall remain on the premises of the facility.
 - (c) The mental health facility and the [person] <u>individual</u> doing the research shall be responsible for the preservation of the anonymity of [the patients] <u>each person or patient identified in such communication and record</u> and shall not disseminate data [which] <u>that</u> identifies a <u>person or patient except</u> as provided by sections 52-146d to 52-146j, inclusive, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 9. Section 52-146h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 327 (a) Any facility or individual under contract with the Department of 328 Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide behavioral health 329 services shall transmit [information and records] a communication and 330 record, if requested, to the Commissioner of Mental Health and 331 Addiction Services pursuant to [his] such facility's or individual's 332 obligation under section 17a-451 to maintain the overall responsibility 333 for the care and treatment of [persons] individuals with psychiatric disorders or substance use disorders. The Commissioner of Mental 334 335 Health and Addiction Services may collect and use the [information and 336 records] communication and record for administration, planning or

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research, subject to the provisions of section 52-146g, as amended by this act. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services may enter into contracts within the state and into interstate compacts for the efficient storage and retrieval of the [information and records] communication and record.

(b) Identifiable data shall be removed from [all information and records] <u>each communication and record</u> before issuance from the individual or facility [which] <u>that</u> prepared [them] <u>such communication and record</u>, and a code, the key to which shall remain in possession of the issuing facility and be otherwise available only to the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services for purposes of planning, administration or research, shall be the exclusive means of identifying <u>persons and patients</u>. The key to the code shall not be available to any data banks in which the information is stored or to any other [persons] <u>individuals</u>, corporations or agencies, private or governmental.

Sec. 10. Section 52-146i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

[All written communications or records] <u>Each communication and record</u> disclosed to another [person] <u>individual</u> or agency shall bear the following statement: "The confidentiality of this record is required under chapter 899 of the Connecticut general statutes. This material shall not be transmitted to anyone without written consent or other authorization as provided in the aforementioned statutes." A copy of the consent form specifying to whom and for what specific use the communication [or] <u>and</u> record is transmitted or a statement setting forth any other statutory authorization for transmittal and the limitations imposed thereon shall accompany such communication [or] <u>and</u> record. In cases where the disclosure is made orally, the [person] <u>individual</u> disclosing the [information] <u>communication and record</u> shall inform the recipient that such [information] <u>communication and record</u> is governed by the provisions of sections 52-146d to 52-146j, inclusive, as amended by this act.

369 Sec. 11. Section 52-146j of the general statutes is repealed and the 370 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

- (a) Any [person] individual aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 52-146d to [52-146j] 52-146i, inclusive, as amended by this act, may petition the superior court for the judicial district in which [he] such individual resides, or, in the case of a nonresident of the state, the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, for appropriate relief, including temporary and permanent injunctions, and the petition shall be privileged with respect to assignment for trial.
- 378 (b) Any [person] individual aggrieved by a violation of any provision 379 of sections 52-146d to [52-146j] 52-146i, inclusive, as amended by this act, 380 may prove a cause of action for civil damages.
- 381 Sec. 12. Section 17a-465b of the general statutes is repealed and the 382 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

383 A relative, guardian or conservator of a person who is receiving 384 inpatient services at a facility of the Department of Mental Health and 385 Addiction Services and is missing from such facility may request the 386 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services to file a missing 387 person report with the Department of Emergency Services and Public 388 Protection for purposes of receiving assistance in locating such person 389 under subsection (a) of section 29-1f. Notwithstanding the provisions of 390 [sections 52-146c and] section 52-146e, as amended by this act, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services may authorize 392 an employee of the department who is certified under the provisions of 393 sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, to file a missing person report with 394 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection under 395 subsection (a) of section 29-1f with respect to such person. Such report 396 shall disclose only the minimal amount of information concerning such 397 person as is necessary for purposes of the assistance provided under 398 subsection (a) of section 29-1f.

399 Sec. 13. Section 17a-590 of the general statutes is repealed and the

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

401 As one of the conditions of release, the board may require the 402 acquittee to report to any public or private mental health facility for 403 examination. Whenever medical, psychiatric or psychological treatment 404 is recommended, the board may order the acquittee, as a condition of 405 release, to cooperate with and accept treatment from the facility. The 406 facility to which the acquittee has been referred for examination shall 407 perform the examination and submit a written report of its findings to 408 the board. If the facility finds that treatment of the person is appropriate, 409 it shall include its recommendations for treatment in the report to the 410 board. Whenever treatment is provided by the facility, the facility shall 411 furnish reports to the board on a regular basis concerning the status of 412 the acquittee and the degree to which the acquittee is a danger to himself 413 or others. The board shall furnish copies of all such reports to the 414 acquittee, counsel for the acquittee and the state's attorney. Psychiatric 415 or psychological reports concerning the acquittee that are in the 416 possession of the board shall not be public records, as defined in section 417 1-200, except that information in such reports relied on by the board or 418 used as evidence concerning the discharge, conditional release, 419 temporary leave or confinement of the acquittee shall not be 420 confidential. The provisions of sections [52-146c] <u>52-146d</u> to 52-146j, 421 inclusive, as amended by this act, shall not apply to such reports for the 422 purposes of this section. The facility shall comply with any other 423 conditions of release prescribed by order of the board.

Sec. 14. Subsection (d) of section 17a-596 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):

(d) Any hearing by the board, including the taking of any testimony at such hearing, shall be open to the public. At any hearing before the board, the acquittee shall have all the rights given a party to a contested case under chapter 54. In addition to the rights enumerated in chapter 54, the acquittee shall have the right to appear at all proceedings before the board, except board deliberations, and to be represented by counsel,

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433 to consult with counsel prior to the hearing and, if indigent, to have 434 counsel provided, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 887, without 435 cost. At any hearing before the board, copies of documents and reports 436 considered by the board shall be available for examination by the 437 acquittee, counsel for the acquittee and the state's attorney. Psychiatric 438 or psychological reports concerning the acquittee that are in the 439 possession of the board shall not be public records, as defined in section 440 1-200, except that information in such reports relied on by the board or 441 used as evidence concerning the discharge, conditional release, 442 temporary leave or confinement of the acquittee shall not be 443 confidential. The provisions of sections [52-146c] 52-146d to 52-146j, 444 inclusive, as amended by this act, shall not apply to such reports for the 445 purposes of this section.

- Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 52-1460 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
- 449 (a) Except as provided in sections [52-146c] 52-146d to 52-146j, 450 inclusive, as amended by this act, sections 52-146p, 52-146q and 52-146s 451 [,] and subsection (b) of this section, in any civil action or any proceeding 452 preliminary thereto or in any probate, legislative or administrative 453 proceeding, a physician or surgeon, licensed pursuant to section 20-9, or other licensed health care provider, shall not disclose (1) any 454 455 communication made to him or her by, or any information obtained by 456 him or her from, a patient or the conservator or guardian of a patient 457 with respect to any actual or supposed physical or mental disease or 458 disorder, or (2) any information obtained by personal examination of a 459 patient, unless the patient or that patient's authorized representative 460 explicitly consents to such disclosure.
- Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 52-146w of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
- 464 (a) Except as provided in sections [52-146c] <u>52-146d</u> to 52-146k,

inclusive, as amended by this act, sections 52-1460, as amended by this act, 52-146p, 52-146q and 52-146s and subsection (b) of this section, in any civil action or any proceeding preliminary thereto or in any probate, legislative or administrative proceeding, no covered entity, as defined in 45 CFR 160.103, shall disclose (1) any communication made to such covered entity, or any information obtained by such covered entity from, a patient or the conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative of a patient relating to reproductive health care services, as defined in section 52-571m, that are permitted under the laws of this state, or (2) any information obtained by personal examination of a patient relating to reproductive health care services, as defined in section 52-571m, that are permitted under the laws of this state, unless the patient or that patient's conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative explicitly consents in writing to such disclosure. A covered entity shall inform the patient or the patient's conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative of the patient's right to withhold such written consent.

Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 52-146x of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):

(a) Except as provided in sections [52-146c] 52-146d to 52-146k, inclusive, as amended by this act, sections 52-146o, as amended by this act, 52-146p, 52-146q and 52-146s and subsection (b) of this section, in any civil action or any proceeding preliminary thereto or in any probate, legislative or administrative proceeding, no covered entity, as defined in 45 CFR 160.103, shall disclose (1) any communication made to such covered entity, or any information obtained by such covered entity from, a patient or the conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative of a patient relating to reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 52-571n, that are permitted under the laws of this state, or (2) any information obtained by personal examination of a patient relating to reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as defined

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in section 52-571n, that are permitted under the laws of this state, unless

- 499 the patient or that patient's conservator, guardian or other authorized
- legal representative explicitly consents in writing to such disclosure. A
- 501 covered entity shall inform the patient or the patient's conservator,
- 502 guardian or other authorized legal representative of the patient's right
- to withhold such written consent.
- Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 19a-17 of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,
- 506 2025):
- 507 (a) Each board or commission established under chapters 369 to 376,
- 508 inclusive, 378 to 381, inclusive, and 383 to 388, inclusive, and the
- 509 Department of Public Health with respect to professions under its
- 510 jurisdiction that have no board or commission may take any of the
- 511 following actions, singly or in combination, based on conduct that
- occurred prior or subsequent to the issuance of a permit or a license
- 513 upon finding the existence of good cause:
- 514 (1) Revoke a practitioner's license or permit;
- 515 (2) Suspend a practitioner's license or permit;
- 516 (3) Censure a practitioner or permittee;
- 517 (4) Issue a letter of reprimand to a practitioner or permittee;
- 518 (5) Restrict or otherwise limit practice to those areas prescribed by the
- 519 board, commission or department;
- 520 (6) Place a practitioner or permittee on probationary status and
- require the practitioner or permittee to:
- (A) Report regularly to such board, commission or department upon
- 523 the matters which are the basis of probation;
- 524 (B) Limit practice to those areas prescribed by such board,
- 525 commission or department; and

526 (C) Continue or renew professional education until a satisfactory 527 degree of skill has been attained in those areas which are the basis for 528 the probation;

- 529 (7) Assess a civil penalty of up to [ten] twenty-five thousand dollars;
- 530 (8) In those cases involving persons or entities licensed or certified 531 pursuant to sections 20-341d, 20-435, 20-436, 20-437, 20-438, 20-475 and 532 20-476, require that restitution be made to an injured property owner; 533 or
- 534 (9) Summarily take any action specified in this subsection against a 535 practitioner's license or permit upon receipt of proof that such 536 practitioner has been:
 - (A) Found guilty or convicted as a result of an act which constitutes a felony under (i) the laws of this state, (ii) federal law, or (iii) the laws of another jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a felony under the laws of this state, except for a practitioner who is a social worker under chapter 383b, an art therapist under chapter 383g, a dietitian-nutritionist under chapter 384b, an embalmer or funeral director under chapter 385, a barber under chapter 386, a hairdresser, cosmetician, esthetician, eyelash technician or nail technician under chapter 387; or
 - (B) Subject to disciplinary action similar to that specified in this subsection by a duly authorized professional agency of any state, the federal government, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory or a foreign jurisdiction. The applicable board or commission, or the department shall promptly notify the practitioner or permittee that his license or permit has been summarily acted upon pursuant to this subsection and shall institute formal proceedings for revocation within ninety days after such notification.
- Sec. 19. Section 19a-490r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1*, 2025):

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A health care employer shall maintain records [which] that detail incidents of workplace violence and include the specific area or department of [the] such employer's premises where the incident occurred. A health care employer shall report not later than [January 1, 2016, and February first annually [thereafter,] to the Department of Public Health the number of workplace violence incidents occurring on the employer's premises during the preceding calendar year and the specific area or department where such incidents occurred.

Sec. 20. Section 19a-903b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

A hospital, as defined in section 19a-490b, may designate any licensed health care provider and any certified ultrasound, [or] nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance imaging, polysomnographic technologist to perform the following oxygenrelated patient care activities in a hospital: (1) Connecting or disconnecting oxygen supply; (2) transporting a portable oxygen source; (3) connecting, disconnecting or adjusting the mask, tubes and other patient oxygen delivery apparatus; and (4) adjusting the rate or flow of oxygen consistent with a medical order. Such provider or technologist may perform such activities only to the extent permitted by hospital policies and procedures, including bylaws, rules and regulations applicable to the medical staff. A hospital shall document that each person designated to perform oxygen-related patient care activities has been properly trained, either through such person's professional education or through training provided by the hospital. In addition, a hospital shall require that such person satisfy annual competency testing. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a hospital from designating persons who are authorized to transport a patient with a portable oxygen source. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any type of ventilator, continuous positive airway pressure or bi-level positive airway pressure units or any other noninvasive positive pressure ventilation.

Sec. 21. Subsection (n) of section 19a-89e of the general statutes is

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589 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 590 1, 2025):

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- (n) [Not later than October 1, 2024, and biannually thereafter, a] Each hospital shall report biannually to the Department of Public Health, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, whether it has been in compliance, for the previous six months, with at least eighty per cent of the nurse staffing assignments as required by any component outlined in the nurse staffing plan developed pursuant to subsections (d) and (e) of this section. Each hospital shall submit such reports not later than January fifteenth for the most recent six-month period ending on January first, and not later than July fifteenth for the most recent six-month period ending on July first.
- 601 Sec. 22. Section 17a-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the 602 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (a) For the purposes of this section, "psychiatric clinic" (1) means an organization licensed by the Department of Children and Families and staffed by psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and such other professional, paraprofessional and clerical personnel as local circumstances may require, working in collaboration with other social service agencies, to provide mental health services that are designed to [(1)] (A) effectively decrease the prevalence and incidence of mental illness, emotional disturbance and social disfunctioning, and [(2)] (B) promote mental health in individuals, groups and institutions, and 612 [includes] (2) may include a general hospital with such clinic services. The Department of Children and Families shall develop and maintain a program of outpatient psychiatric clinics for children and youths and their families.
 - (b) For the purposes of this section, "child guidance clinic" means a subset of psychiatric clinics for children designated by the Department of Children and Families pursuant to this section to receive grant funds for the purpose of assisting the department to provide communitybased psychiatric services for children, youths and families. In order to

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meet such mandate, the department shall designate a subset of outpatient psychiatric clinics for children to be known as child guidance clinics. The department shall provide grants to such child guidance clinics in accordance with the provisions of this section. Any town having a population of not less than forty thousand, as most recently determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or any combination of towns with a combined population of not less than forty thousand as similarly determined, or any nonprofit corporation organized or existing for the purpose of establishing or maintaining a psychiatric clinic for children and youths or for children and youths and their families, or any clinic designated by the Department of Children and Families as of January 1, 1995, may apply to the Department of Children and Families for funds to be used to assist in establishing, maintaining or expanding a psychiatric clinic. The applications, and any grant of funds pursuant thereto, shall not be subject to the provisions of section 17a-476, except to the extent required by federal law. The department shall base any grant of funds on the services provided to children and youths under eighteen years of age and on the effectiveness of the services. No grant shall exceed two-thirds of the ordinary recurring operating expenses of the clinic, nor shall any grant be made to pay for any portion of capital expenditures for the clinic. No clinic in existence as of October 1, 1995, shall be eligible for grants of any funds under this section unless it has obtained a license within six months of the adoption of regulations under subsection (c) of this section. No clinic receiving funds under this section shall refuse services to any resident of this state solely because of his or her place of residence.

(c) The Department of Children and Families shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, defining the minimum requirements for outpatient psychiatric clinics for children to be eligible for licensure under this section in regard to (1) qualification and number of staff members, (2) clinic operation including but not limited to physical plant, governing body and recordkeeping, (3) effectiveness of services, and (4) populations targeted for priority access. The

655 regulations shall also govern the granting of the funds to assist in 656 establishing, maintaining and expanding psychiatric clinics. The 657 department shall, upon payment of a fee of three hundred dollars, issue 658 to any qualifying clinic a license that shall be in force for twenty-four 659 months from the date of issue and shall be renewable for additional 660 twenty-four-month periods, upon payment of a fee of three hundred 661 dollars for each such period, provided the clinic continues to meet 662 conditions satisfactory to the department. The department shall make 663 available to child guidance clinics forms to be used in making 664 application for available funds. Upon receipt of proper application, the 665 department shall grant the funds, provided the plans for financing, the 666 standards of operation and the effectiveness of services of the clinics are 667 approved by the department in accordance with the provisions of this 668 section. The grants shall be made on an annual basis.

- (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a hospital
 licensed by the Department of Public Health to obtain licensure from the
 Department of Children and Families to provide inpatient or outpatient
 mental health services to patients of any age.
- Sec. 23. Section 7-62b of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (g) as follows (*Effective from passage*):
- (NEW) (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the Commissioner of Public Health shall establish, not later than January 1, 2026, a process by which a person may request a short-form death certificate, for deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2021, that excludes the medical certification portion of the certificate for provision to persons or institutions that do not require knowledge of the cause of death of the decedent.
- Sec. 24. Subsection (f) of section 17a-210 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
- (f) Any person with intellectual disability, or the legal representative

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686 of such person, may object to (1) a proposed approval by the department 687 of a program for such person that includes the use of behavior-688 modifying medications or aversive procedures, or (2) a proposed 689 determination of the department that community placement is 690 inappropriate for such person placed under the direction of the 691 commissioner. The department shall provide written notice of any such 692 proposed approval or determination to the person, or to the legal 693 representative of such person, not less than ten days prior to making 694 such approval or determination. In the event of an objection to such 695 proposed approval or determination, the commissioner shall conduct a 696 hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, provided no 697 such hearing shall be required if the commissioner withdraws such 698 proposed approval or determination.

- Sec. 25. Subsection (f) of section 17a-227 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
- (f) Any person, firm or corporation who operates any facility contrary to the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both. Any person, firm or corporation who operates any facility contrary to the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars.
- Sec. 26. Subsection (b) of section 17b-59a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
- 711 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the 712 Commissioner of Health Strategy, shall (1) develop, throughout the 713 Departments of Developmental Services, Public Health, Correction, 714 Children and Families, Veterans Affairs and Mental Health and 715 Addiction Services, uniform management information, uniform 716 statistical information, uniform terminology for similar facilities [,] and 717 uniform electronic health information technology standards, (2) plan for

718 increased participation of the private sector in the delivery of human

- 719 services, and (3) provide direction and coordination to federally funded
- 720 programs in the human services agencies and recommend uniform
- 721 system improvements and reallocation of physical resources and
- 722 designation of a single responsibility across human services agencies
- 723 lines to facilitate shared services and eliminate duplication.
- Sec. 27. Subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 17b-342 of the
- 725 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 726 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 727 (2) To the extent permitted by federal law, the commissioner shall
- seek any federal waiver or amend the Medicaid state plan as necessary
- 729 to attempt to secure federal reimbursement for the costs of providing
- 730 coverage to persons determined to be presumptively eligible for
- 731 Medicaid coverage. The provisions of this subsection and any other
- provision of this section relating to the establishment of a presumptive
- 733 Medicaid eligibility system, including, but not limited to, such
- provisions located in subsections (c), (g) and (m) of this section, shall not
- be effective until the commissioner secures such federal reimbursement
- 736 through a federal waiver or Medicaid state plan amendment.
- 737 Sec. 28. Subdivision (3) of subsection (i) of section 17b-342 of the
- 738 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 739 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 740 (3) Any person who resides in affordable housing under the assisted
- 741 living demonstration project established pursuant to section 17b-347e,
- and whose income is at or below two hundred per cent of the federal
- 743 poverty level, shall not be required to contribute to the cost of care. Any
- 744 person who resides in affordable housing under the assisted living
- demonstration project established pursuant to section 17b-347e, and
- 746 whose income exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty
- The whose medic exceeds two nationed per cent of the reactar poverty
- level, shall contribute to the applied income amount determined in
- accordance with the methodology established by the Department of
- 749 Social Services for recipients of medical assistance. Any person whose

750 income exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level and

- 751 who does not contribute to the cost of care in accordance with this
- subdivision shall be ineligible to receive services under this subsection.
- 753 Notwithstanding any provision of sections 17b-60 and 17b-61, the
- department shall not be required to provide an administrative hearing
- 755 to a person found ineligible for services under this subsection because
- of a failure to contribute to the cost of care.
- 757 Sec. 29. Subsection (g) of section 17b-352 of the general statutes is
- 758 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 759 1, 2025):
- 760 (g) The Commissioner of Social Services shall not approve any
- 761 requests for beds in residential facilities for persons with intellectual
- 762 disability which are licensed pursuant to section 17a-227, as amended
- 763 by this act, and are certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid
- 764 [Program] program as intermediate care facilities for individuals with
- intellectual disabilities, except those beds necessary to implement the
- 766 residential placement goals of the Department of Developmental
- 767 Services which are within available appropriations.
- Sec. 30. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 17b-354 of the
- 769 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 770 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 771 (e) (1) A continuing care facility, as described in section 17b-520, (A)
- 772 shall arrange for a medical assessment to be conducted by an
- independent physician or an access agency approved by the Office of
- 774 Policy and Management and the Department of Social Services as
- 775 meeting the requirements for such agency as defined by regulations
- adopted pursuant to subsection (m) of section 17b-342, prior to the
- admission of any resident to the nursing facility and shall document
- such assessment in the resident's medical file, and (B) may transfer or
- discharge a resident who has intentionally transferred assets in a sum
- 780 which will render the resident unable to pay the cost of nursing facility
- 781 care in accordance with the contract between the resident and the

- 782 facility.
- Sec. 31. Subsection (d) of section 19a-37 of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 785 1, 2025):

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- 786 (d) Prior to the sale, exchange, purchase, transfer or rental of real 787 property on which a private or semipublic well is located, the owner 788 shall provide the buyer or tenant notice that educational material 789 concerning private well testing is available on the Department of Public 790 Health Internet web site. If the prospective buyer or tenant has hired a 791 real estate licensee to facilitate the property transaction, such real estate 792 licensee, or, if the prospective buyer or tenant has not hired a real estate 793 licensee, the owner, landlord or closing attorney shall provide to the 794 buyer or tenant an electronic or hard copy of educational material 795 prepared by the Department of Public Health that recommends testing 796 for the contaminants listed in subsection (c) of this section and any other 797 recommendation concerning well testing that the Department of Public 798 Health deems necessary. Failure to provide such notice or educational 799 material shall not invalidate any sale, exchange, purchase, transfer or 800 rental of real property. If the seller or landlord provides such notice or 801 educational material in writing, the seller or landlord and any real estate 802 licensee shall be deemed to have fully satisfied any duty to notify the 803 buyer or tenant.
- Sec. 32. Subsection (c) of section 19a-563h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
 - (c) The [commissioner] <u>Commissioner of Public Health</u> shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 that set forth nursing home staffing level requirements to implement the provisions of this section. The [Commissioner of Public Health] <u>commissioner</u> may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations, provided notice of intent to adopt

814 regulations is published on the eRegulations System not later than

- 815 twenty days after the date of implementation. Policies and procedures
- 816 implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until the time final
- 817 regulations are adopted.
- Sec. 33. Subsection (e) of section 19a-564 of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 820 1, 2025):
- (e) An assisted living services agency shall: (1) Ensure that all services
- 822 being provided on an individual basis to clients are fully understood
- and agreed upon between either the client or the client's representative;
- 824 (2) ensure that the client or the client's representative [are] is made
- aware of the cost of any such services; (3) disclose fee increases to a
- resident or a resident's representative not later than sixty days prior to
- 827 such fees taking effect; and (4) provide, upon request, to a resident and
- a resident's representative the history of fee increases over the past three
- calendar years. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit an
- 830 assisted living services agency from immediately adjusting fees to the
- 831 extent such adjustments are directly related to a change in the level of
- 832 care or services necessary to meet individual resident safety needs at the
- 833 time of a scheduled resident care meeting or if a resident's change of
- 834 condition requires a change in services.
- Sec. 34. Subsection (a) of section 19a-754e of the general statutes is
- 836 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 837 1, 2025):
- 838 (a) The Commissioner of Health Strategy, in consultation with the
- 839 Office of Policy and Management, the Department of Social Services, the
- 840 Connecticut Insurance Department and the Connecticut Health
- 841 Insurance Exchange established pursuant to section 38a-1081, shall
- 842 study the feasibility of offering health care coverage for (1) income-
- 843 eligible children ages nine to eighteen, inclusive, regardless of
- immigration status, who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid, the
- 845 Children's Health Insurance Program, or an offer of affordable

[employer sponsored] employer-sponsored insurance as defined in the Affordable Care Act, as an employee or a dependent of an employee, and (2) adults with household income not exceeding two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level who do not otherwise qualify for medical assistance, an offer of affordable [,] employer-sponsored insurance as defined in the Affordable Care Act, as an employee or a dependent of an employee, or health care coverage through the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange due to household income.

- Sec. 35. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 19a-754g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- (C) (i) The commissioner shall hold at least one informational public hearing prior to adopting the health care cost growth benchmarks and primary care spending targets for each succeeding five-year period described in this subdivision. The commissioner may hold informational public hearings concerning any annual health care cost growth benchmark and primary care spending target set pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. Such informational public hearings shall be held at a time and place designated by the commissioner in a notice prominently posted by the commissioner on the office's Internet web site and in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall make available on the office's Internet web site a summary of any such informational public hearing and include the commissioner's recommendations, if any, to modify or not to modify any such annual benchmark or target.
- (ii) If the commissioner determines, after any informational public hearing held pursuant to this subparagraph, that a modification to any health care cost growth benchmark or annual primary care spending target is, in the commissioner's discretion, reasonably warranted, the commissioner may modify such benchmark or target.
- 877 (iii) The commissioner shall annually (I) review the current and

878 projected rate of inflation, and (II) include on the office's Internet web 879 site the commissioner's findings of such review, including the reasons 880 for making or not making a modification to any applicable health care 881 cost growth benchmark. If the commissioner determines that the rate of 882 inflation requires modification of any health care cost growth 883 benchmark adopted under this section, the commissioner may modify 884 such benchmark. In such event, the commissioner shall not be required 885 to hold an informational public hearing concerning such modified 886 health care cost growth benchmark.

- Sec. 36. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 19a-906 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 890 (2) "Facility fee" has the same meaning as <u>provided</u> in section 19a-891 508c.
- Sec. 37. Subsection (f) of section 19a-906 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
- (f) The provision of telehealth services and health records maintained and disclosed as part of a telehealth interaction shall comply with the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time.
- Sec. 38. Subsection (c) of section 20-123b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
- (c) The commissioner may renew such permit annually, provided (1) application for renewal is received by the commissioner not later than three months after the date of expiration of such permit, (2) payment of a renewal fee of two hundred dollars is received with such application, and (3) an on-site evaluation of the dentist's facility has been conducted in the preceding five years in consultation with [The] the Connecticut Society of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgeons by an individual or

909 individuals selected from a list of site evaluators approved by the

- 910 commissioner, provided such evaluation is conducted without cost to
- 911 the state on a schedule established in regulations adopted pursuant to
- 912 this section and the commissioner approves the results of each such
- 913 evaluation.
- 914 Sec. 39. Subsection (b) of section 20-195ttt of the general statutes is
- 915 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 916 1, 2025):
- 917 (b) There is established within the Office of Health Strategy a
- 918 Community Health Worker Advisory Body. Said body shall (1) advise
- 919 said office and the Department of Public Health on matters relating to
- 920 the educational and certification requirements for training programs for
- 921 community health workers, including the minimum number of hours
- 922 and internship requirements for certification of community health
- 923 workers, (2) conduct a continuous review of such educational and
- 924 certification programs, and (3) provide the department with a list of
- approved educational and certification programs for community health
- 926 workers. [;]
- 927 Sec. 40. Subdivision (11) of section 20-207 of the general statutes is
- 928 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 929 1, 2025):
- 930 (11) "Manager" means an individual who (A) is licensed as an
- embalmer or funeral director pursuant to this chapter, and (B) has direct
- and personal responsibility for the daily operation and management of
- 933 a funeral service business; and
- 934 Sec. 41. Subsection (a) of section 38a-498a of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 936 1, 2025):
- 937 (a) No individual health insurance policy providing coverage of the
- 938 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (6), (10), (11) and (12) of section
- 939 38a-469 [,] and delivered, issued for delivery or renewed in this state, on

or after January 1, 2025, shall direct or require an enrollee to obtain approval from the insurer or health care center prior to (1) calling a 9-1-1 local prehospital emergency medical service system whenever such enrollee is confronted with a life or limb threatening emergency, or (2) transporting such enrollee when medically necessary by ambulance to a hospital. For purposes of this section, a "life or limb threatening emergency" means any event which the enrollee believes threatens such enrollee's life or limb in such a manner that a need for immediate medical care is created to prevent death or serious impairment of health.

- 949 Sec. 42. Subsection (a) of section 38a-525a of the general statutes is 950 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 951 1, 2025):
 - (a) No group health insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (6), (10), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 [,] and delivered, issued for delivery or renewed in this state, on or after January 1, 2025, shall direct or require an enrollee to obtain approval from the insurer or health care center prior to (1) calling a 9-1-1 local prehospital emergency medical service system whenever such enrollee is confronted with a life or limb threatening emergency, or (2) transporting such enrollee when medically necessary by ambulance to a hospital. For purposes of this section, a "life or limb threatening emergency" means any event which the enrollee believes threatens such enrollee's life or limb in such a manner that a need for immediate medical care is created to prevent death or serious impairment of health.
 - Sec. 43. Subsection (f) of section 19a-59j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2025):
 - (f) All information obtained by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, for the infant mortality review program shall be confidential pursuant to section 19a-25, except the commissioner may disclose any information or data obtained for the infant mortality review program to the Child Advocate, if the commissioner deems such

972 <u>disclosure necessary for the Child Advocate to perform the duties set</u>

- 973 <u>forth in section 46a-13l. Any information or data disclosed to the Child</u>
- 974 Advocate shall be confidential in accordance with section 46a-13n, as
- 975 <u>amended by this act</u>.
- 976 Sec. 44. Subsection (a) of section 46a-13n of the general statutes is
- 977 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 978 1, 2025):
- 979 (a) The name, address and other personally identifiable information 980 of a person who makes a complaint to the Child Advocate as provided 981 in section 46a-13l, all information obtained or generated by the office in 982 the course of an investigation and all confidential records obtained by 983 the Child Advocate or a designee shall be confidential and shall not be 984 subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act or 985 otherwise, except that such information and records, other than 986 confidential information concerning a pending law enforcement 987 investigation or a pending prosecution, may be disclosed if the Child 988 Advocate determines that disclosure is (1) in the general public interest 989 or (2) necessary to enable the Child Advocate to perform his 990 responsibilities under subsection (a) of section 46a-13l. If the Child Advocate determines that disclosure of confidential information is not 991 992 in the public interest but is necessary to enable the Child Advocate to 993 perform responsibilities under subsection (a) of section 46a-13l, or to 994 identify, prevent or treat the abuse or neglect of a child, the Child 995 Advocate may disclose such information to the appropriate agency 996 responsible for the welfare of such child or the legal representative for 997 such child. The Child Advocate may disclose information or data 998 regarding fatalities of infants less than one year of age to the 999 Commissioner of Public Health if the Child Advocate determines such 1000 disclosure is necessary for the purposes of the infant mortality review 1001 program established pursuant to section 19a-59j, as amended by this act. 1002 Any information or data disclosed to the Commissioner of Public Health 1003 shall be confidential in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-25.

Sec. 45. Section 29 of public act 24-19 is repealed and the following is

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- (a) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall establish a working group to examine hospice services for pediatric patients across the state. The working group shall include, but need not be limited to, the following members:
- 1011 (1) At least one representative of each pediatric hospice association in the state;
- 1013 (2) One representative of each organization licensed as a hospice by 1014 the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b of the 1015 general statutes;
- 1016 (3) At least one representative of an association of hospitals in the state;
- 1018 (4) One representative each of two children's hospitals in the state;
- 1019 (5) One pediatric oncologist;
- 1020 (6) One pediatric intensivist;
- 1021 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health;
- 1024 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; and
- 1026 (9) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee.
- 1028 (b) [The] (1) On and before March 1, 2025, the working group shall be responsible for the following:
- 1030 [(1)] (A) Reviewing existing hospice services for pediatric patients

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- [(2)] (B) Making recommendations for appropriate levels of hospice services for pediatric patients across the state; and
- 1034 **[**(3)**]** (C) Evaluating payment and funding options for pediatric hospice care.
- 1036 (2) On and after March 1, 2025, and before July 1, 2026, the working 1037 group shall be responsible for developing recommendations for the 1038 establishment of a Children's Health, Advocacy, Management and 1039 Palliative Care program and, within such program, a Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Care Center of Excellence pilot program, as described in 1040 the working group's report submitted pursuant to subdivision (1) of 1041 1042 subsection (f) of this section, including, but not limited to, recommendations regarding (A) appropriations necessary to establish 1043 such program and pilot program, (B) requirements for the operation of 1044 1045 the pilot program, including, but not limited to, staff and facility 1046 requirements, (C) education and curriculum requirements for nurses 1047 participating in the pilot program or providing pediatric palliative or 1048 hospice care services, and (D) any licensing or certification requirements 1049 necessary for the operation of the pilot program or expanding the 1050 provision of pediatric palliative or hospice care services in the state.
 - (c) The cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than [sixty days after the effective date of this section] July 20, 2024.
 - (d) The members of the working group shall elect two chairpersons from among the members of the working group. Not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section, the chairpersons of the working group shall schedule a meeting of the working group to initiate work on the responsibilities described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

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1061 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

- (f) (1) Not later than March 1, 2025, the chairpersons of the working group shall 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 health concerning the findings of the working group.
- (2) Not later than March 1, 2026, the chairpersons of the working group shall 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 health concerning the recommendations developed pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.
- Sec. 46. Subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes is amended by adding subdivision (118) as follows (*Effective from passage*):
 - (NEW) (118) The Governor shall proclaim April nineteenth of each year as Connecticut Liver Health Day to raise awareness of issues surrounding liver health, including, but not limited to, metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis. Suitable exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the observance of the day.
 - Sec. 47. (Effective from passage) The Commissioner of Health Strategy shall conduct a study to (1) evaluate (A) options that allow a health care patient a granular choice in selecting what specific types of patient health information and medical records to share with the State-wide Health Information Exchange, including, but not limited to, the ability for a patient to choose to exclude patient health information and medical records associated with a particular health care provider from the State-wide Health Information Exchange, (B) the operational and financial implications of implementing any such option, and (C) an option that

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1093 allows health care providers to participate in the State-wide Health 1094 Information Exchange using only a business associate agreement 1095 entered into pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and 1096 Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time, 1097 as described in 45 CFR 164.502(e)(2), (2) examine current procedures 1098 relating to health care patients' ability to opt out of the State-wide Health 1099 Information Exchange and determine whether to enhance or improve 1100 such procedures by enhancing transparency and simplifying a patient's 1101 ability to opt out, and (3) summarize, using publicly available resources, 1102 the landscape of health data sharing in the state, protections relating to 1103 such data sharing and the benefits of provider access to patient health 1104 information. Not later than September 30, 2026, the commissioner shall 1105 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the 1106 general statutes, concerning the results of such study to the joint 1107 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of 1108 matters relating to public health.

- Sec. 48. Section 17b-59e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 1111 (a) For purposes of this section:

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- 1112 (1) "Health care provider" means any individual, corporation, facility 1113 or institution licensed by the state to provide health care services; and
- 1114 (2) "Electronic health record system" means a computer-based 1115 information system that is used to create, collect, store, manipulate, 1116 share, exchange or make available electronic health records for the 1117 purposes of the delivery of patient care.
 - (b) Not later than one year after commencement of the operation of the State-wide Health Information Exchange, each hospital licensed under chapter 368v and clinical laboratory licensed under section 19a-565 shall maintain an electronic health record system capable of connecting to and participating in the State-wide Health Information Exchange and shall apply to begin the process of connecting to, and

participating in, the State-wide Health Information Exchange.

1125 (c) Not later than two years after commencement of the operation of 1126 the State-wide Health Information Exchange, (1) each health care 1127 provider with an electronic health record system capable of connecting 1128 to, and participating in, the State-wide Health Information Exchange 1129 shall apply to begin the process of connecting to, and participating in, 1130 the State-wide Health Information Exchange, and (2) each health care 1131 provider without an electronic health record system capable of 1132 connecting to, and participating in, the State-wide Health Information 1133 Exchange shall be capable of sending and receiving secure messages 1134 that comply with the Direct Project specifications published by the 1135 federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information 1136 Technology. A health care provider shall not be required to connect with 1137 the State-wide Health Information Exchange if the provider (A) 1138 possesses no patient medical records, [or] (B) is an individual licensed 1139 by the state that exclusively practices as an employee of a covered entity, 1140 as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act 1141 of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time, and such covered 1142 entity is legally responsible for decisions regarding the safeguarding, 1143 release or exchange of health information and medical records, in which 1144 case such covered entity is responsible for compliance with the 1145 provisions of this section, or (C) is a health care provider who does not 1146 actively practice in the state.

- (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a health care provider to share patient information with the State-wide Health Information Exchange if (1) sharing such information is prohibited by state or federal privacy and security laws, or (2) affirmative consent from the patient is legally required and such consent has not been obtained.
- (e) No health care provider shall be liable for any private or public claim related directly to a data breach, ransomware or hacking experienced by the State-wide Health Information Exchange, provided a health care provider shall be liable for any failure to comply with

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applicable state and federal data privacy and security laws and regulations in sharing information with and connecting to the exchange. If the State-wide Health Information Exchange experiences a data breach, ransomware or hacking, the State-wide Health Information Exchange shall notify patients affected by and perform any mitigation necessitated by such data breach, ransomware or hacking on behalf of affected health care providers. Any health care provider that would violate any other law by sharing information with or connecting to the exchange shall not be required to share such information with or connect to the exchange.

- (f) The Commissioner of Health Strategy shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 that set forth requirements necessary to implement the provisions of this section. The commissioner may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided the commissioner holds a public hearing at least thirty days prior to implementing such policies and procedures and publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations on the Office of Health Strategy's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after implementing such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the time such regulations are effective.
- (g) Not later than eighteen months after the date of implementation of policies and procedures pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, each health care provider shall be connected to and actively participating in the State-wide Health Information Exchange. As used in this subsection, (1) "connection" includes, but is not limited to, onboarding with the exchange, and (2) "participation" means the active sharing of [medical records] designated record sets, as defined in 45 CFR 164.501, with the exchange in accordance with applicable law including, but not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time, and 42 CFR 2.

(h) The State-wide Health Information Exchange, and its vendor, shall not disclose protected health information in response to a subpoena unless such disclosure fully complies with applicable federal and state laws regarding release of medical records.

- Sec. 49. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to assess and provide recommendations regarding (1) regulatory requirements concerning sewage disposal, including, but not limited to, nitrogen discharge limits and their impact on the development of housing, public health and the environment, and (2) balancing the costs associated with the development of housing and a risk-based approach to protecting public health and the environment.
- (b) The working group may include, but need not be limited to, the Commissioners of Public Health, Energy and Environmental Protection and Housing, or said commissioners' designees, the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and the following members, who shall be appointed by such chairpersons and ranking members:
- 1208 (1) A representative of a residential construction trade association in the state;
- 1210 (2) A representative of an association representing municipal planners in the state;
- 1212 (3) A representative of a local health department or district 1213 department of health that includes an area with land in a coastal 1214 boundary, as described in section 22a-94 of the general statutes;
- (4) A representative of a local health department that includes an area upland of inland wetlands or inland watercourses regulated by a municipality pursuant to sections 22a-42 and 22a-42a of the general statutes;
- 1219 (5) A representative of a local health department with no land in a

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coastal boundary, as described in section 22-94a of the general statutes, or an upland review area;

- 1222 (6) A representative of an association representing septic system 1223 installers in the state;
- 1224 (7) A representative of an association representing professional 1225 engineers in the state;
- 1226 (8) An expert in coastal environmental science;
- 1227 (9) An expert in wetland and soil science;
- 1228 (10) An expert in environmental justice;
- 1229 (11) A residential building developer with experience in developing
- in an area with land in a coastal boundary, as described in section 22a-
- 1231 94 of the general statutes; and
- 1232 (12) A residential building developer with experience in developing
- in an area with no land in a coastal boundary, as described in section
- 1234 22a-94 of the general statutes.
- 1235 (c) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
- 1236 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
- 1237 relating to public health shall select the chairperson of the working
- 1238 group from among the members of the working group. Such
- 1239 chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the working group,
- which shall be held not later than June 30, 2025.
- 1241 (d) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
- 1242 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
- health shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.
- 1244 (e) Not later than February 1, 2026, the chairperson of the working
- group shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Public Health and
- 1246 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
- 1247 cognizance of matters relating to public health, the environment and

1248 housing regarding such assessment and recommendations.

Sec. 50. Subsection (g) of section 22a-430 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(g) The commissioner shall, by regulation adopted prior to October 1, 1977, establish and define categories of discharges that constitute household and small commercial subsurface sewage disposal systems for which the commissioner shall delegate to the Commissioner of Public Health the authority to issue permits or approvals and to hold public hearings in accordance with this section, on and after said date. Not later than July 1, [2025] 2026, but only after the working group has convened pursuant to section 1 of this act and consideration of the recommendations provided by such working group pursuant to said section, the commissioner shall post a notice of intent to amend such regulations on the eRegulations System to establish and define categories of discharges that constitute small community sewerage systems and household and small commercial subsurface sewage disposal systems. The Commissioner of Public Health shall, pursuant to section 19a-36, establish minimum requirements for small community sewerage systems and household and small commercial subsurface sewage disposal systems and procedures for the issuance of such permits or approvals by the local director of health or an environmental health specialist registered pursuant to chapter 395. As used in this subsection, small community sewerage systems and household and small commercial disposal systems shall include those subsurface sewage disposal systems with a capacity of ten thousand gallons per day or less. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes (1) the regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection that are in effect as of July 1, 2017, shall apply to household and small commercial subsurface sewage disposal systems with a capacity of seven thousand five hundred gallons per day or less, and (2) the regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection that are in effect [as of] on or after July 1, [2025] 2026, shall

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apply to small community sewerage systems, household systems and small commercial subsurface sewerage disposal systems with a capacity of ten thousand gallons per day or less. Any permit denied by the Commissioner of Public Health, or a director of health or registered environmental health specialist shall be subject to hearing and appeal in the manner provided in section 19a-229. Any permit granted by the Commissioner of Public Health, or a director of health or registered environmental health specialist on or after October 1, 1977, shall be deemed equivalent to a permit issued under subsection (b) of this section.

- Sec. 51. (Effective from passage) (a) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Education shall establish a mental and behavioral health awareness and treatment pilot program in priority school districts, as defined in section 10-266p of the general statutes. The program shall enable not less than one hundred thousand students in such districts to utilize an electronic mental and behavioral health awareness and treatment tool through an Internet web site, online service or mobile application, which tool shall be selected by the Commissioner of Education and provide each of the following:
- 1300 (1) Mental and behavioral health education resources to promote 1301 awareness and understanding of mental and behavioral health issues;
 - (2) Moderated peer-to-peer support services, screened by a moderator, to encourage social connection and mutual support among students; and
 - (3) Private online sessions with mental or behavioral health care providers licensed in the state who have demonstrated experience delivering mental or behavioral health care services to school districts serving both rural and urban student populations, provided such sessions comply with the provisions of section 19a-906 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, concerning telehealth and the provisions of section 19a-14c of the general statutes concerning the provision of outpatient mental health treatment to minors.

(c) (1) During its first year of operation, the pilot program shall have the following objectives: (A) To build partnerships between priority school districts and community organizations providing mental and behavioral health care services; and (B) to launch a digital marketing campaign to raise awareness and engagement among students concerning mental and behavioral health issues affecting students.

- (2) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the program's success in achieving such objectives to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and education.
- (d) (1) During its second year of operation, the pilot program shall have the following objectives: (A) To refer students to mental and behavioral health care providers, as needed; and (B) to enhance students' engagement with mental and behavioral health tools, including, but not limited to, coping strategies and clinician support.
- (2) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the program's success in achieving such objectives to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and education.

Sec. 52. Section 52-146c of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2025*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:				
Section 1	July 1, 2025	19a-411(b)		
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	19a-197a		
Sec. 3	July 1, 2025	20-73b(a)		
Sec. 4	October 1, 2025	New section		
Sec. 5	October 1, 2025	52-146d		
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	52-146e		

Sec. 7	October 1, 2025	52-146f
Sec. 7	October 1, 2025	52-146g
Sec. 9	October 1, 2025	52-146h
Sec. 10	October 1, 2025	52-146i
Sec. 11	October 1, 2025	52-146j
Sec. 12	October 1, 2025	17a-465b
Sec. 13	October 1, 2025	17a-590
Sec. 14	October 1, 2025	17a-596(d)
Sec. 15	October 1, 2025	52-146o(a)
Sec. 16	October 1, 2025	52-146w(a)
Sec. 17	October 1, 2025	52-146x(a)
Sec. 18	July 1, 2025	19a-17(a)
Sec. 19	October 1, 2025	19a-490r
Sec. 20	July 1, 2025	19a-903b
Sec. 21	October 1, 2025	19a-89e(n)
Sec. 22	from passage	17a-20
Sec. 23	from passage	7-62b(g)
Sec. 24	October 1, 2025	17a-210(f)
Sec. 25	October 1, 2025	17a-227(f)
Sec. 26	October 1, 2025	17b-59a(b)
Sec. 27	October 1, 2025	17b-342(e)(2)
Sec. 28	October 1, 2025	17b-342(i)(3)
Sec. 29	October 1, 2025	17b-352(g)
Sec. 30	October 1, 2025	17b-354(e)(1)
Sec. 31	October 1, 2025	19a-37(d)
Sec. 32	October 1, 2025	19a-563h(c)
Sec. 33	October 1, 2025	19a-564(e)
Sec. 34	October 1, 2025	19a-754e(a)
Sec. 35	October 1, 2025	19a-754g(b)(1)(C)
Sec. 36	October 1, 2025	19a-906(a)(2)
Sec. 37	October 1, 2025	19a-906(f)
Sec. 38	October 1, 2025	20-123b(c)
Sec. 39	October 1, 2025	20-195ttt(b)
Sec. 40	October 1, 2025	20-207(11)
Sec. 41	October 1, 2025	38a-498a(a)
Sec. 42	October 1, 2025	38a-525a(a)
Sec. 43	October 1, 2025	19a-59j(f)
Sec. 44	October 1, 2025	46a-13n(a)
Sec. 45	from passage	PA 24-19, Sec. 29
Sec. 46	from passage	10-29a(a)(118)

Sec. 47	from passage	New section
Sec. 48	October 1, 2025	17b-59e
Sec. 49	from passage	New section
Sec. 50	from passage	22a-430(g)
Sec. 51	from passage	New section
Sec. 52	October 1, 2025	Repealer section