



2025 Acts Affecting Environment

By: David Dickerson, Legislative Analyst II
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Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting the environment enacted during the 2025 regular legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Animals and Agriculture and Acts Affecting Energy and Utilities, are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) or special act (SA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden. Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the [General Assembly's website](#) or the Connecticut State Library.

Table of Contents

Boating.....	5
Mashapaug Lake Speed Limit	5
Reciprocal Suspension Penalties for Driving and Boating Under the Influence.....	5
Wyassup Lake Boating Season	5
Climate Resilience and Mitigation	5
Climate Resiliency Planning	5
Connecticut Clean Economy Council	6
Energy Costs, Weather Resilience, and GHG Emission Reduction Report	6
Environmentally Sustainable Purchasing by Municipalities Policy or Guideline	6
Fossil Fuel Heating Phase Out and State Building Energy Considerations.....	6
Greenhouse Gas Reduction	7
Housing and Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan and Grant Fund Revisions.....	7
JobsCT Tax Rebate Program Environmentally Sustainable Preferences	7
Nature-Based Solutions Initiative	8
Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program – Urban Agriculture	8
Renter Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Utilization Study	8
Residential Heat Pump Systems Plan	8
School Heat Pump Construction Grants.....	9
Solar Canopy Strategic Plan	9
DEEP Program Administration.....	9
Bait Dealer’s License Exemption for Restaurants	9
Beneficial Use Dredging Plan.....	9
Commercial Temporary Fishing License Changes.....	9
Declarations Made to Comply With Interstate Fishery Management Plans	10
DEEP Construction Projects	10
DEEP Endangered Species Act Environmental Reviews	10
DEEP Public Informational Hearings	10
EnCon Officer Study	11
Extension of DEEP General Permits	11
Inland Wetlands Agency Training.....	11
Inspecting Support Services for Offshore Wind Projects	11
PURA Separated From DEEP.....	12
Watershed-Level Compensatory Mitigation	12
Land Use.....	12
Brownfield Municipal Grant Program	12
Greyfield Revitalization Program.....	12
Local Consideration of Land Use Studies and Evaluations	13
Riparian Buffer Working Group.....	13
Targeted Brownfield Development Loan Program.....	13

Release-Based Cleanup and Remediations.....	13
Environmental Hazard Notification Law	13
Prevailing Wage for Certain DECD-Assisted Projects.....	14
Release-Based Cleanup Program and Regulations.....	14
Renewable Energy	15
Energy and Electric Rates.....	15
Nuclear By-Product Material Definitional Changes	15
Solar Panels on Condominiums and Planned Communities	15
Solar Photovoltaic Facility Emergency Preparedness Program	16
Solid Waste Management	16
Battery Stewardship Program Establishment	16
Bottle Bill Escheats Enforcement and Assistance Account	16
Bottle Bill Revisions	16
Elimination of the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-Up Program.....	17
Nonreplaceable, Nonremovable Battery Smoke Detector Ban	17
Sewage Treatment Systems.....	17
Subsurface Sewage System Regulations.....	18
Working Group on Sewage Disposal.....	18
Vegetation Management	18
Drone Use for Agriculture	18
Invasive Plants	18
Neonicotinoids	19
Water Resources.....	19
New Water Quality and Treatment Surcharge	19
Public Water Systems	19
Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program	19
Miscellaneous	20
Benefit Corporation Registration and Renewal Vouchers.....	20
E-Bikes on Trails.....	20
Hunting Regulations and Self-Defense	20
PFAS in Juvenile Products	20
Private Campground Owners' and Operators' Liabilities	21
Repeal of Defunct or Obsolete Programs.....	21
Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides	21
Sunday Hunting.....	21

Boating

Mashapaug Lake Speed Limit

A new act requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to adopt regulations by April 1, 2026, to set a 10 miles per hour speed limit for motorboats and personal watercrafts operated on Mashapaug Lake in Union ([PA 25-58](#), effective upon passage).

Reciprocal Suspension Penalties for Driving and Boating Under the Influence

A new law imposes reciprocal driver's license, boating certificate, and personal watercraft certificate suspension penalties for convictions of driving under the influence (DUI) and boating under the influence (BUI) and related administrative per se violations. Generally, the new law applies the credential suspension penalties for one offense to the equivalent offense in the other law (e.g., a second DUI offense also subjects a person to the certificate suspension that applies for a second BUI offense). For driver's license suspensions, a required period of ignition interlock device use applies as a condition of license restoration, regardless of whether the offense triggering the suspension was committed in a motor vehicle or a boat ([PA 25-159](#), §§ 12-21, effective October 1, 2025).

Wyassup Lake Boating Season

A new act sets the season for motorboating on Wyassup Lake in North Stonington. It requires, regardless of any other state statutes, that Wyassup Lake be open to operating motorboats from the Saturday before Memorial Day to September 15 ([PA 25-45](#), effective upon passage).

Climate Resilience and Mitigation

Climate Resiliency Planning

A new law addresses planning and preparing for certain hazards and threats from climate change. Among other things, it

1. expands the information that must be included in local, regional, and the state's plans of conservation and development to include strategies for responding to, and information related to, climate change effects (e.g., increased precipitation or extreme heat);
2. requires the state's civil preparedness plan and program to consider observed and projected climate trends;

3. requires the state water plan's next update to consider (a) the potential impact of climate change on water resource quality and (b) temperatures and precipitation information when identifying water quantities and qualities for various uses; and
4. requires DEEP to review and revise its water supply regulations and sewage disposal system permitting processes and related regulations, to include certain climate-related projections ([PA 25-33](#), §§ 11-20, most provisions effective July 1, 2025).

Connecticut Clean Economy Council

Legislation newly enacted this session establishes a statutory Connecticut Clean Economy Council (CCEC) to advise on strategies and policies to strengthen the state's climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs, particularly for vulnerable communities. Among other things, the act requires the CCEC to develop a plan to transition workers from fossil-fuel-based jobs to clean economy jobs, and biennially submit a report to the governor, the Office of Policy and Management, and various legislative committees on its work, findings, and recommendations ([PA 25-125](#), §§ 6 & 7, effective upon passage).

Energy Costs, Weather Resilience, and GHG Emission Reduction Report

Legislation passed this session requires DEEP, in consultation with the Office of Consumer Counsel, to report to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees by February 1, 2026, on lowering energy costs, increasing community extreme weather resilience, and contributing to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions ([PA 25-125](#), § 14, effective upon passage).

Environmentally Sustainable Purchasing by Municipalities Policy or Guideline

A new law requires Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to (1) create a model policy or guidelines for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities can use and (2) post it on DAS's website by January 1, 2026. The policy or guidelines must include a list of any state contracts for sustainable purchasing that allow for municipal participation ([PA 25-125](#), § 10, effective upon passage).

Fossil Fuel Heating Phase Out and State Building Energy Considerations

Legislation newly enacted this session requires DAS to develop a (1) process for considering certain energy-related aspects when deciding to repair or build state real assets under its authority and (2)

plan and budget to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and cooling systems to those that operate without carbon-emitting fuels ([PA 25-125](#), § 11, effective upon passage).

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

A new law establishes a series of progressive GHG reduction goals for state agencies, ultimately to be net-zero by 2050. The act allows state agencies to consider the social costs of GHG emissions (e.g., harms to human health, property damage, and the value of ecosystem services). By January 1, 2026, the DEEP commissioner must post guidelines regarding the social cost of GHG to the department's website.

The state's Global Warming Solutions Act sets mandatory GHG reduction targets for the state. This session, the legislature set new reduction targets (1) for 2040, by requiring emissions be reduced to at least 65% below 2001 emission levels, and (2) for 2050, by requiring the state to achieve economy-wide net zero emission levels, while reducing GHG levels by at least 80% below the 2001 levels.

DEEP must also (1) annually publish an inventory on GHG emission sources and carbon sequestrations, and (2) deliver their report on quantifiable GHG reductions a year earlier to the Energy and Technology, Environment, and Transportation committees ([PA 25-125](#), §§ 1-3, effective from passage).

Housing and Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan and Grant Fund Revisions

This year, the legislature passed a law that makes various changes to the existing Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan and Grant Fund and related program to, among other things, allow (1) the program to finance qualifying projects located anywhere, rather than just in targeted areas, and (2) DEEP to enter into contracts with electrical distribution and gas companies to administer the fund ([PA 25-125](#), § 15, effective upon passage).

JobsCT Tax Rebate Program Environmentally Sustainable Preferences

Legislation passed this session changes the established JobsCT rebate program to give the economic and community development (DECD) commissioner the ability to give preference to applications that (1) make significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices (e.g., zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency); (2) are in economic sectors such as renewable energy,

energy efficiency, and zero-emission vehicles; or (3) are for farming operations that are sustainable from a climate perspective ([PA 25-125](#), § 4, July 1, 2025).

Nature-Based Solutions Initiative

A new law requires DEEP to (1) evaluate how to integrate and advance nature-based solutions in specified programs to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem resilience, and biodiversity; (2) consider specified best practices as part of this evaluation; and (3) post the evaluation on its website by July 1, 2026, for review and written comment, hold a listening session for public comment, and give it to specified state agencies for their review and input ([PA 25-125](#), § 12, effective upon passage).

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program — Urban Agriculture

By law, Open Space and Watershed Acquisition (OSWA) generally gives state grants to municipalities, land trusts, and water companies to buy land to be preserved as open space in perpetuity. A new law broadens the purposes for which certain OSWA grants may be used to include repurposing open space land for urban agricultural use. Existing law also permits DEEP to award grants to certain municipalities and land trusts to restore or protect open space land they already own ([PA 25-125](#), § 16, effective upon passage).

Renter Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Utilization Study

New legislation requires DEEP to study renters' use of certain state energy efficiency and clean energy programs for which it can obtain data, including any barriers renters experience in accessing any of the programs, and report its findings and recommendations to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees by July 1, 2026 ([PA 25-125](#), § 17, effective upon passage).

Residential Heat Pump Systems Plan

The legislature passed a new law that requires the DEEP commissioner to develop a plan for installing efficient heat pumps for affordable heating and cooling systems in the state. The plan must (1) provide for making affordable heat pump options available and (2) describe how the state could best use any available or future grant or loan funding. By January 1, 2027, the DEEP commissioner must report to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees on the plan's status and any recommendations for expanding or revising the plan ([PA 25-125](#), § 9, October 1, 2025).

School Heat Pump Construction Grants

A new law adds air source and ground source heat pump purchase and installation to the list of school construction project grant applications that the DAS commissioner can approve at any time without putting them on an annual school construction priority list for the legislature's approval. The commissioner may already approve applications for grants to do things like remedy code violations and fire damage; replace roofs; fix a certified school indoor air quality emergency; or purchase or install solar panels, wind generation systems, and windows ([PA 25-125](#), § 8, July 1, 2025).

Solar Canopy Strategic Plan

A new law requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) chairperson, by January 15, 2027, to submit a report to the Energy and Technology Committee on the results of a study to develop a solar canopy strategic plan and program design. The plan must (1) identify opportunities for solar canopies in the state and examine methods to promote them; (2) prioritize their development in environmental justice communities; and (3) recommend policies, programs and regulations that would promote their construction according to greenhouse gas reduction goals ([PA 25-125](#), § 13, effective upon passage).

DEEP Program Administration

Bait Dealer's License Exemption for Restaurants

A new law exempts a person who operates a food service establishment regulated under the public health code from needing to obtain a bait dealer's license from DEEP if the person purchases bait species to prepare as food for human consumption and not for resale for any other purpose. By law, "bait species" is all species of fish, frogs, crustaceans, and insects listed as bait in DEEP's regulations ([PA 25-14](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2025).

Beneficial Use Dredging Plan

Legislation passed this session requires DEEP to create a plan for beneficial use dredging (i.e. sediment that could be used beneficially, such as habitat restoration and creation, beach nourishment, and mine reclamation) ([SA 25-17](#), effective upon passage).

Commercial Temporary Fishing License Changes

Existing law allows the DEEP commissioner to temporarily reissue certain commercial fishing licenses (i.e. principal or general commercial fishing licenses and commercial lobster pot fishing licenses) under certain medical emergencies. Legislation passed this session requires the licensee to submit a written request for reissuance and include a medical note from the treating practitioner.

The legislation also limits the length of the temporary license to one year, with the opportunity to extend if the emergency continues (under prior law, the temporary license continued for the duration of the emergency) ([PA 25-170](#), § 4, effective upon passage).

Declarations Made to Comply With Interstate Fishery Management Plans

Existing DEEP regulations authorize the commissioner to issue declarations setting or adjusting closed seasons and length, creel, and trip limits to comply with interstate fishery management plans adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or U.S. Department of Commerce. A new law requires that declarations remain in effect until new ones are made, or the regulation is amended (current DEEP regulations limit these declarations to 120 or 240 days) ([PA 25-170](#), § 5, effective upon passage).

DEEP Construction Projects

A new law expands the list of real assets under DEEP's control that it may independently, or with the DAS commissioner's approval, construct, or repair. Under prior law, the DEEP commissioner could alter, repair, or add to any real estate asset she controlled and managed involving expenditure of (1) up to \$500,000, or (2) between \$500,000 and \$1 million with the DAS commissioner's prior approval. The new law increases these thresholds to \$1 million and between \$1 million and \$3 million respectively and requires the thresholds to be adjusted by DAS for inflation beginning July 1, 2028 ([PA 25-170](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

DEEP Endangered Species Act Environmental Reviews

A new act requires DEEP to prepare a report evaluating potential improvements to its Endangered Species Act environmental reviews (e.g., recommendations for improvement of review processing and assessments of other states' similar programs). DEEP must submit the report to the Environment Committee and post the report on its website by February 1, 2026. By law, these reviews are determinations of whether state agency actions threaten the existence of any protected species or result in the destruction or degradation of its habitat ([PA 25-84](#), § 3, effective upon passage).

DEEP Public Informational Hearings

This session, a new law changes the procedural process for petitioned hearings on DEEP licenses. The law generally requires public informational hearings that are not subject to the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) unless a petition meets certain requirements (i.e. it demonstrates someone's rights may be affected by the decision on the license). The act also

generally aligns the requirements for public hearing petitions for certain transportation capital projects with the changes the act establishes for hearings subject to the UAPA ([PA 25-84](#), §§ 4-8, effective upon passage).

EnCon Officer Study

A new act requires DEEP to prepare a report by February 1, 2026, on its environmental conservation (EnCon) police officers. The report must look at (1) the number of officers appointed in the last four years; (2) service call statistics; (3) statistics on EnCon officer enforcement of statutes and regulations; and (4) benchmarking this information to comparable states ([SA 25-23](#), effective upon passage).

Extension of DEEP General Permits

This session, a new law was passed that authorizes DEEP to extend a general permit's expiration date until a new permit is issued, or until DEEP declines to issue a new permit. In doing so, the act eliminates the prior requirement that a general permit automatically expires if the commissioner makes no decision on it within one year ([PA 25-84](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2025).

Inland Wetlands Agency Training

This session the legislature expanded the inland wetlands agency training requirement, requiring all inland wetlands agency members and staff (rather than only one person for each agency) to complete DEEP's training program, which DEEP must make available on its website. Beginning January 1, 2026, existing members and staff have one year to complete the training and new members and staff joining after that date must complete it within one year after being appointed, elected, or hired. Staff and agency members must generally retrain every four years ([PA 25-73](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2025).

Inspecting Support Services for Offshore Wind Projects

Existing law authorizes DEEP to solicit proposals for electricity from offshore wind providers and transmission providers. Selected bidders generally must agree to use their best efforts when hiring or contracting for support services (e.g., serving as a safety vessel in a construction zone) to use state commercial fishing licensees, which must go through an inspection before providing these services. A new law expands who may conduct these inspections to include inspectors accredited by the United States National Association of Marine Surveyors ([PA 25-173](#), § 48, effective October 1, 2025).

PURA Separated From DEEP

A new law changes the relationship between two energy-related agencies by placing PURA within DEEP for administrative purposes only. By law, among other things, an agency assigned to a state department for “administrative purposes only” exercises its regulatory authority without the approval or control of the state department in which it is located ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 49 & 53, effective October 1, 2025).

Watershed-Level Compensatory Mitigation

A new law authorizes the DEEP commissioner to require “watershed-level compensatory mitigation” as a condition of issuing certain permits and a specified water quality certification. The commissioner may only require these conditions if the applicant demonstrates it is not prudent to minimize the regulated activity’s impacts. For licenses and certificates within an area of public trust, the commissioner must determine that the applicant has demonstrated that their project will result in a substantial public benefit ([PA 25-84](#), § 2, effective July 1, 2025).

Land Use

Brownfield Municipal Grant Program

A new law makes several changes to the Brownfield Municipal Grant Program that gives grants to municipalities, Connecticut brownfield land banks, and economic development agencies for brownfield remediation or assessment projects. Among other things, the act increases the maximum grant award from \$4 million to \$6 million and allows for additional awards over that amount to related but distinct phases of a project (or project addresses) if separate applications are submitted. The act also allows, rather than requires, the DECD commissioner to give priority to grant applications for brownfields located in federally designated opportunity zones ([PA 25-174](#), § 68, effective July 1, 2025).

Greyfield Revitalization Program

New legislation allows the DECD commissioner to create a greyfield revitalization program, under which, generally, DECD, the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority, and the Capital Region Development Authority may use bond funds and available resources to provide up to \$50 million in grants or loans to facilitate the repurposing of greyfields. Under the act, a “greyfield” is any previously developed commercial retail or office property that (1) is economically nonviable in its current state and exhibits conditions that significantly complicate its redevelopment or reuse, as determined by the DECD commissioner, and (2) is not currently eligible for any brownfield remediation and development program ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 112 & 113, effective July 1, 2025).

Local Consideration of Land Use Studies and Evaluations

Under a new law, anyone submitting an environmental, health, traffic, or economic impact study or evaluation to a local legislative or land use body in connection with a pending land use application must include a statement disclosing certain information about it (e.g., certain conflict of interests and costs of certain studies or evaluations). The new law requires the decisionmaker to consider the disclosure or lack of one when assessing the study or evaluation's reliability ([PA 25-73](#), § 6, effective October 1, 2025).

Riparian Buffer Working Group

This session, the legislature established a legislative working group to identify where and how the protection of vegetated riparian buffers in the state can be incorporated into laws and regulations to improve the health and protect the resources of the state's watercourses. Riparian buffers are generally defined as areas next to wetlands or watercourses ([SA 25-12](#), effective upon passage).

Targeted Brownfield Development Loan Program

New legislation makes several changes to the Targeted Brownfield Development Loan Program, which generally gives loans for brownfield remediation projects to eligible property owners and potential purchasers. Changes include increasing the maximum loan a recipient may receive from \$4 million to \$6 million and allowing, rather than requiring, the DECD commissioner to give priority to loan applications for proposed projects in federally designated opportunity zones ([PA 25-174](#), § 69, effective July 1, 2025).

Release-Based Cleanup and Remediations

Environmental Hazard Notification Law

As part of the state's transition to a release-based approach to property remediation, the legislature enacted a new law that exempts releases that are subject to the release-based clean-up law from having to meet the environmental hazards notification law's requirements once the release-based cleanup regulations (RBCR) take effect.

The environmental hazards notification law requires property owners to notify DEEP when they become aware of significant environmental hazards that pose a potential health risk to exposed individuals or the environment. It also requires technical environmental professionals to notify their clients and the property owners if they find contamination while investigating or remediating pollution. Under the new law, releases at properties that are exempt from the release-based cleanup law continue to be subject to the environmental hazard notification law ([PA 25-6](#), effective October 1, 2025).

Prevailing Wage for Certain DECD-Assisted Projects

A new law limits the portion of certain DECD-assisted remediation projects that are subject to prevailing wage requirements. Specifically, for covered projects receiving DECD financial assistance for remediation, demolition, or pollution abatement in buildings, soil, or groundwater located at a project site, the act limits the portion of the project subject to these requirements to only the portion described in the financial assistance contract between the business or legal entity and DECD.

The new law also modifies the businesses and entities that are covered by this law by (1) explicitly including municipalities, regional councils of governments, state-certified brownfield land banks, and municipal and nonprofit economic development agencies receiving financial assistance from DECD and (2) exempting certain federally tax-exempt entities that accept at least \$1 million in DECD financial assistance for a covered project valued at \$10 million or less, unless it is a remediation, demolition, or pollution abatement project as described above.

This new law also requires contractors awarded contracts for these DECD prevailing wage projects to adjust wage and benefit contributions each July 1 during the contract to reflect changes in the prevailing wage ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 146 & 147, effective July 1, 2025).

Release-Based Cleanup Program and Regulations

This session, the legislature made various changes to laws regarding the remediation of hazardous waste to transition the state from its transfer-based approach to property remediation (the Transfer Act) to a release-based approach under recently adopted RBCRs. Among other things, a new law (1) replaces the state's voluntary remediation program with a similar "voluntary parcel-wide remediation program" incorporating the RBCRs' requirements and (2) makes the program effective on the date the RBCRs take effect (March 1, 2026) ([PA 25-6](#), effective upon passage, except the provision regarding certain exempt releases is effective October 1, 2025).

Additionally, among other things, another new law requires the existing working group established to advise the DEEP commissioner on developing RBCRs to continue meeting at least quarterly to evaluate the release-based cleanup program's implementation and efficacy and review and make recommendations on the laws and regulations related to release-based remediation ([PA 25-54](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

Renewable Energy

Energy and Electric Rates

A wide-ranging new law on electric rates and regulation includes provisions on (1) ratepayer-funded clean energy programs; (2) cost-containment measures for the electric vehicle charging program, including limits on eligibility for it; (3) a grant and loan program to support new thermal energy network projects (e.g., heating and cooling systems using geothermal sources); (4) establishing an electric active demand and gas demand pilot program to reduce demand and improve grid resiliency and reliability; (5) nuclear power generating facilities; (6) Class I energy sources; and (7) property taxes on solar voltaic systems (solar panels) ([PA 25-173](#), most provisions effective October 1, 2025).

For more information on these provisions, see OLR's [2025 Acts Affecting Energy and Utilities](#) report.

Nuclear By-Product Material Definitional Changes

Legislation passed this session expands the types of “by-product materials” subject to the state’s atomic energy laws to include certain materials made with fusion machines, to align with changes in federal law. Under prior law, “by-product material” included any material that was made radioactive with a particle accelerator for commercial, medical, or research uses. Under the new legislation, it also includes any material made radioactive with a fusion machine, regardless of use ([PA 25-170](#), §§ 2 & 3, effective upon passage).

Solar Panels on Condominiums and Planned Communities

A new law establishes a process through which owners of detached units in condominiums or planned communities (but not cooperatives) can apply with their associations to put solar panels on their units’ roofs. Under the new law, the association’s declaration and bylaws cannot unreasonably restrict panels on these homes. Unit owners whose applications are approved must agree to certain conditions and costs, like hiring a registered and insured contractor to install them, covering any resulting common expenses, and potentially removing them if a proposed buyer does not agree take over certain responsibilities.

Associations formed by January 1, 2026, may opt out of the law’s approval process and protections for solar panels if they do so by January 1, 2028. To opt out, 75% of the association’s board of directors must vote in favor of it ([PA 25-73](#), §§ 10 & 11, effective January 1, 2026).

Solar Photovoltaic Facility Emergency Preparedness Program

A new law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner to establish a solar photovoltaic facility emergency preparedness program, which must include (1) the development of a solar photovoltaic facility emergency response plan and (2) annual training of state and local emergency response personnel concerning emergency response. It also establishes an account to fund the program and specifies that it must contain any federal reimbursements or grants related to the preparedness program ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 273 & 274, effective October 1, 2025).

Solid Waste Management

Battery Stewardship Program Establishment

This session, the legislature required certain battery and battery-product producers to participate in a battery stewardship organization by January 1, 2027, or be prohibited from selling batteries or battery-containing products in the state. The new law also prohibits retailers from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or making available covered batteries or battery-containing products of non-participating producers by July 1, 2028. The legislation also requires batteries or battery-containing products to be marked with the identification mark of the battery's producer by January 1, 2028, and ensure that the batteries are marked with labels to ensure they are properly collected and recycled by January 1, 2030 ([PA 25-34](#), effective October 1, 2025).

Bottle Bill Escheats Enforcement and Assistance Account

A new law establishes the bottle bill escheats enforcement and assistance account, which must provide funding to the State Police to enforce the ban on illegal bottle redemptions and give reimbursement grants to certain taxpayers. It appropriates \$2 million to the account for these purposes. It also authorizes the attorney general to enforce these provisions ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 404 & 405, effective upon passage).

Bottle Bill Revisions

This session, the legislature made a number of changes to the bottle bill law. Among the changes, the new law:

1. requires redemption centers to be approved to operate by DEEP, and annually register with the agency, rather than just registering once;
2. establishes reporting requirements for centers that accept more than 2,500 containers from a person in one day;

3. generally prohibits anyone from redeeming more than 5,000 containers in any day;
4. generally prohibits redemption centers from removing containers from their premises prior to distributors removing them;
5. limits the number of containers a person may redeem at reverse vending machines or dealers per day;
6. prohibits dealers from collecting or charging a refund value for beverage containers that are not purchased in Connecticut; and
7. exempts THC-infused beverages and hard cider from the bottle bill's provisions ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 191-194, effective upon passage).

Elimination of the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-Up Program

The budget implementer act (1) eliminates the underground storage tank petroleum clean-up program; (2) cancels any pending applications; (3) transfers and credits all amounts appropriated and remaining for the program to the General Fund; and (4) decouples contaminated soil or groundwater remediation from program funding ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 151-158, effective upon passage).

Nonreplaceable, Nonremovable Battery Smoke Detector Ban

A new act generally bans the sale, offer of sale, and distribution of, smoke detectors that are only battery-powered, unless the batteries are nonreplaceable, nonremovable, and capable of lasting at least 10 years.

The ban starts on October 1, 2025, but people may sell smoke detectors banned under this act after then if they already possess them as of October 1, 2025, or placed an order for them before that date. Violators may be fined up to \$100 for the first violation, and up to \$500 for subsequent violations ([PA 25-123](#), effective upon passage).

Sewage Treatment Systems

A new law expands the Department of Public Health's (DPH) authority over alternative on-site sewage treatment systems to include those with a daily capacity of up to 10,000 gallons, instead of up to 5,000 gallons as under prior law. It requires the department to amend its regulations to establish and define discharge categories for these systems and set minimum requirements for them.

The act also authorizes the DPH commissioner to (1) implement policies and procedures while in the process of adopting regulations for alternative on-site and subsurface sewage systems under

its jurisdiction (certain small community sewerage systems and household and small commercial subsurface sewage disposal systems). Additionally, it allows the DPH commissioner to issue and update technical standards on the alternative systems and requires her to do this for subsurface sewage systems ([PA 25-96](#), §§ 17 & 18, effective July 1, 2025).

Subsurface Sewage System Regulations

[PA 23-207](#), § 27, transferred regulatory authority from DEEP to DPH over small community sewerage systems and household and small commercial subsurface sewage disposal systems with daily capacities of up to 10,000 gallons. Prior law required DEEP to amend its regulations by July 1, 2025, to effectuate the transfer. A new law instead requires the DEEP commissioner to post notice of her intent to amend these regulations on the eRegulations system by July 1, 2026, and only after the working group (see below) has convened. Before amending the regulations, she must consider the working group's recommendations ([PA 25-97](#), § 50, effective upon passage).

Working Group on Sewage Disposal

A new law establishes a working group to assess and make recommendations on (1) regulatory requirements for sewage disposal, including nitrogen discharge limits and their impact on housing development, public health, and the environment, and (2) balancing the costs of housing development and a risk-based approach to protecting public health and the environment. Under the new law, the working group chairperson must report on the group's assessment and recommendations by February 1, 2026, to the DPH commissioner and the Environment, Housing, and Public Health committees ([PA 25-97](#), § 49, effective upon passage).

Vegetation Management

Drone Use for Agriculture

A new act requires the DEEP commissioner, by March 1, 2026, to amend existing regulations on pesticide applications from aircraft to allow qualifying applicators to use unmanned aircraft (i.e. drones) to (1) plant seeds and (2) analyze, treat, and apply pesticides and fertilizers to crops. Under the act, this authority applies only to licensed commercial or private pesticide applicators who are Federal Aviation Administration-licensed to operate unmanned aircraft ([PA 25-152](#), § 7, effective upon passage).

Invasive Plants

A new act prohibits municipalities from adopting ordinances on the retail sale or purchase of invasive plants. It also adds, over a period of years, 10 plants to the list of invasive plants that cannot be imported, sold, or purchased in the state: (1) beginning on the act's passage, the star of Bethlehem; (2) as of October 1, 2028, the Glossy buckthorn, European buckthorn, reed canary

grass, winged euonymus, European privet, black locust, miscanthus, and Japanese barberry; and (3) as of October 1, 2030, the Norway maple ([PA 25-126](#), effective upon passage).

Neonicotinoids

A new act generally prohibits, beginning October 1, 2027, using a pesticide that has any neonicotinoid unless, upon receiving a request, the DEEP commissioner determines that there is no other effective control option. The act exempts from the ban any neonicotinoid that is (1) for use in, or application to, agriculture, seeds, ornamental shrubbery, or trees or (2) not labeled for plant use, like those for personal care products, pet care, veterinary purposes, or indoor or structural pest control. It authorizes the DEEP commissioner to assess a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 per violation to anyone who violates the ban ([PA 25-33](#), § 32, effective upon passage).

Water Resources

New Water Quality and Treatment Surcharge

A new law allows regulated water companies to recover, through a line item on customers' bills, their expenses for projects, such as infrastructure upgrades, that are necessary to meet certain state or federal drinking water regulations (e.g., on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), lead, or other contaminants). Before they may do so, PURA must approve the projects and the surcharge amount through a process, outside normal rate cases, the new law outlines. The water companies must notify customers when the surcharge is applied, through bill inserts or other direct communication, and comply with reporting and other requirements. The new law caps the surcharge (relative to the company's annual retail water revenues) and requires the amount be billed in at least 12-month increments ([PA 25-142](#), effective July 1, 2025).

Public Water Systems

A new law updates the statutory process for reviewing and approving new public water systems to reflect current practice, generally requiring DPH to adopt regulations with requirements for (1) an application and approval process; (2) location restrictions and construction; (3) water quality testing, monitoring, and treatment; and (4) related inspections ([PA 25-96](#), § 19, effective upon passage).

Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program

A new law codifies and provides additional funding for the Connecticut Port Authority's (CPA) Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program, which provides grants for improvements (e.g., dredging) at harbors in the state that are not under CPA's authority. The new law funds the program with an

existing \$20 million general obligation bond authorization and subjects the bonds to the standard State Bond Commission approval process ([PA 25-65](#), §§ 32-34, effective July 1, 2025).

Miscellaneous

Benefit Corporation Registration and Renewal Vouchers

This session, the legislature passed a law that requires the secretary of the state to give benefit corporations (b-corps) vouchers for their registration and renewal fees. To receive a voucher, the b-corp must (1) give the secretary evidence that it meets state law’s requirements for a b-corp or (2) be certified by an entity the secretary recognizes for the certification process. B-corps are generally required to create a public good, which means that they must have a material, positive impact on both society and the environment ([PA 25-125](#), § 5, effective upon passage).

E-Bikes on Trails

A new law broadly permits using class 1 e-bikes on bicycle or multi-use trails unless they are prohibited by local ordinance. Under prior law, class 1 and 2 e-bikes were prohibited on trails designated for nonmotorized traffic with a natural tread, unless permitted by ordinance. Under the new law, this restriction applies to class 2 e-bikes only. As under existing law, class 3 e-bikes are not permitted on any bicycle or multi-use trails or paths ([PA 25-159](#), § 37, effective October 1, 2025).

Hunting Regulations and Self-Defense

By law, the DEEP commissioner may adopt regulations and issue orders on various hunting-related prohibitions and restrictions. For example, these regulations and orders may prohibit discharging firearms and other hunting devices within specified distances of buildings and, when within this distance, discharging them towards people, buildings, and livestock. A new law specifically prohibits the regulations or orders from prohibiting or being construed to prohibit intentionally discharging a firearm for lawful self-defense or defending another person ([PA 25-43](#), § 8, effective October 1, 2025).

PFAS in Juvenile Products

A new act renames a “children’s product” as a “juvenile product” under the state’s law regulating the sale and use of certain products containing PFAS. The law generally defines these products as those designed or marketed for use by an infant or child under age 12 but excludes adult mattresses and electronic devices and related equipment (e.g., a computer, wireless phone, game console, mouse, keyboard, or power cord). Beginning July 1, 2026, the law allows the manufacture, sale, or offer or distribution for sale of certain categories of new products (including the renamed

children's products) with intentionally added PFAS only if the manufacturer labels them and gives prior written notice to DEEP. Without the label and notice, their manufacture, sale, or offer or distribution for sale is banned ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 144 & 145, effective upon passage).

Private Campground Owners' and Operators' Liabilities

A new law (1) limits the liability of certain private campground owners and operators by requiring that each camper assume the risk for any injury to their person from the hazards inherent in camping and (2) requires any written contract between the parties to contain a warning notice about such assumption of risk. The new law specifies that the campground owner's or operator's liability is not limited in cases involving negligence, intentional injury, failure to follow a prudent person's standard of care, or failure to post warning signs of any dangerous conditions ([PA 25-74](#), effective October 1, 2025).

Repeal of Defunct or Obsolete Programs

A new law eliminates certain defunct programs and obsolete statutes, including:

1. the Face of Connecticut account and Face of Connecticut Steering Committee;
2. the municipal solid waste recycling program;
3. the Lobster Restoration Advisory Committee;
4. the Nature Area Preserves Advisory Committee; and
5. a statute concerning a shellfish recovery vessel no longer owned by the Department of Agriculture ([PA 25-170](#), §§ 6-14, effective upon passage).

Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides

A new act requires DEEP, by January 1, 2026, to classify all second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides as restricted use pesticides. By law, this classification requires pesticides to be applied only by, or under the direct supervision of, a certified applicator or subject to other restrictions the commissioner imposes through regulations ([PA 25-33](#), § 31, effective upon passage).

Sunday Hunting

Under a new act, the legislature expanded the ability to hunt on Sunday in Connecticut. Among other things, the act generally allows Sunday hunting on private land with any approved hunting implements, except hunting migratory birds on Sunday remains prohibited. A hunter must get and carry written permission from the private property owner to hunt there on Sunday. The act also specifically prohibits Sunday hunting within 40 yards of a blazed trail that is open to the public,

including Connecticut blue blazed trails and federally designated and regulated trails ([PA 25-138](#), effective October 1, 2025).

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