



Substitute Senate Bill No. 296

Public Act No. 26-82

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION WITH RESPECT TO THE CONNECTICUT UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES ACT AND SPORTS WAGERING.

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

Section 1. Section 42-110d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of this chapter the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall have the power to order an investigation and examination to be made. In addition to other powers conferred upon the commissioner by this chapter, the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representatives may issue subpoenas to any person involved in any matter under investigation and examination, administer an oath or affirmation to any person, and conduct hearings in aid of any investigation or examination, provided none of the powers conferred by this chapter shall be used for the purpose of compelling any natural person to furnish testimony or evidence which might tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture.

(b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection or the commissioner's authorized representatives shall have the right to (1) enter any place or

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establishment within the state, at reasonable times, for the purpose of making an investigation; (2) check the invoices and records pertaining to costs and other transactions of commodities; (3) take samples of commodities for evidence upon tendering the market price therefor to the person having such commodity in such person's custody; (4) subpoena documentary material relating to such investigation; and (5) have access to, for the purpose of examination, documentary material and the right to copy and receive electronic copies of such documentary material of any person being investigated or proceeded against. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representatives shall have power to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all such documentary material relating to any matter under investigation.

(c) In addition to other powers conferred upon the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, the commissioner may execute in writing and cause to be served, through reasonable efforts to effectuate notice as set forth in section 21a-2, an investigative demand upon any person suspected of using, having used or about to use any method, act or practice declared by section 42-110b to be unlawful or upon any person from whom the commissioner wants assurance that section 42-110b has not, is not or will not be violated. Such investigative demand shall contain a description of the method, act or practice under investigation, provide a reasonable time for compliance, and require such person to furnish under oath or otherwise, as may be specified in said demand, a report in writing setting forth relevant facts or circumstances together with documentary material. Notwithstanding subsection (f) of this section, responses to investigative demands issued under this subsection may be withheld from public disclosure during the full pendency of the investigation.

(d) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in conformance with sections 4-176e to 4-185, inclusive, whenever the commissioner has

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reason to believe that any person has been engaged or is engaged in an alleged violation of any provision of this chapter, shall deliver to such person, in a manner that is sufficient to effectuate notice as set forth in section 21a-2, a complaint stating the charges and containing a notice of a hearing, to be held upon a day and at a place therein fixed at least fifteen days after the date of such complaint. The person so notified shall have the right to file a written answer to the complaint and charges therein stated and appear at the time and place so fixed for such hearing, in person or otherwise, with or without counsel, and submit testimony and be fully heard. Any person may make application, and upon good cause shown shall be allowed by the commissioner to intervene and appear in such proceeding by counsel or in person. The testimony in any such proceeding, including the testimony of any intervening person, shall be under oath and shall either be reduced to writing by the recording officer of the hearing or recorded in an audio or audiovisual format. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representatives shall have the power to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of any documentary material at such proceeding. If upon such hearing the commissioner is of the opinion that the method of competition or the act or practice in question is prohibited by this chapter, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall issue a final decision, which may include orders for such person to cease and desist from using such methods of competition or such act or practice. The commissioner may impose a civil penalty, in an amount not to exceed the amount set forth in subsection (b) of section 42-110o, after a hearing conducted pursuant to chapter 54, or, if the amount involved is less than [ten] twenty-five thousand dollars per consumer, an order directing restitution, or both. The commissioner may apply for the enforcement of any cease and desist order, civil penalty, order directing restitution or consent order issued or imposed under this chapter to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, or to any judge thereof if the same is not in session, for an order temporarily or permanently restraining and

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enjoining any person from continuing any violation of such cease and desist order, an order directing payment of any civil penalty or restitution or a consent order. Such application for a temporary restraining order, temporary and permanent injunction, order directing payment of any civil penalty or restitution and for such other appropriate decree or process shall be brought and the proceedings thereon conducted by the Attorney General.

(e) In addition to any injunction issued pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, the court may make such additional orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any moneys or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of any practices prohibited by this chapter, including the appointment of a receiver or the revocation of a license or certificate authorizing the person subject to the order or injunction to engage in business in this state, or both.

(f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection or the Attorney General or their employees shall disclose, in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, all records concerning the investigation of any alleged violation of any provision of this chapter, including, but not limited to, any complaint initiating an investigation and all records of the disposition or settlement of a complaint. For purposes of this section, "disposition" shall include the following action or nonaction with respect to any complaints or investigations: (1) No action taken because of (A) a lack of jurisdiction, (B) unsubstantiated allegations, or (C) a lack of sufficient information to draw a conclusion, as determined by the commissioner, after investigation; (2) referral to another state agency, or to a federal or local agency, or to law enforcement authorities; (3) an acceptance of an assurance of voluntary compliance in accordance with the provisions of section 42-110j; and (4) formal action taken, including the institution of administrative proceedings pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or

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court proceedings pursuant to section 42-110m, 42-110o or 42-110p. The commissioner may withhold such records from disclosure during the pendency of an investigation or examination held in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, but in no event shall the commissioner withhold any such records [longer than a period of eighteen months after the date on which the initial complaint was filed with the commissioner or] after the date on which the investigation or examination was [commenced, whichever is earlier] closed. Nothing herein shall be deemed to affect the rights of litigants, including parties to administrative proceedings, under the laws of discovery of this state.

Sec. 2. Section 12-863a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No person shall knowingly allow a person who is not of the legal age for participation in online casino gaming, online sports wagering and retail sports wagering to (1) open, maintain or use an account with an online gaming operator, or (2) make or attempt to make a wager on Internet games or with a sports wagering retailer.

(b) For purposes of this section, "online gaming operator", "Internet games" and "sports wagering retailer" have the same meanings as provided in section 12-850.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

Sec. 3. Section 53a-127d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A person is guilty of cheating when, in the course of playing or conducting any lawful gambling game, he or she: (1) Knowingly uses an altered or counterfeit chip, token, tile, pull tab, wagering slip or check or knowingly marks, loads or tampers with any cards or dice or

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substitutes for cards or dice provided by the operator of a lawfully operated game of chance any cards or dice that have been marked, loaded or tampered with; or (2) knowingly uses any device, instrument, article or substance with intent to cheat or defraud or to alter or affect the otherwise random results of any lawfully operated game of chance; or (3) intentionally places, increases or attempts to increase a winning wager or decreases or attempts to decrease a losing wager after that period of time during which the rules of a lawfully operated game of chance permit a wager to be placed or after the results of the game in which the wager has been placed become known; or (4) intentionally attempts to alter the result of a betting outcome of a sports wager to advantage himself, herself or another person, through the use of a promise or offer of any advantage or benefit made or given to another person, if either the wager or the attempt to alter the result occurred in this state; or (5) solicits or accepts any advantage or benefit or the promise or the offer thereof, for himself, herself or another person, with intent to alter the result of a betting outcome of a sports wager to advantage himself, herself or another person, if either the wager or the attempt to alter the result occurred in this state.

(b) Cheating is a class D felony, except that a violation of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section is a class B misdemeanor.

Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 12-861 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The Attorney General, at the request of the commissioner, is authorized to apply in the name of the state to the Superior Court for an order temporarily or permanently restraining and enjoining any person from violating any provision of sections 12-852 to 12-871, inclusive, and from offering, advertising or making available to any resident of this state any sports wagering service without a license required under this chapter and to seek such other or further relief as the court deems

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appropriate, provided the relief authorized under this subsection does not apply to conduct that would be protected by subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 42-110c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the commissioner's or the Attorney General's rights and remedies otherwise provided by law.