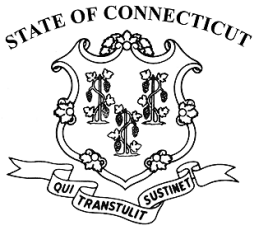

Substitute Senate Bill No. 475

Public Act No. 26-92

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS.

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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4b-52 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, no repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the state of one million dollars or less or, in the case of repairs, alterations or additions to a building rented or occupied by (A) the Judicial Branch, three million dollars or less, or (B) a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, three million dollars or less, shall be made to any state building or premises occupied by any state officer, department, institution, board, commission or council of the state government and no contract for any construction, repairs, alteration or addition shall be entered into without the prior approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, except repairs, alterations or additions to a building under the supervision and control of the Joint Committee on Legislative Management or the Military Department and repairs, alterations or additions to a building under the supervision of The University of Connecticut. Repairs, alterations or additions which are made pursuant to such approval of the Commissioner of Administrative

Services shall conform to all guidelines and procedures established by the Department of Administrative Services for agency-administered projects. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A) repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the state of five hundred thousand dollars or less may be made to any state building or premises under the supervision of **[**the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or**]** a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, under the terms of section 4b-11, and **[**any**]** (B) repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the state of three million or less may be made to any state building or premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator under the terms of section 4b-11. Any contract for any such construction, repairs or alteration pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection may be entered into by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a constituent unit of the state system of higher education without the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services.

Sec. 2. Section 4b-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall (1) be responsible for the administrative functions of construction and planning of all capital improvements undertaken by the state, except (A) highway and bridge construction, the construction and planning of capital improvements related to mass transit, marine and aviation transportation, (B) the Connecticut Marketing Authority, (C) planning and construction of capital improvements to the State Capitol building or the Legislative Office Building and related facilities by the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, (D) any project as defined in subdivision (16) of section 10a-109c, undertaken by The University of Connecticut, and (E) construction and planning of capital improvements related to the Judicial Department if such construction and planning pursuant to this subdivision do not **[**constitute a project

within the meaning of subdivision (6) of section 4b-55**]** involve an expenditure of more than three million dollars, including the preparation of preliminary plans, estimates of cost, development of designs, working plans and specifications, award of contracts and supervision and inspection. For the purposes of this subparagraph (E), the term "Judicial Department" does not include the courts of probate, the Division of Criminal Justice and the Public Defender Services Commission, except where such agencies share facilities in state-maintained courts; (2) select consultant firms in accordance with the provisions of sections 4b-56 to 4b-59, inclusive, to assist in the development of plans and specifications when in the commissioner's judgment such assistance is desirable; (3) render technical advice and service to all state agencies in the preparation and correlation of plans for necessary improvement of their physical plants; and (4) cooperate with those charged with fiscal programming and budget formulation in the development of a capital program and a capital budget for the state.

Sec. 3. Section 4-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 859 and except as provided in **[**subsection (b)**]** subsections (b) and (c) of this section, any unclaimed article of jewelry or any accumulation of such articles or valuables in the custody of the administrative head of any state institution shall be retained by such administrative head for a period of three years, during which period he shall make every reasonable effort to return each such article to its owner. At the end of said period such administrative head may sell or otherwise dispose of such article with the approval of the governing board of such institution. Any revenue derived from the sale of any such articles shall be credited to the "institutional general welfare fund" of the institution in which they were found and, if from any institution not having such a fund, shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund of the state.

(b) The Commissioner of Correction shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to set forth the manner in which the department shall sell or otherwise dispose of any unclaimed inmate property, clothing or jewelry after reasonable efforts have been made to return the same to the rightful owner. All proceeds from any such sale shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established by section 54-215.

(c) The Chief Court Administrator shall establish a procedure to set forth the manner in which the Judicial Branch shall sell or otherwise dispose of any unclaimed clothing, jewelry or other personal property of a detainee after reasonable efforts have been made to return such clothing, jewelry or personal property to the detainee. All proceeds from any such sale shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established by section 54-215.

Sec. 4. Subsection (h) of section 46b-15f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(h) For each year that funding is provided for the program under this section, the organization administering the program shall either conduct, or partner with an academic institution or other qualified entity for the purpose of conducting, an analysis of the impact of the program, including, but not limited to, (1) the procedural outcomes for applications filed in association with services provided by grant recipients under the program, (2) the types and extent of legal services provided to individuals served pursuant to the program, including on matters ancillary to the restraining order application, and (3) the number of cases where legal services were provided before an application was filed but legal representation did not continue during the restraining order process and the reasons for such limited representations. Not later than **[**July first**]** September thirtieth of the year following any year in which the program received funding, the

organization administering the program shall submit a report on the results of such analysis in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary. **[**Not later than December 1, 2023, the organization administering the program shall submit a report in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary on the potential state-wide expansion of the program. Such report shall include, but not be limited to: (A) Whether there are or could be a sufficient number of grant recipients to administer the program in each applicable courthouse in the state; (B) which, if any, courthouse in the state is not a feasible location for expansion of the program; and (C) the level of funding needed to fund a state-wide expansion of the program.**]**

Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 46b-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) Each such local family violence intervention unit shall: (1) Accept referrals of family violence cases from a judge or prosecutor, (2) prepare written or oral reports on each case for the court by the next court date to be presented at any time during the court session on that date, (3) provide or arrange for services to victims and offenders, (4) administer contracts to carry out such services, and (5) establish centralized reporting procedures. All information provided to a family relations counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor employed by the **[**Judicial Department**]** Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch in a local family violence intervention unit shall be used solely for the purposes of preparation of the report and the protective order forms for each case and recommendation of services and shall otherwise be confidential and retained in the files of such unit and not be subject to subpoena or other

court process for use in any other proceeding or for any other purpose, except that a family relations counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor employed by the **[**Judicial Department**]** Court Support Services Division:

(A) Shall disclose to the court and the prosecuting authority for appropriate action information that the victim has indicated that the defendant holds a permit to carry a pistol or revolver, possesses one or more firearms or possesses ammunition;

(B) Shall disclose to an employee of the Department of Children and Families: **[**information**]** (i) Information that indicates that a defendant poses a danger or threat to a child or a custodial parent of the child; and (ii) information about the progress and compliance with court-ordered intervention and services when there are open cases within both the family violence intervention unit and the Department of Children and Families, which information shall be used for the sole purpose of child protection services and shall not be used in any other court proceeding unless otherwise authorized by law;

(C) May disclose to another **[**family relations counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor information pursuant to guidelines adopted by the Chief Court Administrator**]** employee of the Court Support Services Division, as authorized by the executive director or designee of such division, all files and reports regarding the defendant for purposes of: (i) Determining whether to recommend pretrial release; (ii) preparing a presentence investigation report or a pre-dispositional study; (iii) determining the supervision, both pretrial and post-conviction, and service needs of a child or youth or any other person referred to such division; and (iv) monitoring and enforcing conditions of release or probation;

[(D) May disclose to a bail commissioner or an intake, assessment and referral specialist employed by the Judicial Department information

regarding a defendant who is on or is being considered for pretrial release;**]**

[(E)**]** (D) May disclose to a law enforcement agency information that indicates that a defendant poses a danger or threat to another person;

[(F) May disclose, after disposition of a family violence case, to a probation officer or a juvenile probation officer, for purposes of determining service needs and supervision levels, information regarding a defendant who has been convicted and sentenced to a period of probation in the family violence case;

(G) May disclose, after a conviction in a family violence case, to a probation officer for the purpose of preparing a presentence investigation report, any information regarding the defendant that has been provided to the family relations counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor in the case or in any other case that resulted in the conviction of the defendant;**]**

[(H)**]** (E) May disclose to any organization under contract with the Judicial Department to provide family violence programs and services, for the purpose of determining program and service needs, information regarding any defendant who is a client of such organization, provided no information that personally identifies the victim may be disclosed to such organization; and

[(I)**]** (F) Shall disclose such information as may be necessary to fulfill such counselor's, trainee's or supervisor's duty as a mandated reporter under section 17a-101a to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 46b-122 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) Any judge hearing a juvenile matter, in which a child is alleged to

be uncared for, neglected, abused or dependent or in which a child is the subject of a petition for termination of parental rights, may permit any person whom the court finds has a legitimate interest in the hearing or the work of the court to attend such hearing. Such person may include a party, foster parent, relative related to the child by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law, service provider or any person or representative of any agency, entity or association, including a representative of the news media. The court may, for the child's safety and protection and for good cause shown, prohibit any person or representative of any agency, entity or association, including a representative of the news media, who is present in court from further disclosing any information that would identify the child, the custodian or caretaker of the child or the members of the child's family involved in the hearing.

Sec. 7. Section 46b-129 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Any selectman, town manager, or town, city or borough welfare department, any probation officer, or the Commissioner of Social Services, the Commissioner of Children and Families or any child-caring institution or agency approved by the Commissioner of Children and Families, a child or such child's representative or attorney or a foster parent of a child, having information that a child or youth is neglected, uncared for or abused may file with the Superior Court that has venue over such matter a verified petition plainly stating such facts as bring the child or youth within the jurisdiction of the court as neglected, uncared for or abused within the meaning of section 46b-120, the name, date of birth, sex and residence of the child or youth, the name and residence of such child's parents or guardian, and praying for appropriate action by the court in conformity with the provisions of this chapter. Upon the filing of such a petition, except as otherwise provided in subsection (k) of section 17a-112, the court shall cause a summons to

be issued requiring the parent or parents or the guardian of the child or youth to appear in court at the time and place named, which summons shall be served not less than fourteen days before the date of the hearing in the manner prescribed by section 46b-128, and the court shall further give notice to the petitioner and to the Commissioner of Children and Families of the time and place when the petition is to be heard not less than fourteen days prior to the hearing in question.

(b) If it appears from the specific allegations of the petition and other verified affirmations of fact accompanying the petition and application, or subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to believe that (1) the child or youth is suffering from serious physical illness or serious physical injury or is in immediate physical danger from the child's or youth's surroundings, and (2) as a result of said conditions, the child's or youth's safety is endangered and immediate removal from such surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's or youth's safety, the court shall either (A) issue an order to the parents or other person having responsibility for the care of the child or youth to appear at such time as the court may designate to determine whether the court should vest the child's or youth's temporary care and custody in a person related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law or in some other person or suitable agency pending disposition of the petition, or (B) issue an order ex parte vesting the child's or youth's temporary care and custody in a person related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law or in some other person or suitable agency. A preliminary hearing on any ex parte custody order or order to appear issued by the court shall be held not later than ten days after the issuance of such order. The service of such orders may be made by any officer authorized by law to serve process, or by any probation officer appointed in accordance with section 46b-123, investigator from the Department of Administrative Services, state or local police officer or indifferent person. Such orders shall include a conspicuous notice to the respondent written in clear and simple

language containing at least the following information: (i) That the order contains allegations that conditions in the home have endangered the safety and welfare of the child or youth; (ii) that a hearing will be held on the date on the form; (iii) that the hearing is the opportunity to present the parents' position concerning the alleged facts; (iv) that an attorney will be appointed for parents who cannot afford an attorney; (v) that such parents may apply for a court-appointed attorney by going in person to the court address on the form and are advised to go as soon as possible in order for the attorney to prepare for the hearing; (vi) that such parents, or a person having responsibility for the care and custody of the child or youth, may request the Commissioner of Children and Families to investigate placing the child or youth with a person related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law who might serve as a licensed foster parent or temporary custodian for such child or youth. The commissioner shall investigate any relative or relatives proposed to serve as a licensed foster parent or temporary custodian for such child or youth prior to the preliminary hearing and provide a preliminary report to the court at such hearing as to such relative's or relatives' suitability and any potential barriers to licensing such relative or relatives as a foster parent or parents or granting temporary custody of such child or youth to such relative or relatives; and (vii) that if such parents have any questions concerning the case or appointment of counsel, any such parent is advised to go to the court or call the clerk's office at the court as soon as possible. Upon application for appointed counsel, the court shall promptly determine eligibility and, if the respondent is eligible, promptly appoint counsel. The expense for any temporary care and custody shall be paid by the town in which such child or youth is at the time residing, and such town shall be reimbursed for such expense by the town found liable for the child's or youth's support, except that where a state agency has filed a petition pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the agency shall pay such expense. The agency shall give primary consideration to placing the child or youth in the town where such child or youth resides.

The agency shall file in writing with the clerk of the court the reasons for placing the child or youth in a particular placement outside the town where the child or youth resides. Upon issuance of an ex parte order, the court shall provide to the commissioner and the parent or guardian specific steps necessary for each to take to address the ex parte order for the parent or guardian to retain or regain custody of the child or youth. Upon the issuance of such order, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such order, the court shall make a determination whether the Department of Children and Families made reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her parents or guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health and safety. Any person or agency in which the temporary care and custody of a child or youth is vested under this section shall have the following rights and duties regarding the child or youth: (I) The obligation of care and control; (II) the authority to make decisions regarding emergency medical, psychological, psychiatric or surgical treatment; and (III) such other rights and duties that the court having jurisdiction may order.

(c) The preliminary hearing on the order of temporary custody or order to appear or the first hearing on a petition filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be held in order for the court to:

(1) Advise the parent or guardian of the allegations contained in all petitions and applications that are the subject of the hearing and the parent's or guardian's right to counsel pursuant to subsection (b) of section 46b-135;

(2) Ensure that an attorney, and where appropriate, a separate guardian ad litem has been appointed to represent the child or youth in accordance with subsection (b) of section 51-296a and sections 46b-129a and 46b-136;

(3) Upon request, appoint an attorney to represent the respondent when the respondent is unable to afford representation, in accordance with subsection (b) of section 51-296a;

(4) Advise the parent or guardian of the right to a hearing on the petitions and applications, to be held not later than ten days after the date of the preliminary hearing if the hearing is pursuant to an order of temporary custody or an order to show cause;

(5) Accept a plea regarding the truth of the allegations;

(6) Make any interim orders, including visitation orders, that the court determines are in the best interests of the child or youth. The court, after a hearing pursuant to this subsection, shall order specific steps the commissioner and the parent or guardian shall take for the parent or guardian to regain or to retain custody of the child or youth;

(7) Take steps to determine the identity of the alleged genetic parent of the child or youth, including, if necessary, inquiring of the birth parent of the child or youth, under oath, as to the identity and address of any person who might be the genetic parent of the child or youth and ordering genetic testing, and order service of the petition and notice of the hearing date, if any, to be made upon such alleged genetic parent;

(8) If the person named as the alleged genetic parent appears and admits that such person is the genetic parent, provide such person and the birth parent with the notices that comply with section 17b-27 and provide them with the opportunity to sign an acknowledgment of parentage on forms **[**that comply with section 17b-27. Such documents shall be executed and filed in accordance with chapter 815y and a copy delivered to the clerk of the superior court for juvenile matters. The clerk of the superior court for juvenile matters shall send the original acknowledgment of parentage to the Department of Public Health for filing in the parentage registry maintained under section 19a-42a, and

shall maintain a copy of the acknowledgment of parentage in the court file**]** prescribed by the Department of Public Health;

(9) If the person named as an alleged genetic parent appears and denies that such person is the genetic parent of the child or youth, order genetic testing to determine parentage in accordance with the Connecticut Parentage Act. The clerk of the court shall send a certified copy of any judgment adjudicating parentage to the Department of Public Health for filing in the parentage registry maintained under section 19a-42a. If the results of the genetic tests indicate that the person named as the alleged genetic parent is not the genetic parent of the child or youth, the court shall enter a judgment that such person is not the genetic parent and the court shall remove such person from the case and afford such person no further standing in the case or in any subsequent proceeding regarding the child or youth;

(10) Identify any person or persons related to the child or youth by blood, marriage or law residing in this state who might serve as licensed foster parents or temporary custodians and order the Commissioner of Children and Families to investigate and report to the court, not later than thirty days after the preliminary hearing, the appropriateness of placing the child or youth with such relative or relatives; and

(11) In accordance with the provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children pursuant to section 17a-175, identify any person or persons related to the child or youth by blood, marriage or law residing out of state who might serve as licensed foster parents or temporary custodians, and order the Commissioner of Children and Families to investigate and determine, within a reasonable time, the appropriateness of placing the child or youth with such relative or relatives.

(d) (1) (A) If not later than thirty days after the preliminary hearing, or within a reasonable time when a relative resides out of state, the

Commissioner of Children and Families determines that there is not a suitable person related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law who can be licensed as a foster parent or serve as a temporary custodian, and the court has not granted temporary custody to a person related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law, any person related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law may file, not later than ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing, a motion to intervene for the limited purpose of moving for temporary custody of such child or youth. If a motion to intervene is timely filed, the court shall grant such motion except for good cause shown.

(B) Any person related to a child or youth may file a motion to intervene for purposes of seeking temporary custody of a child or youth more than ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing. The granting of such motion shall be solely in the court's discretion, except that such motion shall be granted absent good cause shown whenever the child's or youth's most recent placement has been disrupted or is about to be disrupted.

(C) A relative shall appear in person, with or without counsel, and shall not be entitled to court appointed counsel or the assignment of counsel by the office of Chief Public Defender, except as provided in section 46b-136.

(2) Upon the granting of intervenor status to such relative of the child or youth, the court shall issue an order directing the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct an assessment of such relative and to file a written report with the court not later than forty days after such order, unless such relative resides out of state, in which case the assessment shall be ordered and requested in accordance with the provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, pursuant to section 17a-175. The court may also request such relative to release such relative's medical records, including any psychiatric or

psychological records and may order such relative to submit to a physical or mental examination. The expenses incurred for such physical or mental examination shall be paid as costs of commitment are paid. Upon receipt of the assessment, the court shall schedule a hearing on such relative's motion for temporary custody not later than fifteen days after the receipt of the assessment. If the Commissioner of Children and Families, the child's or youth's attorney or guardian ad litem, or the parent or guardian objects to the vesting of temporary custody in such relative, the agency or person objecting at such hearing shall be required to prove by a fair preponderance of the evidence that granting temporary custody of the child or youth to such relative would not be in the best interests of such child or youth.

(3) If the court grants such relative temporary custody during the period of such temporary custody, such relative shall be subject to orders of the court, including, but not limited to, providing for the care and supervision of such child or youth and cooperating with the Commissioner of Children and Families in the implementation of treatment and permanency plans and services for such child or youth. The court may, on motion of any party or the court's own motion, after notice and a hearing, terminate such relative's intervenor status if such relative's participation in the case is no longer warranted or necessary.

(4) Any person related to a child or youth may file a motion to intervene for purposes of seeking guardianship of a child or youth more than ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing. The granting of such motion to intervene shall be solely in the court's discretion, except that such motion shall be granted absent good cause shown whenever the child's or youth's most recent placement has been disrupted or is about to be disrupted. The court may, in the court's discretion, order the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct an assessment of such relative granted intervenor status pursuant to this subdivision.

(5) Any relative granted intervenor status pursuant to this subsection shall not be entitled to court-appointed counsel or representation by Division of Public Defender Services assigned counsel, except as provided in section 46b-136.

(e) If any parent or guardian fails, after service of such order, to appear at the preliminary hearing, the court may enter or sustain an order of temporary custody.

(f) Upon request, or upon its own motion, the court shall schedule a hearing on the order for temporary custody or the order to appear to be held not later than ten days after the date of the preliminary hearing. Such hearing shall be held on consecutive days except for compelling circumstances or at the request of the parent or guardian.

(g) At a contested hearing on the order for temporary custody or order to appear, credible hearsay evidence regarding statements of the child or youth made to a mandated reporter or to a parent may be offered by the parties and admitted by the court upon a finding that the statement is reliable and trustworthy and that admission of such statement is reasonably necessary. A signed statement executed by a mandated reporter under oath may be admitted by the court without the need for the mandated reporter to appear and testify unless called by a respondent or the child, provided the statement: (1) Was provided at the preliminary hearing and promptly upon request to any counsel appearing after the preliminary hearing; (2) reasonably describes the qualifications of the reporter and the nature of his contact with the child; and (3) contains only the direct observations of the reporter, and statements made to the reporter that would be admissible if the reporter were to testify to them in court and any opinions reasonably based thereupon. If a respondent or the child gives notice at the preliminary hearing that he intends to cross-examine the reporter, the person filing the petition shall make the reporter available for such examination at the contested hearing.

(h) If any parent or guardian fails, after due notice of the hearing scheduled pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and without good cause, to appear at the scheduled date for a contested hearing on the order of temporary custody or order to appear, the court may enter or sustain an order of temporary custody.

(i) When a petition is filed in said court for the commitment of a child or youth, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall make a thorough investigation of the case and shall cause to be made a thorough physical and mental examination of the child or youth if requested by the court. The court after hearing may also order a thorough physical or mental examination, or both, of a parent or guardian whose competency or ability to care for a child or youth before the court is at issue. The expenses incurred in making such physical and mental examinations shall be paid as costs of commitment are paid.

(j) (1) For the purposes of this subsection and subsection (k) of this section, (A) "permanent legal guardianship" means a permanent guardianship, as defined in section 45a-604, (B) "caregiver" means (i) a fictive kin caregiver, as defined in section 17a-114, who is caring for a child, (ii) a relative caregiver, as defined in section 17a-126, who is caring for a child, or (iii) a person who is licensed or approved to provide foster care pursuant to section 17a-114, who is caring for a child, and (C) "trial home visit" means the temporary placement of a child or youth committed to the Commissioner of Children and Families in the home of such child's or youth's parent or guardian.

(2) Upon finding and adjudging that any child or youth is uncared for, neglected or abused the court may (A) commit such child or youth to the Commissioner of Children and Families, and such commitment shall remain in effect until further order of the court, except that such commitment may be revoked or parental rights terminated at any time by the court; (B) vest such child's or youth's legal guardianship in any private or public agency that is permitted by law to care for neglected,

uncared for or abused children or youths or with any other person or persons found to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the court, including, but not limited to, any relative of such child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law; (C) vest such child's or youth's permanent legal guardianship in any person or persons found to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the court, including, but not limited to, any relative of such child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law in accordance with the requirements set forth in subdivision (6) of this subsection; or (D) place the child or youth in the custody of the parent or guardian with protective supervision by the Commissioner of Children and Families subject to conditions established by the court. Upon issuing any order pursuant to this section, the court shall order specific steps that the parent must take to facilitate the return of the child or youth to the custody of such parent or to maintain the child or youth in the parent's custody while under an order of protective supervision.

(3) If the court approves a permanency plan filed with the court that recommends the reunification of the child or youth with such child's or youth's parent or guardian, the Commissioner of Children and Families may, with the agreement of all parties of record, authorize a trial home visit prior to the revocation of the order of commitment pertaining to such child or youth. The commissioner shall (A) provide the court and all parties of record written notice of the commissioner's intent to authorize any such trial home visit not later than fifteen days prior to such authorization; (B) create a trial home visit plan that shall be provided to all parties of record, and include, but need not be limited to, announced and unannounced visits to the home by the department and the provision of any services during such trial home visit that the commissioner determines are necessary to promote the child's or youth's well-being; and (C) file a motion for revocation of commitment not later than thirty days after the date such trial home visit commences, unless the commissioner removes the child or youth from the home

prior to that time pursuant to its responsibility and authority over children and youth committed to the care and custody of the commissioner. A trial home visit authorized under this section shall remain in effect until the commissioner removes such child or youth pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision or the court grants a motion for revocation of commitment filed pursuant to said subparagraph.

(4) If the court determines that the commitment should be revoked and the child's or youth's legal guardianship or permanent legal guardianship should vest in someone other than the respondent parent, parents or former guardian, or if parental rights are terminated at any time, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that an award of legal guardianship or permanent legal guardianship upon revocation to, or adoption upon termination of parental rights by, any caregiver or person or who is, pursuant to an order of the court, the temporary custodian of the child or youth at the time of the revocation or termination, shall be in the best interests of the child or youth and that such caregiver is a suitable and worthy person to assume legal guardianship or permanent legal guardianship upon revocation or to adopt such child or youth upon termination of parental rights. The presumption may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence that an award of legal guardianship or permanent legal guardianship to, or an adoption by, such caregiver would not be in the child's or youth's best interests and such caregiver is not a suitable and worthy person. **[**The court shall order specific steps that the parent must take to facilitate the return of the child or youth to the custody of such parent.**]**

(5) The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child or youth for the duration of the commitment, provided the child or youth has not reached the age of eighteen years, or until another guardian has been legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the care of such child or youth, such other public or private agency or individual

shall be the guardian of such child or youth until such child or youth has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child or youth in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical education and career school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, until such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one years or until another guardian has been legally appointed. The commissioner may place any child or youth so committed to the commissioner in a suitable foster home or in the home of a fictive kin caregiver, relative caregiver, or in a licensed child-caring institution or in the care and custody of any accredited, licensed or approved child-caring agency, within or without the state, provided a child shall not be placed outside the state except for good cause and unless the parent or guardian of such child are notified in advance of such placement and given an opportunity to be heard, or in a receiving home maintained and operated by the commissioner. When placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall provide written notification of the placement, including the name, address and other relevant contact information relating to the placement, to any attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to represent the child or youth pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The commissioner shall provide written notification to such attorney or guardian ad litem of any change in placement of such child or youth, including a hospitalization or respite placement, and if the child or youth absconds from care. The commissioner shall provide such written notification not later than ten business days prior to the date of change of placement in a nonemergency situation, or not later than two business days following the date of a change of placement in an emergency situation. In placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall, if possible, select a home, agency, institution or person of like religious faith to that of a parent of such child or youth, if such faith is known or may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided such home conforms to the standards of the commissioner and the commissioner shall, when placing siblings, if possible, place such children together. At least ten days prior to transferring a child or youth to a second or

subsequent placement, the commissioner shall give written notice to such child or youth and such child's or youth's attorney of said commissioner's intention to make such transfer, unless an emergency or risk to such child's or youth's well-being necessitates the immediate transfer of such child or youth and renders such notice impossible. Upon the issuance of an order committing the child or youth to the commissioner, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such order, the court shall determine whether the department made reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her parent or guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health and safety.

(6) (A) A youth who is committed to the commissioner pursuant to this subsection and has reached eighteen years of age may remain in the care of the commissioner, by consent of the youth and provided the youth has not reached the age of twenty-one years of age, if the youth is (i) enrolled in a full-time approved secondary education program or an approved program leading to an equivalent credential; (ii) enrolled full time in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education; or (iii) participating full time in a program or activity approved by said commissioner that is designed to promote or remove barriers to employment. The commissioner, in the commissioner's discretion, may waive the provision of full-time enrollment or participation based on compelling circumstances. Not more than one hundred twenty days after the youth's eighteenth birthday, the department shall file a motion in the superior court for juvenile matters that had jurisdiction over the youth's case prior to the youth's eighteenth birthday for a determination as to whether continuation in care is in the youth's best interest and, if so, whether there is an appropriate permanency plan. The court, in its discretion, may hold a hearing on said motion.

(B) Any youth who was committed to the commissioner pursuant to this subsection and, having declined to consent to remain in the care of the commissioner, left such care once such youth turned eighteen years of age, may request, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, not later than sixty days prior to the date such youth turns twenty-one years of age, to reenter into the care of the commissioner. Upon receipt of such request, the commissioner shall determine whether such youth meets the requirements described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. If the commissioner determines that such youth meets such requirements, the department may request that such youth enter into a written agreement governing the terms of his or her voluntary reentry into the care of the commissioner and permit such youth to reenter care. Not more than sixty days after the execution of such agreement, the commissioner shall file a motion in the superior court for juvenile matters that had jurisdiction over the youth's case prior to the youth's eighteenth birthday for a determination as to whether reentry into care is in the youth's best interest and, if so, whether there is an appropriate permanency plan. The court may hold a hearing on said motion.

(7) Prior to issuing an order for permanent legal guardianship, the court shall provide notice to each parent that the parent may not file a motion to terminate the permanent legal guardianship, or the court shall indicate on the record why such notice could not be provided, and the court shall find by clear and convincing evidence that the permanent legal guardianship is in the best interests of the child or youth and that the following have been proven by clear and convincing evidence:

(A) One of the statutory grounds for termination of parental rights exists, as set forth in subsection (j) of section 17a-112, or the parents have voluntarily consented to the establishment of the permanent legal guardianship;

(B) Adoption of the child or youth is not possible or appropriate;

(C) (i) If the child or youth is at least twelve years of age, such child or youth consents to the proposed permanent legal guardianship, or (ii) if the child is under twelve years of age, the proposed permanent legal guardian is: (I) A relative, (II) a caregiver, or (III) already serving as the permanent legal guardian of at least one of the child's siblings, if any;

(D) The child or youth has resided with the proposed permanent legal guardian for at least a year; and

(E) The proposed permanent legal guardian is (i) a suitable and worthy person, and (ii) committed to remaining the permanent legal guardian and assuming the right and responsibilities for the child or youth until the child or youth attains the age of majority.

(8) An order of permanent legal guardianship may be reopened and modified and the permanent legal guardian removed upon the filing of a motion with the court, provided it is proven by a fair preponderance of the evidence that the permanent legal guardian is no longer suitable and worthy. A parent may not file a motion to terminate a permanent legal guardianship. If, after a hearing, the court terminates a permanent legal guardianship, the court, in appointing a successor legal guardian or permanent legal guardian for the child or youth shall do so in accordance with this subsection.

(k) (1) (A) Nine months after placement of the child or youth in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement, or removal of a child or youth pursuant to section 17a-101g or an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, whichever is earlier, the commissioner shall file a motion for review of a permanency plan if the child or youth has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday. Nine months after a permanency plan has been approved by the court pursuant to this subsection or subdivision (5) of subsection (j) of this section, the commissioner shall file a motion for review of the permanency plan. Any party seeking to oppose the

commissioner's permanency plan, including a relative of a child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law who has intervened pursuant to subsection (d) of this section and is licensed as a foster parent for such child or youth or is vested with such child's or youth's temporary custody by order of the court, shall file a motion in opposition not later than thirty days after the filing of the commissioner's motion for review of the permanency plan, which motion shall include the reason therefor. A permanency hearing on any motion for review of the permanency plan shall be held not later than ninety days after the filing of such motion. The court shall hold evidentiary hearings in connection with any contested motion for review of the permanency plan and credible hearsay evidence regarding any party's compliance with specific steps ordered by the court shall be admissible at such evidentiary hearings. The commissioner shall have the burden of proving that the proposed permanency plan is in the best interests of the child or youth. After the initial permanency hearing, subsequent permanency hearings shall be held not less frequently than every twelve months while the child or youth remains in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families or, if the youth is over eighteen years of age, while the youth remains in voluntary placement with the department. The court shall provide notice to the child or youth, the parent or guardian of such child or youth, and any intervenor of the time and place of the court hearing on any such motion not less than fourteen days prior to such hearing.

(B) (i) If a child is at least twelve years of age, the child's permanency plan, and any revision to such plan, shall be developed in consultation with the child. In developing or revising such plan, the child may consult up to two individuals participating in the department's case plan regarding such child, neither of whom shall be the foster parent or caseworker of such child. One individual so selected by such child may be designated as the child's advisor for purposes of developing or revising the permanency plan. Regardless of the child's age, the

commissioner shall provide not less than five days' advance written notice of any permanency team meeting concerning the child's permanency plan to an attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to represent the child pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(ii) If a child is at least twelve years of age, the commissioner shall notify the parent or guardian, foster parent and child of any administrative case review regarding such child's commitment not less than five days prior to such review and shall make a reasonable effort to schedule such review at a time and location that allows the parent or guardian, foster parent and child to attend.

(iii) If a child is at least twelve years of age, such child shall, whenever possible, identify not more than three adults with whom such child has a significant relationship and who may serve as a permanency resource. The identity of such adults shall be recorded in the case plan of such child.

(2) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall approve a permanency plan that is in the best interests of the child or youth and takes into consideration the child's or youth's need for permanency. The child's or youth's health and safety shall be of paramount concern in formulating such plan. Such permanency plan may include the goal of (A) revocation of commitment and reunification of the child or youth with the parent or guardian, with or without protective supervision; (B) transfer of guardianship or permanent legal guardianship; (C) filing of termination of parental rights and adoption; or (D) for a child sixteen years of age or older, another planned permanent living arrangement ordered by the court, provided the Commissioner of Children and Families has documented a compelling reason why it would not be in the best interests of the child or youth for the permanency plan to include the goals in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this subdivision. Such other planned permanent living arrangement shall,

whenever possible, include an adult who has a significant relationship with the child, and who is willing to be a permanency resource, and may include, but not be limited to, placement of a youth in an independent living program or long term foster care with an identified foster parent.

(3) If the permanency plan for a child sixteen years of age or older includes the goal of another planned permanent living arrangement pursuant to subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 17a-111b, the department shall document for the court: (A) The manner and frequency of efforts made by the department to return the child home or to secure placement for the child with a fit and willing relative, legal guardian or adoptive parent; and (B) the steps the department has taken to ensure (i) the child's foster family home or child care institution is following a reasonable and prudent parent standard, as defined in section 17a-114d; and (ii) the child has regular opportunities to engage in age appropriate and developmentally appropriate activities, as defined in section 17a-114d.

(4) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall (A) (i) ask the child or youth about his or her desired permanency outcome, or (ii) if the child or youth is unavailable to appear at such hearing, require the attorney for the child or youth to consult with the child or youth regarding the child's or youth's desired permanency outcome and report the same to the court, (B) review the status of the child or youth, (C) review the progress being made to implement the permanency plan, (D) determine a timetable for attaining the permanency plan, (E) determine the services to be provided to the parent if the court approves a permanency plan of reunification and the timetable for such services, and (F) determine whether the commissioner has made reasonable efforts to achieve the permanency plan. The court may revoke commitment if a cause for commitment no longer exists and it is in the best interests of

the child or youth.

(5) If the permanency plan for a child sixteen years of age or older includes the goal of another planned permanent living arrangement pursuant to subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, the court shall (A) (i) ask the child about his or her desired permanency outcome, or (ii) if the child is unavailable to appear at a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, require the attorney for the child to consult with the child regarding the child's desired permanency outcome and report the same to the court; (B) make a judicial determination that, as of the date of hearing, another planned permanent living arrangement is the best permanency plan for the child; and (C) document the compelling reasons why it is not in the best interest of the child to return home or to be placed with a fit and willing relative, legal guardian or adoptive parent.

(6) If the court approves the permanency plan of adoption: (A) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall file a petition for termination of parental rights not later than sixty days after such approval if such petition has not previously been filed; (B) the commissioner may conduct a thorough adoption assessment and child-specific recruitment; and (C) the court may order that the child be photo-listed within thirty days if the court determines that such photo-listing is in the best interests of the child or youth. As used in this subdivision, "thorough adoption assessment" means conducting and documenting face-to-face interviews with the child or youth, foster care providers and other significant parties and "child specific recruitment" means recruiting an adoptive placement targeted to meet the individual needs of the specific child or youth, including, but not limited to, use of the media, use of photo-listing services and any other in-state or out-of-state resources that may be used to meet the specific needs of the child or youth, unless there are extenuating circumstances that indicate that

such efforts are not in the best interests of the child or youth.

(l) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall pay directly to the person or persons furnishing goods or services determined by said commissioner to be necessary for the care and maintenance of such child or youth the reasonable expense thereof, payment to be made at intervals determined by said commissioner; and the Comptroller shall draw his or her order on the Treasurer, from time to time, for such part of the appropriation for care of committed children or youths as may be needed in order to enable the commissioner to make such payments. The commissioner shall include in the department's annual budget a sum estimated to be sufficient to carry out the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding that any such child or youth has income or estate, the commissioner may pay the cost of care and maintenance of such child or youth. The commissioner may bill to and collect from the person in charge of the estate of any child or youth aided under this chapter, or the payee of such child's or youth's income, the total amount expended for care of such child or youth or such portion thereof as any such estate or payee is able to reimburse, provided the commissioner shall not collect from such estate or payee any reimbursement for the cost of care or other expenditures made on behalf of such child or youth from (1) the proceeds of any cause of action received by such child or youth; (2) any lottery proceeds due to such child or youth; (3) any inheritance due to such child or youth; (4) any payment due to such child or youth from a trust other than a trust created pursuant to 42 USC 1396p, as amended from time to time; or (5) the decedent estate of such child or youth.

(m) The commissioner, a parent or the child's attorney may file a motion to revoke a commitment, and, upon finding that cause for commitment no longer exists, and that such revocation is in the best interests of such child or youth, the court may revoke the commitment of such child or youth. No such motion shall be filed more often than once every six months.

(n) If the court has ordered legal guardianship of a child or youth to be vested in a suitable and worthy person pursuant to subsection (j) of this section, the child's or youth's parent or former legal guardian may file a motion to reinstate guardianship of the child or youth in such parent or former legal guardian. Upon the filing of such a motion, the court may order the Commissioner of Children and Families to investigate the home conditions and needs of the child or youth and the home conditions of the person seeking reinstatement of guardianship, and to make a recommendation to the court. A party to a motion for reinstatement of guardianship shall not be entitled to court-appointed counsel or representation by Division of Public Defender Services assigned counsel, except as provided in section 46b-136. Upon finding that the cause for the removal of guardianship no longer exists, and that reinstatement is in the best interests of the child or youth, the court may reinstate the guardianship of the parent or the former legal guardian. No such motion may be filed more often than once every six months.

(o) Upon service on the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child or youth of any order issued by the court pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) and (j) of this section, the child or youth concerned shall be surrendered to the person serving the order who shall forthwith deliver the child or youth to the person, agency, department or institution awarded custody in the order. Upon refusal of the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child or youth to surrender the child or youth as provided in the order, the court may cause a warrant to be issued charging the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child or youth with contempt of court. If the person arrested is found in contempt of court, the court may order such person confined until the person complies with the order, but for not more than six months, or may fine such person not more than five hundred dollars, or both.

(p) A foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver

shall receive notice and have the right to be heard for the purposes of this section in Superior Court in any proceeding concerning a foster child living with such foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver. A foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver who has cared for a child or youth shall have the right to be heard and comment on the best interests of such child or youth in any proceeding under this section which is brought not more than one year after the last day the foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver provided such care. Any notice provided pursuant to this subsection shall include the Internet web site address for any proceeding that will be conducted on a virtual platform. The court shall confirm compliance with the notice requirements set forth in this subsection at any such proceeding.

(q) Upon motion of any sibling of any child committed to the Department of Children and Families pursuant to this section, such sibling shall have the right to be heard concerning visitation with, and placement of, any such child. In awarding any visitation or modifying any placement, the court shall be guided by the best interests of all siblings affected by such determination.

(r) The provisions of section 17a-152, regarding placement of a child or youth from another state, and section 17a-175, regarding the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, shall apply to placements pursuant to this section. In any proceeding under this section involving the placement of a child or youth in another state where the provisions of section 17a-175 are applicable, the court shall, before ordering or approving such placement, state for the record the court's finding concerning compliance with the provisions of section 17a-175. The court's statement shall include, but not be limited to: (1) A finding that the state has received notice in writing from the receiving state, in accordance with subsection (d) of Article III of section 17a-175, indicating that the proposed placement does not appear contrary to the

interests of the child or youth, (2) the court has reviewed such notice, (3) whether or not an interstate compact study or other home study has been completed by the receiving state, and (4) if such a study has been completed, whether the conclusions reached by the receiving state as a result of such study support the placement.

(s) In any proceeding under this section, the Department of Children and Families shall provide notice to (1) each attorney of record for each party involved in the proceeding when the department seeks to transfer a child or youth in its care, custody or control to an out-of-state placement, and (2) the attorney for the child or youth, and any guardian ad litem for such child or youth, of (A) any new report of abuse or neglect pertaining to such child or youth or such child's or youth's parent or guardian received pursuant to section 17a-103a, (B) whether such report resulted in an investigation, and (C) the results of any such investigation.

(t) If a child or youth is placed into out-of-home care by the Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall include in any report the commissioner submits to the court information regarding (1) the safety and suitability of such child's or youth's placement, taking into account the requirements set forth in section 17a-114; (2) whether the department has received or obtained the most recent information concerning such child's or youth's medical, dental, developmental, educational and treatment needs from any relevant service providers; (3) a timeline for ensuring that such needs are met; (4) for any such child or youth under three years of age, whether the child or youth was screened for developmental and social-emotional delays pursuant to section 17a-106e, whether any such delays were identified and, if so, whether the child or youth was referred to the birth-to-three program pursuant to said section; (5) the dates of administrative case review meetings and permanency team meetings; (6) any new report alleging abuse or neglect pertaining to such child or

youth or a parent or guardian of such child or youth pursuant to section 17a-103a, and (A) whether such report resulted in an investigation, and (B) the findings of any such investigation; and (7) any new criminal charges pending against any such parent or guardian. Such information shall also be submitted to the court (A) not later than ninety days after such child or youth is placed into out-of-home care; (B) if such child's or youth's out-of-home placement changes; and (C) if the commissioner files a permanency plan on behalf of such child or youth. The court shall consider such information in making decisions regarding such child's or youth's best interests.

(u) Prior to the issuance of any order affecting the legal status or placement of a child in any proceeding under this section, the court shall confirm that (1) any attorney for such child has obtained a clear understanding of the situation and the needs of such child, as described in 42 USC 5106a(b)(2)(B), as amended from time to time; (2) any guardian ad litem for such child has performed an independent investigation of the case and is prepared to present information pertinent to the court's determination of the best interests of such child, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of section 46b-129a; and (3) any attorney or guardian ad litem for such child has (A) communicated regularly with such child, or, in the case of a nonverbal child, such child's caregivers and service providers, and (B) visited with such child with sufficient frequency as to be informed of such child's situation and needs.

(v) In any proceeding to review, modify, terminate or extend an order of protective supervision, the Department of Children and Families shall file with the court information concerning (1) whether the department has received or obtained the most up-to-date information concerning the child's medical, dental, developmental, educational and treatment needs from any relevant service providers; (2) whether the child has received services recommended by any such providers and a

description of any concerns identified by such providers; (3) a description of (A) any new report alleging abuse or neglect pertaining to the child or a parent or guardian of the child received pursuant to section 17a-103a, (B) whether such report resulted in an investigation, and (C) the findings of any such investigation; (4) any new criminal charges pending against any such parent or guardian; and (5) for any child under three years of age, whether the child was screened for developmental and social-emotional delays pursuant to section 17a-106e, whether any such delays were identified and, if so, whether the child was referred to the birth-to-three program pursuant to said section.

(w) In any proceeding under this section, the Department of Children and Families shall identify the source of any documentation, statements or allegations included in the department's submissions to the court and the date or dates upon which any such information was obtained by the department.

Sec. 8. Section 46b-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

No child shall be prosecuted for an offense before the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court except as provided in section 46b-127, **[**and**]** subsection (f) of section 46b-133c and subsection (f) of section 46b-133d.

Sec. 9. Section 51-286f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

The prosecuting official in a criminal proceeding shall request **[**on the record**]** that a transcript be prepared of any sentencing hearing at which a defendant is sentenced to a definite, nonsuspended sentence of more than two years imprisonment. The Chief Court Administrator shall provide, in a format prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator, any

such transcript to the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Sec. 10. Section 52-146v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Peer support team member" means any person engaged in directing or staffing any peer support program established by an employer for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder;

(2) "First responder" means: Any peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3; any firefighter, as defined in section 7-313g; any person employed as a firefighter by a private employer; any ambulance driver, emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or paramedic, as defined in section 19a-175; any telecommunicator, as defined in section 28-30; and any employee of the Department of Correction; and

(3) "Confidential communications" means all oral and written communications transmitted in confidence between a first responder and a peer support team member in the course of participation in an employer established peer support program and all records prepared by a peer support team member related to such first responder's participation in such program.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, and unless the first responder making the confidential communication waives the privilege, no peer support team member shall disclose any confidential communications (1) to any third person, other than a person to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes for which such member is consulted, (2) in any civil or criminal case or proceeding, or (3) in any legislative or administrative proceeding.

(c) No person in any civil or criminal case or proceeding or in any legislative or administrative proceeding may request or require information from any first responder relating to the first responder's participation in a peer support program, including whether or not such first responder at any time participated in such peer support program.

(d) Consent of a first responder shall not be required for the disclosure of such first responder's confidential communications:

(1) Where mandated by any other provision of the general statutes;

(2) Where a peer support team member believes in good faith that the failure to disclose such confidential communications presents a clear and present danger to any individual, including the first responder; and

(3) Where the peer support team member was a witness or party to an incident that resulted in the delivery of peer support services to the first responder.

(e) (1) A peer support team member shall not be liable for damages for any act, error or omission, not wanton, reckless or malicious, committed by the peer support team or peer support team member in performing peer support services for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder.

(2) An employer shall not be liable for damages arising out of the establishment or maintenance of a peer support program established by such employer for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder.

(3) As used in this subsection, "performing peer support services" includes, but is not limited to, the determination of whether disclosure of a first responder's confidential communications is appropriate pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

Sec. 11. Subsection (f) of section 51-44a of the 2026 supplement to the

general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(f) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the commission shall seek qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor for nomination as judges for the Superior Court, Appellate Court and Supreme Court. The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning criteria by which to evaluate the qualifications of candidates, including incumbent judges who seek appointment to a different court. The commission shall investigate and interview the candidates, including incumbent judges seeking appointment to a different court. In the event the commission issues a decision informing a candidate that the candidate will not be considered by the Governor for nomination as a judge or informing an incumbent judge that such judge will not be considered by the Governor for appointment to a different court, such candidate or judge may request from the commission a brief summary that informs the candidate or judge of the reasons supporting such decision. The form and manner of such summary shall be determined by the commission. A list of such qualified candidates shall be compiled by the commission. <u>On or before January first of each year, the commission shall submit the list of incumbent judges and qualified candidates to the Governor, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of both houses of the General Assembly and the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary. In accordance with the provisions of subsection (j) of this section, such list shall be confidential and not open to the public or subject to disclosure.</u>

Sec. 12. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 54-56*l* of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) The court shall refer such person to the Court Support Services Division for confirmation of eligibility and assessment of the person's mental health condition. If such person resides outside of the State of Connecticut, such person shall return to the State of Connecticut as instructed by the division for assessment of such person's mental health condition. The prosecuting attorney shall provide the division with a copy of the police report in the case to assist the division in its assessment. The division shall determine if the person is amenable to treatment and if appropriate community supervision, treatment and services are available. If the division determines that the person is amenable to treatment and that appropriate community supervision, treatment and services are available, the division shall develop a treatment plan tailored to the person and shall present the treatment plan to the court.

(e) Upon confirmation of eligibility and consideration of the treatment plan presented by the Court Support Services Division, the court may grant the application for participation in the program. If the court grants the application, such person shall be referred to the division. The division may collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, to place such person in a program that provides appropriate community supervision, treatment and services. The person shall be (1) subject to the supervision of a probation officer who has a reduced caseload and specialized training in working with persons with psychiatric disabilities, and (2) classified for purposes of supervision and monitoring standards pursuant to section 54-108b.

Sec. 13. Subsection (k) of section 54-56*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(k) The Court Support Services Division **[**, in consultation**]** may

consult with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services **[**, shall**]** to develop standards and oversee appropriate treatment programs to meet the requirements of this section and may contract with service providers to provide such programs.

Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 46b-133 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) Whenever a child is brought before a judge of the Superior Court, which court shall be the court that has jurisdiction over juvenile matters where the child resides if the residence of such child can be determined, such judge shall immediately have the case proceeded upon as a juvenile matter. Such judge may admit the child to bail or release the child in the custody of the child's parent or parents, the child's guardian or some other suitable person to appear before the Superior Court when ordered. If there is probable cause to believe that the child has committed the acts alleged, the court may **[**consider if the child should be assessed for services**]** order a risk and needs assessment to determine whether the child could benefit from services. Any such risk and needs assessment shall be subject to the protections of subsection (k) of section 46b-124. Such assessment shall be held not later than two weeks after the child is arraigned and such child shall have the right to counsel at such assessment. If detention becomes necessary, such detention shall be in the manner prescribed by this chapter, provided the child shall be placed in the least restrictive environment possible in a manner consistent with public safety.

Sec. 15. Subsection (o) of section 46b-121n of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(o) Not later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, the Department of Correction **[**and the Court Support Services Division of

the Judicial Branch**]** shall report to the committee on compliance with the provisions of section 46b-126a. Such reports shall present indicia of compliance in both state facilities and those facilities managed by a private provider under contract with the state, and shall include data on all persons under eighteen years of age who have been removed or excluded from educational settings as a result of alleged behavior occurring in those educational settings.

Sec. 16. Subsection (g) of section 10-253 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

(g) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "juvenile residential center" means a juvenile residential center operated by, or under contract with, the Judicial Department.

(2) The local or regional board of education for the school district in which a juvenile residential center is located shall be responsible for the provision of general education and special education and related services to children detained in such center. The provision of general education and special education and related services shall be in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws concerning the provision of educational services. Such board may provide such educational services directly or may contract with public or private educational service providers for the provision of such services. Tuition may be charged to the local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction the child would otherwise be attending school for the provision of general education and special education and related services. Responsibility for the provision of educational services to the child shall begin on the date of the child's placement in the juvenile residential center and financial responsibility for the provision of such services shall begin upon the receipt by the child of such services.

(3) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction

the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such board can be identified, the local or regional board of education for the school district in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be financially responsible for the tuition charged for the provision of educational services to the child in such juvenile residential center. The State Board of Education shall pay, on a current basis, any costs in excess of such local or regional board of education's prior year's average per pupil costs. If the local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction the child would otherwise be attending school cannot be identified, the local or regional board of education for the school district in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be eligible to receive on a current basis from the State Board of Education any costs in excess of such local or regional board of education's prior year's average per pupil costs. Application for the grant to be paid by the state for costs in excess of the local or regional board of education's basic contribution shall be made in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (5) of subsection (e) of section 10-76d.

(4) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction the child would otherwise be attending school shall be financially responsible for the provision of educational services to the child placed in a juvenile residential center as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection notwithstanding that the child has been suspended from school pursuant to section 10-233c, has been expelled from school pursuant to section 10-233d or has withdrawn, dropped out or otherwise terminated enrollment from school. Upon notification of such board of education by the educational services provider for the juvenile residential center, the child shall be reenrolled in the school district where the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such district can be identified, in the school district in which the juvenile residential center is located, and provided with educational services in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

(5) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such board can be identified, the local or regional board of education for the school district in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be notified **[**in writing by the Judicial Branch of the child's placement at the juvenile residential center not later than one business day after the child's placement, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes**]** of the child's placement at the juvenile residential center in writing by the Commissioner of Children and Families in accordance with section 10-220h. The notification shall include the child's name and date of birth, the address of the child's parents or guardian, placement location and contact information, and such other information as is necessary to provide educational services to the child.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, a child who is enrolled in a school district at the time of placement in a juvenile residential center shall remain enrolled in that same school district for the duration of his or her detention, unless the child voluntarily terminates enrollment, and shall have the right to return to such school district immediately upon discharge from the juvenile residential center into the community.

(7) When a child is not enrolled in a school at the time of placement in a juvenile residential center:

(A) The child shall be enrolled in the school district where the child would otherwise be attending school not later than three business days after notification is given pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection.

(B) If no such district can be identified, the child shall be enrolled in the school district in which the juvenile residential center is located not later than three business days after the determination is made that no such district can be identified.

(8) Upon learning that a child is to be discharged from a juvenile residential center, the educational services provider for the juvenile residential center shall immediately notify the jurisdiction in which the child will continue his or her education after discharge from the juvenile residential center.

(9) Prior to the child's discharge from the juvenile residential center, the local or regional board of education responsible for the provision of educational services to children in the juvenile residential center shall conduct an assessment of the school work completed by the child to determine an assignment of academic credit for the work completed. Credit assigned shall be the credit of the local or regional board of education responsible for the provision of the educational services. Credit assigned for work completed by the child shall be accepted in transfer by the local or regional board of education for the school district in which the child continues his or her education after discharge from the juvenile residential center.

Sec. 17. Section 47-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A person, as defined in section 42a-1-201, who has been identified in a filing pursuant to chapters 821 to 822, inclusive, may petition the Tax and Administrative Appeals Session of the Superior Court to invalidate such filing, or any amendment thereof, when such filing was falsely filed or amended. The court shall review such petition and determine whether cause exists to doubt the validity of such filing or amendment. Upon a determination that such cause exists, the court **[**shall**]** may, not later than sixty days after the date of such determination, hold a hearing to determine whether to invalidate such filing or amendment or grant any other relief deemed appropriate by the court. There shall be no fee to petition for a hearing under this section. The court's finding may be made solely on a review of the documentation attached to the petition and the responses, if any, of the

person named as a lienor on the land records and without hearing any oral testimony, if none is offered by the lienor. The person petitioning the court to invalidate a filing shall send a copy of such petition to all parties named in such filing.

(b) A person who files a petition under subsection (a) of this section shall include, as part of such petition, a certified copy of the filing, and any amendment thereof, that such person seeks to invalidate.

(c) In determining whether cause exists to doubt the validity of a filing or amendment under subsection (a) of this section, the court may consider factors that include, but are not limited to, whether (1) the filing or amendment is related to a valid existing commercial, financial or real estate transaction, or a potential commercial, financial or real estate transaction, or a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction; (2) the same individual is named as both debtor and creditor; (3) an individual is named as a transmitting utility; and (4) the filing or amendment has been filed with the intent to defraud, deceive, injure or harass a person, business or governmental entity.

(d) If the court determines **[**after a hearing**]** that a filing identified in a petition filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is not valid, the court shall render a judgment that such filing is void in its entirety and shall direct the custodian of such filing, when feasible, to note that such filing is not valid. The court may grant such other relief as it deems appropriate. The petitioner under subsection (a) of this section shall provide a copy of the petition and the judgment of the court granting such petition to the custodian of the filing adjudged invalid by the court.

Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The official seal of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, or imitation thereof, whether as a reproduction, imprint or facsimile, shall be made and used only under the direction and with the approval of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator for purposes specifically authorized by the Constitution

and laws of the state or related directly or indirectly to the official business of the Judicial Branch, provided the Chief Court Administrator may in the administrator's judgment approve other reproductions of said seal for educational purposes as determined by the administrator.

Sec. 19. Section 54-207a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

The Office of the Chief Court Administrator or the Chief Court Administrator's designee shall prescribe such policies and procedures, as deemed necessary, to implement the provisions of sections 54-201 to 54-235, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 19a-112e to 19a-112g, inclusive, and may formulate standards for the uniform application of the payment of compensation of claims.

Sec. 20. Section 54-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

As used in sections 54-201 to 54-235, inclusive:

(1) "Victim" means a person who is injured or killed as provided in section 54-209;

(2) "Personal injury" means (A) actual bodily harm or emotional harm and includes pregnancy and any condition thereof, or (B) injury or death to a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104, as amended from time to time, owned or kept by a person with a disability;

(3) "Dependent" means any relative of a deceased victim or a person designated by a deceased victim in accordance with section 1-56r who was wholly or partially dependent upon his income at the time of his death or the child of a deceased victim and shall include the child of such victim born after his death;

(4) "Relative" means a person's spouse, parent, grandparent,

stepparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, child, including a natural born child, stepchild and adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, half brother or half sister or a parent of a person's spouse;

(5) "Crime" means any act which is a felony, as defined in section 53a-25, or misdemeanor, as defined in section 53a-26, and includes any crime committed by a juvenile;

(6) "Emotional harm" means a mental or emotional impairment that is (A) directly attributable to a threat of **[**(A)**]** (i) physical injury, as defined in subdivision (3) of section 53a-3, or **[**(B)**]** (ii) death to the affected person, or (B) caused by the intentional or knowing actions of another person, and such actions would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person's safety; and

(7) "Disability" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-345.

Sec. 21. Section 46b-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Whenever the Probate Court, in a guardianship matter under chapter 802h, or the Superior Court, in a family relations matter, as defined in section 46b-1, orders a change or transfer of the guardianship or custody of a child who is the subject of a preexisting support order, and the court makes no finding with respect to such support order, such guardianship or custody order shall operate to: (1) Suspend the support order if guardianship or custody is transferred to the obligor under the support order; or (2) modify the payee of the support order to be the person or entity awarded guardianship or custody of the child by the court, if such person or entity is other than the obligor under the support order.

(b) Whenever the parties to a preexisting support order later intermarry, such marriage shall operate to terminate the support order, and the parties shall be jointly liable for ongoing support pursuant to

section 46b-37.

Sec. 22. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2026, the Secretary of the State shall update the official compilation of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies posted on the eRegulations System in conformity with the provisions of section 4-168 of the general statutes and section 23 of this act.

Sec. 23. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 11-10b-1 to 11-10b-5, inclusive, of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed.

Sec. 24. Section 52-407kk of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) If the parties to an agreement to arbitrate agree on a method for appointing an arbitrator, that method must be followed, unless the method fails. If the parties have not agreed on a method, the agreed method fails or an appointed arbitrator fails or is unable to act and a successor has not been appointed, the court, on motion of a party to the arbitration proceeding, shall appoint the arbitrator. An arbitrator so appointed has all the powers of an arbitrator designated in the agreement to arbitrate or appointed pursuant to the agreed method.

(b) An individual who has a known, direct and material interest in the outcome of the arbitration proceeding or a known, existing and substantial relationship with a party may not serve as an arbitrator required by an agreement to be neutral.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when an agreement to arbitrate includes the method for selecting an arbitrator for an arbitration proceeding to be conducted in this state, no person may be appointed or serve as the arbitrator for the arbitration proceeding unless, at the time the person is appointed as arbitrator, and thereafter throughout the duration of the arbitration proceeding, such

person is a member in good standing of the bar of this state, unless all parties to the agreement to arbitrate execute a written waiver of the requirements of this subsection as relate to the arbitrator's qualifications. Any party to an arbitration agreement shall have not more than fourteen days after the date of appointment of the arbitrator to object to such appointment on grounds that the arbitrator fails to meet the requirements of this subsection. For any arbitration proceeding pending in this state on July 1, 2026, in which an evidentiary hearing has not commenced, any party to the arbitration proceeding may file a written objection to the continued service of the arbitrator. A determination on the objection to the continued service of the arbitrator and whether a successor arbitrator is to be appointed shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Sec. 25. Section 52-411 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) If, in a written agreement to arbitrate, a method of appointing an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire has been provided, the method shall be followed.

(b) If no method is provided therein, or if a method is provided and any party thereto fails to use the method, or if for any other reason there is a failure in the naming of an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire, or if any arbitrator or umpire dies or is unable or refuses to serve, upon application by a party to the arbitration agreement, the superior court for the judicial district in which one of the parties resides or, in a controversy concerning land, for the judicial district in which the land is situated or, when the court is not in session, any judge thereof, shall appoint an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire, as the case may require. A person so appointed an arbitrator or umpire shall act under any arbitration agreement with the same force and effect as if he had been specifically named or referred to therein. Unless otherwise provided in the agreement, the arbitration shall be by a single arbitrator.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when an agreement to arbitrate includes the method for selecting an arbitrator for an arbitration proceeding to be conducted in this state, no person may be appointed or serve as the arbitrator for the arbitration proceeding unless, at the time the person is appointed as arbitrator, and thereafter throughout the duration of the arbitration proceeding, such person is a member in good standing of the bar of this state, unless all parties to the agreement to arbitrate execute a written waiver of the requirements of this subsection as relate to the arbitrator's qualifications. Any party to an arbitration agreement shall have not more than fourteen days (1) after the date of appointment of the arbitrator to object to such appointment on grounds that the arbitrator fails to meet the requirements of this subsection, and (2) to object to the arbitrator's continued role in an arbitration proceeding after receiving actual notice in writing which informs the parties that the arbitrator is no longer a member in good standing of the bar of this state. For any arbitration proceeding pending in this state on July 1, 2026, in which an evidentiary hearing has not commenced, any party to the arbitration proceeding may file a written objection to the continued service of the arbitrator. A determination on the objection to the continued service of the arbitrator and whether a successor arbitrator is to be appointed shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this section.

[(c)**]** (d) An application under this section and the proceedings thereon shall conform to the application and proceedings provided for in section 52-410, except that such changes shall be made in the complaint as may be necessary to **[**correctly and concisely**]** state the plaintiff's claim correctly and concisely.

Sec. 26. Subsection (a) of section 54-65a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) Whenever an arrested person is released upon the execution of

a bond with surety in an amount of five hundred dollars or more and such bond is ordered forfeited because the principal failed to appear in court as conditioned in such bond, the court shall, at the time of ordering the bond forfeited: (A) Issue a rearrest warrant or a capias directing a proper officer to take the defendant into custody, (B) provide written or electronic notice to the surety on the bond that the principal has failed to appear in court as conditioned in such bond, except that if the surety on the bond is an insurer, as defined in section 38a-660, the court shall provide such notice to such insurer and not to the surety bail bond agent, as defined in section 38a-660, and (C) order a stay of execution upon the forfeiture for six months. The court may, in its discretion and for good cause shown, extend such stay of execution. A stay of execution shall not prevent the issuance of a rearrest warrant or a capias.

(2) When the principal whose bond has been forfeited is returned to custody pursuant to the rearrest warrant or a capias within six months after the date such bond was ordered forfeited or, if a stay of execution was extended, within the time period inclusive of such extension of the date such bond was ordered forfeited, the bond shall be automatically terminated and the surety released and the court shall order new conditions of release for the defendant in accordance with section 54-64a.

(3) When the principal whose bond has been forfeited returns to court voluntarily within five business days after the date such bond was ordered forfeited, the court may, in its discretion, and after finding that the defendant's failure to appear was not wilful, vacate the forfeiture order and reinstate the bond.

Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 38a-660h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) If collateral security or other indemnity was received on a bail

bond by a surety bail bond agent and such bond is terminated, the insurer, managing general agent or surety bail bond agent shall return the collateral security or other indemnity, except a promissory note or an indemnity agreement, not later than twenty-one days after receipt of **[**a written report**]** written or electronic notice from the court that an electronic report is available indicating that the bail bond has been terminated. Such collateral security or other indemnity shall be returned to the person who provided the collateral security or other indemnity unless another disposition is provided for by legal assignment to another person of the right to receive the return of the collateral security or other indemnity. If, despite diligent inquiry by the insurer or managing general agent to determine whether the bail bond has been terminated, the court fails to provide notice of any **[**written**]** electronic report on termination, the collateral security or other indemnity, except a promissory note or an indemnity agreement, shall be returned to the person who provided the collateral security or other indemnity not later than twenty-one days after the insurer, managing general agent or surety bail bond agent has become aware that the bail bond has been terminated.

Sec. 28. Section 51-56a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Each clerk of the Supreme Court and Superior Court shall account for and pay or deposit all fees, fines, forfeitures and contributions made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and the proceeds of judgments of such clerk's office in the manner provided by section 4-32. If any such clerk fails to so account and pay or deposit, such failure shall be reported by the Treasurer to the Chief Court Administrator who may thereupon remove the clerk. When any such clerk dies before so accounting and paying or depositing, the Treasurer shall require the executor of such clerk's will or administrator of such clerk's estate to so account. If any such clerk is removed from office, the Treasurer shall

require such clerk to account for any money of the state remaining in such clerk's hands at the time of such removal and, if such clerk neglects to so account, the Treasurer shall certify the neglect to the Chief Court Administrator.

(b) (1) The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the violations occurred all amounts received in respect to the violation of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, sections 14-251, 14-252, 14-253a and 14-305 to 14-308, inclusive, or any regulation adopted thereunder or ordinance enacted in accordance therewith, and (2) in the case of the municipalities ranked one to eight, inclusive, when all municipalities are ranked from highest to lowest in population, based on the most recent federal decennial census, the state shall remit to the municipality in which the violations occurred fifty per cent of the fine amounts received in respect to the violation of section 14-250b, or any ordinance enacted in accordance therewith. Each clerk of the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the clerk or official, provided prior to the institution of court proceedings, a city, town or borough shall have the authority to collect and retain all proceeds from parking violations committed within the jurisdiction of such city, town or borough.

(c) For the purpose of providing additional funds for municipal and state police training, each person who pays in any sum as (1) a fine or forfeiture for any violation of section 14-12, 14-215, 14-219, 14-222, 14-224, 14-225, 14-227a, 14-227m, 14-227n, 14-266, 14-267a, 14-269 or 14-283, or (2) a fine or forfeiture for any infraction, shall pay an additional fee of one dollar for each eight dollars or fraction thereof of the amount such person is required to pay, except if such payment is made for violation

of such a section which is deemed to be an infraction, such additional fee shall be only on the first eighty-eight dollars of such fine or forfeiture. Such additional fee charged shall be deposited in the General Fund.

(d) Each person who pays in any sum as a fine or forfeiture for any violation of sections 14-218a, 14-219, 14-222, 14-223, 14-227a, 14-227m, 14-227n, sections 14-230 to 14-240, inclusive, sections 14-241 to 14-249, inclusive, section 14-279 for the first offense, sections 14-289b, 14-299, 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300j, sections 14-301 to 14-303, inclusive, or any regulation adopted under said sections or ordinance enacted in accordance with said sections shall pay an additional fee of twenty-five dollars. The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the violations occurred the amounts paid under this subsection. Each clerk of the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, on or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, shall certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the clerk or official.

(e) The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the violation occurred all fine amounts received in respect to the violation of section 14-279 after crediting twelve per cent of such fine amounts to the Special Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 and crediting eight per cent of such fine amounts to the General Fund. Each clerk of the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the clerk or official.

(f) The state shall remit to a lake authority, established pursuant to

section 7-151a, all amounts received in respect to any fine issued by such lake authority for any violation of chapter 268. Each clerk of the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter under this subsection to each lake authority served by the office of the clerk or official.

Sec. 29. Section 6-32g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

After December 1, 2000, the Chief Court Administrator shall require an applicant for employment as a judicial marshal pursuant to sections 6-32d and 6-32f to submit to a criminal record background investigation, to be conducted by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The applicant shall pay all processing fees incurred for such investigation. The Judicial Branch shall determine such applicant's suitability for employment as a judicial marshal.

Sec. 30. Subsection (f) of section 24 of public act 25-91 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(f) Not later than January 1, **[**2027**]** 2028, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, **[**2027**]** 2028, whichever is later.

Sec. 31. Subsection (a) of section 51-1f of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Public agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-200.

(2) "Personal information" means a: (A) Home address of a primary residence; (B) home telephone number; (C) mobile telephone number; (D) personal electronic mail address; (E) Social Security number; (F) driver's license number; (G) federal tax identification number; (H) license plate number or unique identifier of a vehicle; (I) birth or marital record; or (J) child's name. "Personal information" does not include information that has been publicly displayed that the protected individual has not requested to be removed, or information that is relevant to and displayed as part of a news story, commentary, an editorial or any other speech on a matter of public concern.

(3) "Protected individual" means: (A) A justice or judge of a court established under article XX of the State Constitution; (B) a senior judge appointed pursuant to section 51-50i; (C) a state referee appointed pursuant to section 52-434; (D) a family support magistrate appointed pursuant to section 46b-231; (E) a family support referee appointed pursuant to section 46b-236; (F) a federal district judge, a federal court of appeals judge, a federal bankruptcy judge, or a federal magistrate judge, if such judge is a resident of Connecticut; and **[**(F)**]** (G) a spouse, a child or a dependent who resides in the same household as an individual described in subparagraphs (A) to **[**(E)**]** (F), inclusive, of this subdivision.

(4) "Publish" means to post or otherwise make available to the public on the Internet, social media or social networks.

Sec. 32. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Upon the release of any person from a correctional facility, the Department of Correction shall disburse to such person the remaining balance in such person's Inmate

Trust Fund account. The department may make such disbursement to the formerly incarcerated person in the form of cash, a check or a prepaid device, provided the department may not disburse funds by means of a prepaid device unless the department also provides the formerly incarcerated person with at least one alternative option of receiving the disbursed funds by cash or check.

(b) In any situation where the department is unable to make such disbursement upon release of such person because the department was not informed of the person's release date at least two weeks in advance of such date, the department shall request a mailing address from such person prior to, or at the time of, such person's release, and mail such disbursement to such person when a mailing address has been provided. In any such situation, not later than two weeks after such person is released, the department shall mail the disbursement by United States mail to the mailing address provided by the formerly incarcerated person.

(c) If the department disburses funds by means of a prepaid device pursuant to this section, neither the department nor the issuer of the prepaid device may impose, or cause to be imposed, any fee payable by the formerly incarcerated person. As used in this section, "prepaid device" means a card, code or other means of access to a consumer's account held by a financial institution or other financial service provider.