



Substitute Senate Bill No. 277

Public Act No. 26-110

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CODE OFFICIAL CAREER PATHWAY, THE FIRE SAFETY CODE, BURN INJURY REPORTS AND STATE BUILDING CODE PROVISIONS RELATING TO ACCESSIBILITY.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The State Fire Marshal shall convene a working group within the Department of Administrative Services to study the code official career pathway. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an analysis of any statutory or regulatory changes needed to create a more accessible entry into the code official career pathway in the state, as informed by national professional qualifications and best practices for professional development.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members: (1) The State Fire Marshal, (2) each member of the Fire Marshal Training Council, and (3) three members of the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations, who shall be appointed by the joint council.

(c) The State Fire Marshal shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

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(d) Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security and the Commissioner of Administrative Services, including, but not limited to, any recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes needed for a more accessible career pathway for code officials in the state. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

Sec. 2. Section 29-292 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(NEW) (d) The State Fire Marshal may issue official interpretations of the Fire Safety Code, including interpretations of the applicability of any provision of the code, upon the request of any person. The State Fire Marshal shall compile and index each interpretation and shall publish such interpretations at periodic intervals not exceeding four months.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) On or before January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall report to the Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding (1) all burn injuries and injuries resulting from fireworks or explosives, (2) any death resulting from burn injuries, smoke inhalation or injuries resulting from fireworks or explosives, and (3) any death to which burn injuries, smoke inhalation or injuries resulting from fireworks or explosives contributed. In providing such report, the department shall utilize death certificate information in accordance with section 7-51a of the general statutes and hospital discharge data provided to the department in accordance with section 19a-2a of the general statutes. The office shall compile the information contained in the report, publish a statistical abstract and annually submit such abstract to each local fire marshal and the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of section 11-

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4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 9-168d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) The registrars of voters in each town, or the legislative body of the town, shall select as polling places only those sites which meet the standards of accessibility required under the State Building Code [, as revised pursuant to section 29-269, if applicable,] or this section. The registrars of voters in each town shall file with the Secretary of the State either: (1) A certification, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State, that states that each polling place selected complies with the provisions set forth in this subsection, or (2) an application for waiver, as described in subsection (c) of this section.

Sec. 5. Subsection (i) of section 14-253a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(i) Any public parking garage or terminal, as defined in the State Building Code, constructed under a building permit application filed on or after October 1, 1985, and prior to October 1, 2004, shall have nine feet six inches' vertical clearance at a primary entrance and along the route to at least two parking spaces which conform with the requirements of subsection (h) of this section and which have nine feet six inches' vertical clearance unless an exemption has been granted pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of section [29-269] 29-254. Each public parking garage or terminal, as defined in the State Building Code, constructed under a building permit application filed on or after October 1, 2004, shall have eight feet two inches' vertical clearance at a primary entrance and along the route to at least two parking spaces for passenger vans which conform with the requirements of subsection (h) of this section and which have eight feet two inches' vertical clearance

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unless an exemption has been granted pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of section [29-269] 29-254.

Sec. 6. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 46a-64c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(C) For purposes of this subdivision, discrimination includes: (i) A refusal to permit, at the expense of a person with a physical or mental disability, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by such person if such modifications may be necessary to afford such person full enjoyment of the premises; except that, in the case of a rental, the landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so, condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted; (ii) a refusal to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services, when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; (iii) in connection with the design and construction of covered multifamily dwellings for the first occupancy after March 13, 1991, a failure to design and construct those dwellings in such manner that they comply with the requirements of Section 804(f) of the Fair Housing Act or the provisions of the [state building code as adopted pursuant to the provisions of sections 29-269 and 29-273] State Building Code relating to accessible or adaptable dwelling units for persons with disabilities, whichever requires greater accommodation. "Covered multifamily dwellings" means buildings consisting of four or more units if such buildings have one or more elevators, and ground floor units in other buildings consisting of four or more units.

Sec. 7. Sections 19a-510a, 29-269 and 29-274 of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2026*)

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