OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5222 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS STATUTES CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION.

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§ 65 — COMPLIANCE BY HOTEL AND MOTEL OPERATORS

Allows up to $250,000 appropriated to the attorney general for FY 27 to be transferred to DCP for the costs of registering and ensuring compliance by hotel and motel operators, among others

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes to the consumer protection statutes, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

*House Amendment "A" (1) eliminates a reduced licensure fee for retired professional engineers and land surveyors; (2) removes provisions on funeral service contracts; and (3) adds provisions on guaranty funds, alcoholic liquor, baby food products, used motor vehicle warranties, dietary supplements and pills task force, entertainment event tickets, electronic nicotine delivery systems, third-party financing of health care or veterinary services, mold remediation, professional services after catastrophic risks, data brokers, surveillance pricing, facial recognition, artificial intelligence subscriptions, independent verification organizations, statewide cannabis, hemp, and controlled substances enforcement board, "cannabis" definition, change in ownership or control, prescription drug monitoring program, cannabis flower THC limit, advertisement volume when streaming, 30 day credit limit, risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program and working group, juice bar restrictions and requirements, criminal penalties for intentional damage to critical infrastructure, and compliance by hotel and motel operators.

§§ 1 & 8 — INTERIOR DESIGNER CONTINUING EDUCATION

Eliminates registered interior designer continuing education requirements

The bill eliminates (1) the requirement that registered interior designers complete four hours of continuing education every three years on the state building and fire safety codes and (2) related recordkeeping provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 2-4 — LICENSING PERIOD AND FEES FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

Extends the licensing period for professional engineers and land surveyors from one to two years and correspondingly increases licensing fees; eliminates the renewal category for retired professionals

The bill extends the licensing period for professional engineers and land surveyors from one to two years. Correspondingly, it increases the (1) initial licensing fee for one of these licenses or a combined license from $220 to $440 and (2) license renewal fee from $285 to $570. The bill eliminates the option for licensees aged 65 and over who no longer practice the profession to renew their license for a $60 annual fee.

The bill also increases the reciprocal licensing fee for a professional engineer, land surveyor, or combined license for a person with a comparable license from another jurisdiction from $190 to $380.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 5 — COMPLETING REAL ESTATE LICENSURE EXAM

Generally requires applicants for a real estate broker or salesperson license to successfully complete the required final exam for the license within two years after applying for the license

The bill requires applicants for a real estate broker or salesperson license to successfully complete the required final exam for the license within two years after applying for the license, unless the Real Estate Commission grants a hardship extension on the applicant's written request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 6 — SCOPE OF PLUMBING AND PIPING WORK

Expands the definition of plumbing and piping work to include work related to alternative fuels and petroleum-based products

For purposes of licensing, the bill expands what is considered plumbing and piping work. Among other things, this work currently includes installing, repairing, replacing, altering, maintaining, inspecting, or testing gas, water, and associated fixtures, tubing, and piping mains and certain branch lines. The bill also includes these activities related to alternative fuels and petroleum-based products.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — TRADE BUSINESSES DESIGNATING A CONTRACTOR OF RECORD

Requires a business that provides certain trade services to designate someone to serve as its contractor of record

The bill requires a business that provides certain trade services to designate someone to serve as its contractor of record. This applies to businesses such as those providing services requiring licensed electricians; plumbers; solar, heating, piping, and cooling contractors and journeymen; elevator and fire protection sprinkler craftsmen; irrigation contractors and journeymen; gas hearth installer contractors and journeymen; and residential stair lift technicians.

Under the bill, the contractor of record must be:

1. licensed and in good standing to perform work or services provided by the business;

2. one of the business' owners or direct employees (someone whose work is subject to the business' control; has compensation reported on a federal Form W-2; and is not an independent contractor, subcontractor, or consultant);

3. regularly engaged in the business when it is providing work or services requiring licensure; and

4. responsible for acting on the business' behalf to get building permits for the business.

A person who is a direct employee can only serve as a contractor of record for one business at a time.

The business must, in a way set by DCP, inform DCP about (1) the designated contractor's name, phone number, and email address and (2) any change to this information or to who is the designated contractor of record, within 10 days after the change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 9 — HOMEMAKER COMPANION AGENCY EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS

Specifies that a state and national, rather than local and national, criminal records check is required for homemaker companion agency employees

The bill specifies that a state and national, rather than local and national, criminal records check is required for homemaker companion agency employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 10 — ADULTERATED OR MISBRANDED FOOD

Broadly extends to establishments certain provisions on adulterated or misbranded food in vending machines and specifically allows DCP to prohibit establishments from selling adulterated or misbranded food until the conditions are remedied

The bill extends to establishments the prohibitions that currently apply to vending machines on selling adulterated or misbranded food, beverages, or ingredients (the law already prohibits sale of adulterated or misbranded foods under the state uniform food, drug, and cosmetic act). The bill specifies that the definition of "adulterated" in the state uniform food, drug, and cosmetic act applies to this provision. Generally, this definition includes, among other things, when a product has:

1. a poisonous or deleterious substance;
2. a diseased, contaminated, filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance or is otherwise unfit for food;
3. been produced, prepared, packed, or held under insanitary conditions;
4. been made from a diseased animal;
5. a container with a poisonous or deleterious substance;
6. a valuable constituent part that has been omitted or taken out;
7. a substance that has been substituted;
8. damage or inferiority that has been concealed;

9. a substance that has been added, mixed, or packed to increase its bulk or weight, or reduce its quality or strength, or make it appear better or of greater value than it is; or

10. an unsafe color additive (see CGS § 21a-101).

Current law allows DCP to impound and forbid the sale of adulterated or misbranded food or beverages in a vending machine after written notice. The bill allows these actions if they protect public health and safety, applies them to establishments, and also allows DCP to prohibit an establishment from selling or offering adulterated or misbranded food or beverages until the conditions that caused the issue and are likely to do so in the future are remedied.

Under existing law, after a hearing, DCP can have food or beverages from a vending machine destroyed or released for relabeling if that would correct the problem. The bill also applies these provisions to establishments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 11 — DONATION BIN LABELS

Requires donation bins in public places that are for charities to include the charity's DCP registration number

By law, the label on a charitable donation bin that collects clothing or other articles in a public place must have a label stating (1) the name of the nonprofit organization that benefits from the donation, (2) the name and contact information of its owner, and (3) that the public can contact DCP for more information. The bill also requires the label to include the charity's DCP registration number.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 12 & 69 — APARTMENT LISTING SERVICES

Eliminates provisions governing apartment listing services

The bill eliminates provisions governing apartment listing services, which are services that, for a fee, let customers use a listing of apartments for rent (it appears that no one currently holds this

credential). Among other things, it eliminates requirements for:

1. one-year registration periods, a $100 fee, and posting a $10,000 surety bond;

2. entering a contract before collecting a fee with a customer;

3. providing notice that a service (a) is not a licensed real estate broker or salesperson; (b) does not guarantee getting a rental; (c) is showing listings that meet the customer's specifications; and (d) must, after a timely request, refund the customer any money paid over $30 if the contract expires without the customer finding a rental through a listing on the service;

4. contents of listings and actions the service must take before giving a listing to a customer;

5. prohibited conduct, such as falsely representing that a listing meets specifications, denying knowledge of whether the service has listings that meet the specifications while knowing that it does not, and having a contract duration longer than 60 days; and

6. Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act violations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 13-21 & 69 — GUARANTY FUNDS

Transfers responsibility for the Real Estate Guaranty Fund to DCP; specifies when interest accrues on awards from various funds; requires an applicant for an award from the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund to state that he or she made a good faith effort to collect what is owed before receiving a fund payment

The bill makes a number of changes to various guaranty funds, including:

1. transferring, from the Real Estate Commission to DCP, responsibility for maintaining and operating the Real Estate Guaranty Fund, and makes conforming and technical changes to fund procedures (§§ 13-18 & 63);

2. specifying that the interest charged a person who caused harm

resulting in an award from the Real Estate Guaranty Fund, New Home Construction Guaranty Fund, Home Improvement Guaranty Fund, or Health Club Guaranty Fund accrues until DCP refers the unpaid amount to the Department of Administrative Services for collection (as under existing law, interest generally begins to accrue when a fund makes a payment) (§§ 16 & 19-21); and

3. requiring an applicant for an award from the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund to submit a signed, sworn statement that he or she made a good faith effort to collect what is owed before receiving a payment from the fund and changes some of the provisions on repayments to the fund (§ 20).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Real Estate Guaranty Fund Conforming Changes (§§ 15 & 18)

PA 25- 111, § 5, allowed someone to apply to the Real Estate Guaranty fund based on an arbitration decision, administrative decision, or a court order or decree, in addition to a court judgment which was previously allowed. The bill makes conforming changes to require, as with court judgments under existing law, that someone applying to the fund based on a binding arbitration decision or court order or decree apply within two years after the final determination or the end of the time to appeal. The bill also makes similar changes regarding the fund's ability to recover payments based on each of these events, and not just judgments.

Home Improvement Guaranty Fund (§ 20)

The bill requires an applicant for an award from the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund to provide a signed, sworn statement that he or she made a good faith effort to collect what the home improvement contractor or proprietor owes using court procedures, such as a writ of execution (this does not apply when the application is based on a small claims court judgment, order, or decree against the contractor or proprietor). The bill requires an application to include a statement from the officer executing a writ of execution indicating:

1. that the officer could not find sufficient funds in a contractor's or proprietor's bank account or from levying their personal property to satisfy the actual damages under the court ruling and

2. the amount collected and the amount remaining due.

Under current law, after payment from the fund based on a decision or court ruling against a proprietor (an owner of a business that is or was a registered home improvement contractor), the proprietor and the business entity that is or was registered are both liable to repay the fund. The bill instead makes either an individual or a business entity that is or was registered liable based on a decision or court ruling against the individual or entity.

Under existing law, if the DCP commissioner revokes a contractor's registration after making a payment from the fund based on a claim against the contractor, DCP cannot issue the contractor a registration until the contractor repays the fund with interest. The bill also prohibits registering an individual with an ownership interest in a business entity that has or had a registration until the contractor or individual repays the fund with interest.

Background — Guaranty Funds

The law establishes certain funds, such as the Real Estate Guaranty Fund, New Home Construction Guaranty Fund, Home Improvement Guaranty Fund, and Health Club Guaranty Fund, to pay consumers harmed by the conduct of certain licensees. Consumers can generally apply to one of these funds to recover damages awarded in an arbitration decision or a court proceeding against the licensee that the consumer has been unable to recover from the licensee. Generally, the licensee must pay back the fund for the amount the fund pays the consumer plus interest.

Background — Related Bill

sHB 5224 (File 185), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, contains identical provisions.

§ 22 — OUT-OF-STATE SHIPPERS' PERMITS

Defines "retailer" for the purposes of certain out-of-state shippers' permits

The bill defines "retailer" for purposes of certain out-of-state shippers' permits as any business entity that (1) primarily sells alcoholic liquor in sealed bottles or other containers for off-premises consumption and (2) holds a retailer permit issued by the alcohol beverage authority in its home state.

Existing law allows (1) certain wine makers that produce less than 100,000 gallons of wine per year to get out-of-state winery shippers' permits to sell and ship to retailers (in original sealed containers of up to 15 gallons each) wine they make and (2) retailers to get an out-of-state retailer shipper's permit for wine to sell and ship directly to a Connecticut consumer, with various requirements (for example, certain labeling and age verification requirements and shipment limits).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 23 & 24 — PLACARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN LIQUOR PERMITTEES

Limits the requirement that certain alcoholic liquor permit applications describe the live entertainment provided to those allowing on-premises consumption; makes a clarifying change related to amending existing entertainment

The bill limits the requirement that alcoholic liquor permit applicants include in their applications a detailed description of their live entertainment to only those applying for permits for on-premises serving or consumption.

Current law requires alcoholic liquor permittees seeking to amend the entertainment type they provide to follow the same placarding requirements that apply to applicants for certain liquor permits. The bill specifies that this placarding requirement only applies to permittees seeking to amend the live entertainment they provide. As under existing law, this filing or request requires municipal zoning approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 25 — AGE STATEMENT FORM RELIEVING PERMITTEE OF CERTAIN LIABILITY

Requires alcoholic liquor permittees or backers who get an age statement form from a customer whose age is in question to have acted reasonably in serving or providing alcohol to them in order to not be liable for serving a minor

By law, if alcoholic liquor permittees are unsure of a person's age, they must have the person fill out and sign an age statement form in which the customer states that he or she (1) is over age 21, (2) knows that the law prohibits alcohol sales to someone younger, and (3) knows the penalty for willfully misrepresenting their age. Getting this form relieves the permittee of liability for serving to a minor if the permittee is later charged with that and (1) introduces the statement in the proceedings and (2) shows that the proof of age evidence they were given would convince a reasonable person of the purchaser's age.

The bill additionally requires the permittee or backer to have otherwise acted reasonably in serving or giving alcohol to the minor to have this relief from liability.

The bill also requires the statement the person fills out to include the city and state where the person was born.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 26 — BABY FOOD PRODUCTS

Beginning January 1, 2028, prohibits making, selling, or distributing a baby food product containing toxic heavy metal amounts above FDA limits; requires product testing and labeling

The bill, beginning January 1, 2028:

1. prohibits making, selling, or distributing a baby food product containing a toxic heavy metal (such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury) in an amount exceeding a limit set by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA);

2. requires manufacturers to (a) have laboratories test baby food product samples monthly for toxic heavy metals and (b) publish on their website information about the amount of each toxic heavy metal found in a baby food product and a link to FDA

information on these metals; and

3. requires manufacturers of baby food products tested for a toxic heavy metal that has an FDA action level, regulatory limit, or tolerance to display on the product container (see *Background — FDA's Closer to Zero Program*) a way to access a webpage with test results and a link to FDA information on these metals.

Under the bill, a "baby food product" is a food, other than water or infant formula, made, packaged, labeled, and sold in a container for children under age two.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Testing

The bill requires baby food product manufacturers that make or intend to sell or distribute the products in the state to have a laboratory test the products for toxic heavy metals at least monthly. The lab must (1) be accredited under certain standards of the International Organization for Standardization or International Electrotechnical Commission, (2) use analytical methods that satisfy the FDA's "Elemental Analysis Manual for Food and Related Products," and (3) be able to quantify each toxic heavy metal concentration to at least six micrograms out of a kilogram of food using certain scientific and statistical methods.

The lab must test a representative sample of each final product's production aggregate, which is an amount of the product made under a master manufacturing order and intended to be uniform in composition, character, and quality. The test can be performed before packaging the product for distribution or sale.

The bill requires manufacturers to keep test results for at least 36 months.

Manufacturer's Required Website Posting

The bill requires baby food product manufacturers to post the following on their website until 30 days after a product's shelf life

expires:

1. the name and amount of any toxic heavy metal in the product found through testing;

2. information that allows a reasonable customer to identify the product, such as its name, universal product code, or lot or batch number; and

3. a link to the FDA's webpage with information and guidance on how toxic heavy metals affect children's health.

Product Containers

The bill requires the manufacturer of a baby food product tested for a toxic heavy metal to include the following on the product container if it is subject to an FDA action level, regulatory limit, or tolerance or another standard set by federal regulations:

1. in a clear, legible, and conspicuous way: "For Information About Toxic Element Testing On This Product, Scan the QR Code" and

2. a quick response (QR) or other machine-readable code directing consumers to a page on the manufacturer's website or the product information page with the testing results and a link to the FDA's webpage for information and guidance on how toxic heavy metals affect children's health.

Background — FDA's Closer to Zero Program

The FDA's Closer to Zero program is examining exposure to contaminants in food eaten by babies and young children. FDA research, evaluation, and regulatory processes on lead, arsenic, cadmium, and mercury in these foods are ongoing.

In January 2025, the FDA issued industry guidance and the following action levels for lead in processed food for babies and young children:

1. 10 parts per billion (ppb) for fruits, vegetables (excluding single-ingredient root vegetables), mixtures (including grain- and meat-based mixtures), yogurts, custards, puddings, and single-

ingredient meats and

2. 20 ppb for single-ingredient root vegetables and dry infant cereals.

The FDA states that action levels are a level of contamination where food may be considered adulterated and that it considers these levels along with other factors when deciding whether to bring an enforcement action.

Background — Related Bill

sSB 118 (File 214), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, contains similar provisions.

§§ 27 & 28 — USED MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTIES

Extends the statutory used vehicle warranty requirements to all vehicles that are less than 10 years old, regardless of price, rather than those that cost $3,000 or more and are less than seven years old; requires these vehicles to have the required express warranty for at least 60 days or 3,000 miles, whichever ends first

The bill extends the statutory used vehicle warranty requirements to all vehicles that are less than 10 years old, regardless of price, rather than those that cost $3,000 or more and are less than seven years old. The bill also requires these vehicles to have the required express warranty for at least 60 days or 3,000 miles, whichever ends first. Under current law, the express warranty must cover a used vehicle for (1) at least 30 days or 1,500 miles, whichever ends first, if it costs between $3,000 and $5,000, and (2) at least 60 days or 3,000 miles, whichever ends first, if it costs $5,000 or more.

As under current law, dealers may not exclude, modify, disclaim, or limit implied warranties on these vehicles, and they must include an express warranty in each sales contract for these vehicles that covers the full cost of both parts and labor for repairs during the required time or mileage, excluding damage from an accident or consumer misuse.

Current law also only allows used car dealers to sell a used car "as is" if its cash purchase price is less than $3,000 or if the car is seven years or older. The bill eliminates the purchase price option and increases the minimum age to 10 years.

As under existing law, dealers violating the warranty provisions may have their license suspended by the motor vehicles commissioner and be subject to a fine of up to $1,000 per violation (CGS § 42-226a).

The bill also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 29 — TASK FORCE ON DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DIET PILLS

Establishes a task force to study the sale of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills

The bill establishes an 11-person task force to study the sale of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills. The study must address:

1. dietary supplements labeled, marketed, or represented as achieving weight loss or muscle building, but not (a) protein powders or drinks or (b) foods marketed as having protein, unless the powder, food, or drink has another ingredient that on its own is a dietary supplement for weight loss or muscle building, and

2. over-the-counter diet pills that are (a) drugs labeled, marketed, or represented as achieving weight loss or muscle building and (b) available over the counter with or without a prescription under federal law.

The bill requires the task force to consist of:

1. the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's executive director, who serves as task force chairperson;

2. the commissioners of consumer protection and public health, or their designees;

3. two members appointed by the House speaker, one with expertise in the safety of applicable dietary supplements and one

with expertise in the safety of applicable over-the-counter pills;

4. two members appointed by the Senate president pro tempore; and

5. one each appointed by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders.

The bill allows appointed members to be legislators, requires appointments to be made within 30 days after the bill's passage, and directs the appointing authorities to fill vacancies.

The chairperson must schedule and hold the first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage, and the General Law Committee's administrative staff serves as the task force's administrative staff.

The bill requires the task force to report to the General Law Committee by January 1, 2027. The report must include research on the safety of these items by user age, whether their sale to minors should be restricted, and other states' best practices for regulating them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Related Bill

sSB 227 (File 216), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, contains identical task force provisions.

§§ 30-32 — ENTERTAINMENT EVENT TICKETS

Makes numerous changes related to entertainment event ticketing

Regarding ticket resales, the bill prohibits a ticket reseller from offering or engaging in a ticket resale unless the reseller has (1) actual or constructive possession of the ticket or (2) a written contract with the entertainment venue operator to get the ticket from the operator.

The bill includes specific provisions for the resale of tickets that are part of a sports season or series tickets or performing arts subscription.

Regarding disclosure of the total ticket price to an event and the amount of any service charge, the bill:

1. makes minor and technical changes to the types of tickets that are subject to these requirements,

2. adjusts the timing of when a price disclosure is required,

3. adjusts the time period when a ticket price may not increase,

4. requires ticket sellers and resellers to refund the total price of a ticket to a cancelled live event, and

5. allows DCP to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

Unless a person is authorized by the bill, the bill generally prohibits advertising or facilitating the sale or resale of entertainment event tickets on a website domain or subdomain that contains the venue's, event's, or performer's name, or a substantially similar name.

The bill makes violations of these provisions a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

Ticket Resales (§ 30)

The bill applies to tickets to entertainment (1) events (including artistic performances, sporting events, and places of amusement, but not movies) and (2) venues (such as an arena, hall, place of amusement, stadium, or theater, but not a movie theater).

It prohibits a ticket reseller from offering or engaging in any sale of a ticket after its initial sale unless the reseller has (1) actual or constructive possession of the ticket or (2) a written contract with the entertainment venue operator to get the ticket from the operator.

Under the bill, a "ticket reseller" is an individual or business entity who makes a ticket available for resale, including an authorized agent or employee acting within their authority. It does not include:

1. an entertainment venue operator, which is an individual or entity that owns, operates, or controls an entertainment venue, and

their authorized agents and employees acting within their authority or

2. a ticket seller, who is an individual or entity who makes a ticket available for its initial sale (the first sale to a purchaser or ticket reseller), including an entertainment venue operator and its authorized agents and employees acting within their authority.

Season, Series, and Subscription Tickets (§ 30)

The bill permits the initial purchaser of sports season or series tickets (including professional and intercollegiate competitions) to resell a ticket to an individual event that is part of the season or series if the individual or entity:

1. is not in the business of selling or reselling entertainment event tickets,

2. has actual or constructive possession of the ticket, and

3. discloses to the purchaser before the purchase the identity and date of the event and where the ticket entitles the person to sit or stand during the event.

The bill permits an individual or entity, such as an entertainment venue operator, to offer and sell to subscribers:

1. tickets to a season or series of artistic performances (such as concerts, operas, and theater, but not movies) that are not individually priced when initially sold or

2. the right to purchase tickets to a set number of artistic performances during a season or series (but one of these tickets cannot be resold until it is issued to the initial purchaser or assigned for a performance, date, and seating or standing location).

Websites Used by Entertainment Event Ticket Sellers and Resellers (§ 31)

The bill prohibits anyone from advertising or facilitating the sale or

resale of an entertainment event ticket on a website with a domain or subdomain that contains the:

1. venue's name or a substantially similar one, except by a venue operator or someone with the operator's express written consent to use the domain or subdomain;

2. event's name or a substantially similar one, except by (a) an individual or entity responsible for organizing financing or publicity for the event, or their authorized agents or employees acting within their authority, or (b) someone with the express written consent of the individual, entity, agent, or employee to use the domain or subdomain; or

3. name of an individual or group scheduled for the event, or a substantially similar name, except for (a) the individual, group, or their agents or employees acting within their authority, or (b) someone with the express written consent of the individual, group, agent, or employee to use the domain or subdomain.

Ticket Price Disclosures and Price Changes (§ 32)

Generally, the law requires an advertisement of ticket prices to conspicuously disclose the total price for each ticket and the dollar amount that represents a service charge (an administrative fee, service fee, surcharge, or other fee or charge using substantially similar terms). Individuals and entities facilitating the sale or resale of a ticket must also disclose the total price, as well as the amount of any included service charges.

The bill requires that the price disclosure be made when the ticket is initially offered for sale or resale to a purchaser, instead of when the ticket is selected for purchase.

Lastly, the law prohibits increasing a ticket price during a specified period of time. Currently, the total price cannot increase beginning when a ticket is selected for purchase and until the ticket is purchased. The bill instead begins this period when the ticket is initially offered for sale or resale to a purchaser.

Price Changes During Transaction (§ 32)

The bill specifies that it does not prohibit a ticket price change after a person times out of a transaction without making a purchase. It also does not prohibit dynamic pricing (using an algorithmic model to adjust prices in real time), as long as the price does not increase after the ticket is initially offered to the purchaser and before the person makes a purchase or times out of the transaction, whichever occurs first.

Online Ticket Resales (§ 32)

The bill requires anyone that advertises or facilitates the resale of an entertainment event ticket on a website or online platform primarily intended for reselling these tickets to clearly and conspicuously disclose that the ticket is being resold and its price may differ from the price of the ticket from the event presenter.

The bill requires this disclosure when the ticket is initially offered for sale to a purchaser and the price cannot increase after the initial offer and until the ticket is purchased. As under existing law, a reasonable service charge is allowed for delivery of a nonelectronic ticket.

Live Event Ticket Refunds (§ 32)

For live entertainment events that are cancelled, the bill requires ticket sellers and resellers to refund purchasers their total ticket price within 30 days of the cancellation (excluding any reasonable service charge allowed by law for delivering a nonelectronic ticket). It requires ticket sellers and resellers to clearly and conspicuously disclose this refund requirement to purchasers of live entertainment event tickets before a purchase, in a way set by DCP.

Background — Federal Regulations

Federal regulations make it an unfair and deceptive practice to offer, display, or advertise the price of a live event ticket (or short-term lodging) without clearly and conspicuously disclosing the maximum total price. The total price includes all fees, charges, and required ancillary goods or services, but does not include government charges, shipping charges, and optional ancillary goods or services.

The federal regulation does not affect state law except to the extent a state law is inconsistent. A state law is not inconsistent if it provides greater consumer protections (16 C.F.R. § 464).

Background — Related Bill

sHB 5125, as amended by House "A" (File 583), contains identical provisions.

§ 33 — ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Expands the requirements for e-cigarette dealer registrations and the circumstances in which DCP may deny a registration; authorizes the DCP commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to $5,000 for each ENDS or vapor product sold in violation of the dealer registration law, requires these products to be deemed a common nuisance, and subjects them to seizure by police

The bill expands the requirements for businesses that sell electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) or vapor products, commonly known as e-cigarette dealers. By law, e-cigarette dealers must have a dealer registration for each of their business locations and renew it annually. Among other things, the bill:

1. expands the individual owners who must provide their contact information and a third-party background check as part of a dealer's application;

2. expands the information dealer registration applicants must provide;

3. generally expands the circumstances under which DCP may deny a dealer's registration or take other enforcement actions;

4. authorizes the DCP commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to $5,000 for each ENDS or vapor product sold in violation of the dealer registration law, requires these products to be deemed a common nuisance, and subjects them to seizure by police;

5. specifies that registered e-cigarette dealers are deemed to have constructive notice of communications the DCP commissioner sends to an email address they provided;

6. makes violations of the dealer registration law a violation of the

Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA); and

7. makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

Individual Owners

Existing law generally requires anyone applying for an initial or renewal e-cigarette dealer registration to provide the name and contact information and a third-party background check for the business's individual owners (those with a direct or indirect financial interest in the applicant). The bill expands this requirement to cover anyone with at least 5%, rather than 10%, ownership or interest rights in the business. As under current law, this includes the total financial interest held by the individual owner and his or her spouse, parents, and children.

As under existing law, applicants do not need to provide this information if they are a publicly traded company listed on a national stock exchange.

Grounds for Denying an Initial or Renewal Dealer Registration

Under current law, the DCP commissioner must issue a dealer registration within 30 days of the application unless he makes certain findings. The bill extends the same timeframe and reasons for denying a dealer registration to renewals and expands the reasons for a denial to include the following:

1. if an individual owner named in the application made materially false or misleading statements in a DCP application, rather than just the applicant;

2. if the business owner's or named designee's criminal background check is sufficient for denying the registration under the existing law that prohibits state-issued credentials because of a prior criminal conviction, rather than if the commissioner finds that the applicant has a criminal history sufficient to disqualify him or her for a state-issued credential under this law; and

3. if the applicant, its authorized owner, or any entity owned or managed by any individual owner named in the application (a) committed multiple violations of the e-cigarette dealer law, (b) is subject to a delinquency assessment by the Department of Revenue Services, or (c) is the subject of any other adverse determination by a government agency, rather than if the applicant violated any other provision of the e-cigarette dealer law.

The bill also adds to the grounds for DCP to deny initial registrations (but not renewals) submitted on or after January 1, 2027, to include when the proposed business is located in a municipality that already has one dealer for every 2,500 residents based on the most recently completed decennial census.

Dealers That Primarily Sell Certain Nicotine Products

The bill adds to the reasons for DCP to deny an initial or dealer registration to include when the applicant (1) has over 50% of annual gross revenue from sales of certain nicotine-related products and (2) uses more than 25% of retail sales area for selling these products.

Under the bill, for initial registrations, the applicant must certify that no more than (1) 50% of the applicant's annual gross revenue at the location will come from sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, ENDS, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products, and vapor products and (2) 25% of the total floor area dedicated to sales at the location will be dedicated to sales of these products. For renewals, the applicant must submit the information DCP requires to determine whether the applicant exceeded these thresholds in the prior registration period, and the bill specifically requires DCP to deny the renewal if these thresholds are exceeded.

The bill also requires these dealers to maintain the floor space information, subject to DCP inspection and copying, including floor plans showing the total floor area dedicated to sales and the portion dedicated to sales of the products listed above.

Registration Requirements

The bill expands the information applicants for an initial or renewal e-cigarette dealer registration must provide to include a certification that the ENDS and vapor products they offer for sale comply with federal and state law, including the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act's requirement for tobacco products.

Sufficient Cause for DCP Enforcement Actions

Current law allows the DCP commissioner to take certain actions against an e-cigarette dealer for sufficient cause, including suspending, revoking, or refusing to grant or renew their registration. Under current law, sufficient cause includes illegally possessing, offering, or selling any illegal or controlled substance. The bill specifies that this applies to the registrant, its owner, or anyone with a financial interest in the registrant (presumably the individual owners named in the application, as described above).

The bill also makes any failure to maintain records or to make them immediately available to DCP sufficient cause for enforcement action.

Reapplication Prohibition

Current law prohibits anyone whose dealer registration was revoked, including the registrant's owners, from applying for a dealer registration for one year after the revocation date. The bill (1) extends this reapplication prohibition to anyone with a financial interest in the registrant and (2) bars anyone whose dealer registration was revoked from having a financial interest in another applicant for one year after the revocation date.

Civil Penalty

The bill authorizes the DCP commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to $5,000 for each ENDS and vapor product sold, offered for sale, or marketed in violation of the dealer registration law. Each of these products is a separate violation.

Seizure of Products in Violation of the Law

Under the bill, any ENDS or vapor products sold, offered for sale, or

marketed in violation of the dealer registration law, as well as any controlled substance or cannabis sold, offered for sale, or marketed by a dealer in violation of state law, are a common nuisance and subject to immediate seizure by state or local police.

The officers must hold the products subject to confiscation and destruction by a court order and the seller or marketer is liable for all seizure, confiscation, and destruction costs.

§§ 34-36 — MOLD REMEDIATION

Requires HICs that perform mold remediation to hold a certification and requires them to perform mold remediation according to certain industry standards

The bill prohibits DCP from issuing a Home Improvement Contractors (HIC) registration to anyone holding themselves out to be a contractor that performs mold remediation unless the contractor makes certain attestations to DCP about their training. The attestation must satisfy the commissioner that the contractor is certified (1) in mold remediation by the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification; (2) as a mold remediator by the National Organization of Remediators and Microbial Inspectors; or (3) to perform mold remediation by any commissioner-approved organization, if the commissioner posts the approval notice and the approved organization's name on the department's website. Under the bill, "mold remediation" is the removal, cleaning, sanitizing, demolition, or other treatment of mold or mold-contaminated matter in a building.

The bill requires contractors to perform mold remediation in Connecticut in accordance with the ANSI/IICRC S520 "Standard for Professional Mold Remediation, Fourth Edition," or any successor or revision that the DCP commissioner approves, if he posts the approval notice and the name of the approved successor or revision on the department's website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 37 — INFORMATION ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AFTER CATASTROPHIC LOSS

Requires DCP, within available appropriations, to make information available online for homeowners who are seeking professional help

The bill requires DCP, within available appropriations, to make information available on the department's website for homeowners who have suffered a catastrophic loss due to fire or water damage and are seeking to hire professionals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 38 — THIRD-PARTY FINANCING OF HEALTH CARE OR VETERINARY SERVICES

Clarifies when veterinary providers can offer third-party financing in service areas of their facilities

sHB 5127, as amended by House "A," generally prohibits health care and veterinary care providers from advertising, marketing, soliciting, promoting, or offering third-party financing to consumers when they are in a part of a facility used to provide health care or veterinary services (such as an exam or operating room).

The bill clarifies a provision that permits a veterinary provider to take these actions related to third-party financing in the service area if relocating the consumer to a separate area would pose a risk of harm to the animal receiving care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§§ 39-43 — DATA BROKERS

Replaces the provisions in sSB 4 with substantially similar provisions, establishing a deletion mechanism program for consumers to request that data brokers delete their personal data; exempts certain federal data, entities, and information from the bill's provisions; creates a civil penalty of up to $200 per day, per violation, per consumer

sSB 4, as amended by Senate "A" and passed by both chambers, among other things, requires data brokers to register with DCP and establishes a deletion mechanism program for consumers to request that data brokers delete their personal data. This bill repeals §§ 1, 5, 7 & 10 in sSB 4 and replaces them with substantially similar provisions, which (1) remove data service providers from sSB 4's provisions and (2) allow

a consumer to give the commissioner information other than their driver's license number to verify their deletion request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Deletion Mechanism

The bill requires the DCP commissioner, by July 1, 2028, to establish an accessible deletion mechanism program. The program must have an accessible deletion mechanism that:

1. allows a consumer for whom a registered data broker has collected personal data to (a) submit a free deletion request, in a commissioner-prescribed verifiable way and in English, Spanish, or any other language the consumer speaks that is spoken at home by at least 1% of the state's population, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics based on the most recent decennial census, to have all registered data brokers delete their personal data and (b) specifically exclude one or more registered data brokers from the deletion request;

2. allows a consumer to (a) securely submit enough information to verify state residency and any additional personal data to help process the deletion request, (b) check the deletion request status, and (c) submit updates to the verified deletion request no more than once in any 45-day period;

3. allows a registered data broker to determine whether a consumer has specifically excluded the broker from the deletion request or any update;

4. prohibits a registered data broker that accesses the deletion mechanism for determining whether it has been excluded to access any additional personal data through the deletion mechanism;

5. is readily accessible and usable by consumers with disabilities;

6. incorporates reasonable security safeguards, including

administrative, physical, and technical safeguards, to protect consumers' personal data from any unauthorized use, disclosure, access, destruction, or modification through the deletion mechanism; and

7. gives consumers, in a readily understandable way, (a) a description of what is considered personal data and may be deleted if requested, (b) an explanation of the deletion request process, and (c) a description of the actions the bill requires for brokers to delete personal data.

If a consumer submits his or her driver's license number to the commissioner to verify the deletion request or update it, the commissioner must only use the number for that purpose.

Each deletion or update request is confidential and is not deemed a public request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Verification

Beginning on August 15, 2028, the DCP commissioner or his authorized agent must verify that the consumer actually submitted the deletion request or update by using the information the consumer submitted to verify state residency and then update the deletion mechanism and inform each registered broker that accesses the mechanism that the request or update has been verified.

If the commissioner or his authorized agent cannot verify the request or update, then they must specify that all registered data brokers that are not specifically excluded from the unverified deletion request or update (1) may retain any personal data on the consumer and (2) must process the unverified deletion request or update as an exercise of the consumer's rights under the Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA) to opt out of personal data processes for certain purposes, such as targeted advertisement.

Broker Deletion Requirements

Beginning October 1, 2028, each registered data broker must access the accessible deletion mechanism at least once every 45 days to

examine each deletion request or update to determine whether the broker is specifically excluded from that request or update.

For each verified deletion request or update that does not specifically exclude the broker, it must generally delete any personal data it maintains on the consumer, except the broker must maintain any personal data to the extent the data is needed to comply with the bill's deletion mechanism provision and for no other purpose.

For each unverified deletion request or update that does not specifically exclude the broker, it must (1) retain any personal data the broker has about the consumer and (2) process the unverified deletion request or update as an exercise of the consumer's rights under the CTDPA to opt out of personal data processes for certain purposes.

The bill also generally requires brokers, at least once every 45 days after it first deletes a participating consumer's personal data, to repeat the bill's required actions for a verified request or update. Brokers do not have to do this if the:

1. broker verifies that the participating consumer submitted a verified update to a verified deletion request and

2. verified update specifically excludes the broker from the updated deletion request.

Allowable DCP Fee

The bill allows the DCP commissioner to impose a fee on each registered data broker that accesses the accessible deletion mechanism to perform its duties after a deletion request or update. The commissioner determines the fee amount, but it must not exceed the cost of providing the service. Collected fees must be deposited in the data broker registration account (see SB 4, § 8, as amended by Senate "A").

Subsequently Acquired Data Prohibition

The bill generally prohibits, beginning October 1, 2028, registered data brokers from maintaining, using, or disclosing any personal data they subsequently acquire about the participating consumer.

Excepted Circumstances

Under the bill, a registered data broker who maintains a participating consumer's personal data does not have to delete a consumer's personal data, and may maintain, use, or disclose it, when it is reasonably necessary to:

1. comply with any federal, state, or municipal law, ordinance, or regulation;

2. comply with any civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by any federal, state, municipal, or other governmental authority;

3. cooperate with any law enforcement agency about any conduct or activity that the registered data broker reasonably and in good faith believes may violate any federal, state, or municipal law, ordinance, or regulation;

4. investigate, establish, exercise, prepare for, or defend any legal claim;

5. provide any product or service the participating consumer specifically requests;

6. perform any contract where the participating consumer is a party, including fulfilling written warranty terms;

7. take any step at the participating consumer's request to enter a contract;

8. take any immediate step to protect any interest that is essential for the life or physical safety of the participating consumer or another person;

9. prevent, detect, protect against, or respond to any security incident, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activity, or illegal activity; preserve the integrity or security of any system; or investigate, report, or prosecute those responsible for these actions;

10. engage in any public or peer-reviewed scientific or statistical research in the public interest that follows all other applicable ethics and privacy laws and is approved, monitored, and governed by an institutional review board that determines, or has a similar independent oversight entity that determines, that (a) maintaining the participating consumer's personal data is likely to provide substantial benefits that do not exclusively benefit the registered data broker, (b) the expected benefits of the research outweigh the privacy risks, and (c) the broker has implemented reasonable safeguards to mitigate privacy risks associated with the research;

11. help any other person in performing any obligation imposed by the bill's data broker provisions;

12. do internal research to develop, improve, or repair any product, service, or technology;

13. carry out a product recall;

14. identify and repair any technical error that impairs existing or intended functionality; or

15. perform internal operations that are reasonably aligned with the expectations the participating consumer had, or reasonably anticipated, based on the consumer's existing relationship with the broker.

The bill generally prohibits registered data brokers from maintaining, using, or disclosing the participating consumer's personal data for any other purpose.

Audit

The bill generally requires, beginning July 1, 2031, and every three years after, registered data brokers to:

1. have an independent auditor audit their books to determine their compliance with the bill's deletion mechanism requirements,

prepare an audit report disclosing the results, and submit the report and any associated materials to the broker; and

2. maintain each audit report and associated materials for at least six years from when they are submitted to the broker.

The bill generally requires a registered data broker to submit the audit report and the materials to DCP within five business days after the department sends notice to the broker it must do so.

DCP Contract for Implementation

The bill allows the DCP commissioner to contract with one or more public or private entities (1) for any services needed to implement these provisions or (2) to run the accessible deletion mechanism program or a multi-state accessible deletion mechanism.

Exemptions

sSB 4, § 7, as amended by Senate "A," provides various exemptions to its provisions. This bill additionally exempts (1) personal data collected, processed, sold, or disclosed in compliance with the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 (18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq.) and (2) a covered entity, business associate, or protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (P.L. 104-191).

Penalty

sSB 4, § 10, as amended by Senate "A," allows the DCP commissioner, after giving notice and holding a hearing following the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, to impose a civil penalty of up to $200 per day for each violation of the bill's data broker provisions. The bill specifies that the civil penalty is $200 per day per consumer. Any civil penalty collected must be deposited into the data broker registration account.

§§ 44 & 66 — SURVEILLANCE PRICING

Replaces provisions in sSB 4, as amended by Senate "A," with substantially similar provisions that generally (1) require online businesses that use surveillance pricing to increase the price of consumer goods or services to specifically disclose that and (2) prohibit businesses from using surveillance pricing for in-person transactions; deems violations CUTPA violations

sSB 4, as amended by Senate "A" and passed by both chambers, among other things, generally set requirements on the use of price setting devices. This bill repeals and replaces them with substantially similar provisions regarding "surveillance pricing." As under sSB 4, the bill still makes a violation of these provisions a CUTPA violation solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2027, except that the repeal is effective upon passage.

Surveillance Pricing

Specifically, the bill generally requires anyone doing business in the state who engages in surveillance pricing and advertises or promotes a consumer good or service online with its price to include in the online advertisement, promotion, label, statement, display, image, offer, or announcement the following disclosure, or a substantially similar disclosure: "THIS PRICE WAS INCREASED USING YOUR PERSONAL DATA." This disclosure must be readily visible to the average consumer.

"Surveillance pricing" is the practice of setting a customized price for a consumer good or service that is specific to a consumer or group of consumers based on their personal data collected:

1. through any technology or technological method, system, or tool, including any biometric monitoring, camera, device tracking, or sensor, that is used to gather personal data; and

2. by the person establishing the customized price by gathering, purchasing, or acquiring the personal data from a third party.

It does not include establishing for, or offering to:

1. a consumer a discounted price for a consumer good or service to retain or re-establish a consumer as a customer, attract a consumer as a new customer, cross-sell an item to a consumer, or re-engage a lapsed customer;

2. different consumers different prices for the same consumer good or service due to (a) justifiable differences in the costs incurred in providing the good or service, including differences in consumers' physical locations, consumer selections, delivery distances, or delivery times, or (b) justifiable temporal differences, including temporal differences due to price fluctuations based on supply and demand; or

3. a consumer or group of consumers a discounted price for a consumer good or service (a) based on publicly disclosed discounted prices and uniform terms and conditions that may be satisfied by any consumer, including by signing up for a mailing list, registering for promotional communications, or participating in a promotional event; (b) that is available to all consumers who are members of a broadly defined group, including veterans or armed forces members, senior citizens, students, teachers, or residents of a specific area, based on publicly disclosed discounts and uniform terms and conditions; or (c) through a loyalty, membership, or rewards program in which consumers affirmatively enroll.

For discounted prices, the retail seller or third-party delivery service must prominently post the discount and discounted price, and the uniform terms and conditions for the discount and discounted price, on the retail seller's or third-party delivery service's website in readily understandable language for an average consumer.

Surveillance pricing also does not include correcting a price from a pricing error or resetting a price after a system or network outage.

Any person required to make this disclosure must also disclose to consumers their rights under the CTDPA, such as their right to opt out of certain consumer data processing.

This requirement does not apply (1) to those using surveillance pricing to establish a discounted price for a consumer good or service for an online transaction and (2) if the advertised, promoted, labeled, or published price is the bona fide market price (advertised price to the public on a regular basis for a reasonably substantial time period).

Retail and Third-Party Delivery Surveillance Pricing Prohibited

The bill generally prohibits a retail seller or third-party delivery service doing business in the state from engaging in surveillance pricing. A "third-party delivery service" is a company, organization, or entity, outside of a retail food establishment's business operation, that facilitates delivery or online ordering services to retail food establishment customers.

Exemptions

The bill specifies that the price setting disclosure and surveillance pricing provisions do not apply to:

1. anyone who is or must be licensed, authorized to operate, or registered under the state's insurance laws or

2. any person who can demonstrate that any refusal to extend credit, the terms, rates, or pricing on which any credit or financial services are extended or any refusal to enter into a transaction with a specific consumer is based on (a) data provided in a consumer report covered by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.) or (b) data reflecting factors a creditor is permitted to consider under the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. § 1691 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated under the act.

§§ 45 & 66 — FACIAL RECOGNITION

Replaces the provisions in sSB 4 with substantially similar provisions limiting the use of facial recognition technology to matching still images or video to a database and requires certain signage, among other requirements, but allows the use after receiving the consumer's consent in a commercial transaction

sSB 4, § 16, among other things, limits the use of facial recognition technology to matching still images or video to a database and requires

certain signage, among other requirements. The bill repeals this provision and replaces it with substantially similar provisions, except controllers or consumer health data controllers are not required to exclusively use facial recognition technology to match still images or video to a database they exclusively control and post clearly legible signs at each entrance where the technology is used, if they received the consumer's consent to use facial recognition technology in a commercial transaction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except that the repeal is effective upon passage.

§§ 46 & 67 — AI SUBSCRIPTION DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT

Replaces the provisions in sSB 5, § 1, with substantially similar provisions prohibiting certain subscription-based providers of generative AI systems from entering or renewing a subscription, among other actions, unless they give consumers a written notice disclosing the subscription's key terms and conditions and the consumer accepts them in writing

sSB 5, § 1, as amended by Senate "A," among other things, prohibits subscription-based providers of artificial intelligence (AI) technology from entering or renewing a subscription, among other actions, unless they give consumers a written notice disclosing the subscription's key terms and conditions and the consumer accepts them in writing. The bill repeals § 1 in that bill and replaces them with similar provisions.

The bill prohibits certain subscription-based generative AI system providers from entering or renewing a subscription with consumers, or collecting fees or other compensation from them, unless the provider gives the consumer a written notice with the subscription's key terms and conditions and the consumer accepts them in writing.

Under the bill, a "consumer" is any Connecticut resident, but does not include anyone acting (1) in a commercial or employment context or (2) as an employee, owner, director, officer, or contractor of a company, partnership, sole proprietorship, nonprofit, or government agency whose communications or transactions with the person or entity that controls the data (controller) occur solely within the context of that person's role with the entity.

A "subscription-based provider" is anyone (other than a government agency) doing business in the state who:

1. creates, codes, or produces a generative AI system that (a) has more than 1 million users per month and (b) is publicly accessible to consumers for personal use; and

2. provides, or offers to provide, the generative AI system to a consumer under a subscription.

"Generative AI" is any technology that uses machine learning to generate images, audio, or video, including any system using deep learning, natural language processing, or other computational processing techniques of similar or greater complexity.

The written notice for initial subscriptions must include enough material information for a reasonable consumer to decide whether to purchase or maintain the subscription, including:

1. any quantitative or qualitative limitations (including any limitations on tokens, images generated or modified, or transcription services) the provider may impose under the subscription terms, including any limitations due to the consumer's conduct; and

2. whether the provider has discretion to limit or eliminate the consumer's access to any generative AI system, limit its functionality, or reduce it in quantity or quality.

For renewals, the bill requires the notice to include any quantitative or qualitative limitations or provider discretion described above that:

1. will be imposed or exercised for the first time during the renewal term or

2. were imposed or exercised for the prior term but have been modified for the renewal term.

The bill makes violating these subscription disclosure requirements a

CUTPA violation, solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the repeal is effective upon passage.

§§ 47 & 67 — INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION ORGANIZATION

Replaces the provisions in sSB 5, § 33, with substantially similar provisions allowing DCP to approve up to five entities for the pilot program; requires IMRP to evaluate, report, and make recommendations related to the program

sSB 5, § 33, as amended by Senate "A," among other things, requires DCP to develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of an independent verification program administered by third parties to ensure compliance with state laws on AI and data privacy. The bill repeals § 33 in that bill and replaces it with similar provisions.

The bill requires DCP to develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of independent, third-party verification programs for assessing whether AI models adhere to standards reflecting best practices for preventing personal injury, property damage, data privacy harms, and other harms. The pilot program ends March 31, 2031.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2027

Application

Under the bill, an independent third-party entity seeking to participate in the pilot program as an independent verification organization must apply to the DCP commissioner in a way he prescribes. Each application must include the scope of the applicant's program, including a description of the harms to be prevented or mitigated and the risks for which the applicant intends to verify that AI models' mitigation measures are sufficient to achieve acceptable levels of risk. For each risk, the application also must include the following information:

1. a proposed definition of the acceptable levels of risk;

2. measurable metrics that can be used to determine if the acceptable level the applicant defined produces beneficial

outcomes;

3. target levels for the metrics, including the data sources the target levels are based on and methods for measurement; and

4. the evaluation and reporting protocol that will be used to determine whether verified AI models meet the outcome metrics on an ongoing basis (such as a description of how the applicant's methodologies, metrics, benchmarks, and verification processes align with relevant guidance, standards, and frameworks developed by federal and state authorities such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology and international organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers).

The application must also include the following information about the applicant:

1. a detailed explanation of the applicant's evaluation and verification process for the program, including how it determines whether a participant in an AI model is using industry best practices;

2. the applicant's (a) technical, governance, and audit methodologies for the program; (b) ongoing monitoring, reassessment, and remediation procedures for the program (including its corrective action procedures for the program); (c) policies to ensure independence and transparency and to avoid conflicts of interest; and (d) governance structure;

3. the qualifications of the applicant's personnel who are involved in the independent verification program; and

4. any additional information the commissioner requires.

Participation Requirements

Under the bill, the commissioner may approve up to five entities for

the pilot program. Each organization must:

1. establish and maintain (a) minimum verification and auditing standards for individuals seeking verification from the program for AI models and (b) procedures for verification suspension or revocation for individuals participating in the program;

2. share data with, and submit an annual report to, the attorney general, in a way he prescribes;

3. require each person participating in the program to do so in a way that is transparent to the public; and

4. establish procedures for reassessment and, if needed, suspending verification when a program participant makes a material change to a verified AI model, including a material change to the training data, deployment context, or intended use of the verified AI model.

Evidence of Verification or Good Standing

Under the bill, evidence of verification or good standing that an independent verification organization provides is admissible only in a civil action by a private party bringing claims for personal injury or property damage caused by an AI model, and only to the extent the action relates to a specific harm or risk within the verification's state-approved scope. But this evidence is not admissible if the person:

1. acted in a willful, wanton, or reckless manner;

2. materially misrepresented information to the organization; or

3. failed to implement any corrective action the organization required as part of the program.

The bill also specifies that evidence of verification or good standing provided by an independent verification organization (1) is not admissible in any civil or administrative enforcement action brought by the attorney general or any state agency and (2) does not give rise to any presumption, inference, or defense in any of these actions.

Suspension or Revocation

The bill allows the commissioner to suspend or revoke an independent verification organization's approval if he determines that:

1. the organization's verification process is ineffective or misleading (including because the organization failed to verify against the metrics, target levels, or specific harms or risk within the program's scope);

2. the organization failed to follow any conditions or requirements the bill establishes;

3. the organization is not an independent third-party entity;

4. a verified AI model has caused the type of harm or risk the program supposedly prevents, mitigates, or assesses, and the harm or risk reflects a material deficiency in the program's methodologies, standards, or verification processes; or

5. continued participation would not be in the public interest.

Evaluation and Report

The bill requires DCP, by December 31, 2028, and in consultation with the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP), to evaluate the pilot program and recommend legislation based on the evaluation to modify or extend the program. The evaluation must assess the pilot program's performance and impact, including the extent it advanced its purpose. It must specifically include (1) a landscape analysis of other states' legislation, laws, and executive actions that similarly seek to recognize independent third-party entities to verify the safety of AI and (2) recommended legislation to establish reciprocity between Connecticut and other states, where appropriate and advantageous. IMRP must develop appropriate evaluation criteria and methodologies, which may cover:

1. the program's structure, requirements, and implementation;

2. whether the pilot program effectively met its goals, including its

target harm mitigation or prevention levels, the program's metrics, and the metrics' target levels;

3. the extent of industry participation in the pilot program;

4. the program's impact on innovation and economic growth;

5. the verification standards' effectiveness for participation in the pilot program; and

6. whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, modified, or established as a permanent program, and, if so, (a) which state agency should administer the program and (b) what information should be reported to the state agency to ensure that the program is effective.

By January 31, 2029, IMRP must submit a report to the General Law Committee with the evaluation results.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2027, except the repeal is effective upon passage.

§ 48 — STATEWIDE CANNABIS, HEMP, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT BOARD

Amends PA 26-8 by adding back the Social Equity Council's executive director to the Statewide Cannabis, Hemp, and Controlled Substances Enforcement Board and allowing the board to discuss certain enforcement actions in executive session and exempting those records from FOIA

PA 26-8, § 13, among other things, (1) renames the Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board, as the "Statewide Cannabis, Hemp, and Controlled Substances Enforcement Board," and (2) reduces board membership by removing the public health commissioner and the Social Equity Council's executive director (or their designees). This bill adds back the Social Equity Council's executive director, or his designee, to the board.

As under existing law, the board still includes the attorney general, the chief state's attorney, and the DCP, emergency services and public protection, mental health and addiction services, and revenue services commissioners, or their designees.

PA 26-8, § 13, also exempted the board's quarterly meeting and related records from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The bill instead allows the board to discuss identified areas of need and enforcement opportunities about illegal cannabis and controlled substance sales to be held in an executive session. The bill exempts executive session records from FOIA disclosure and specifies that the board may convene an executive session for any other purposes state law allows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 49 & 56 — "CANNABIS" DEFINITION

Reverts back to current law by eliminating an exemption in PA 26-8, that exempted CBN, CBG, CBC, or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp

Under current law, as amended by PA 26-8, §§ 16 & 99, "cannabis" is defined to generally include (1) manufactured cannabinoid and (2) cannabinol (CBN), and cannabidiol (CBD), as well as chemical compounds that are controlled substances and which are similar to them in physiological effect (except CBD derived from hemp, if it is not high-THC).

PA 26-8, among other things, specifically exempts from the "cannabis" definition: CBN, cannabigerol (CBG), cannabichromene (CBC), or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp. This bill eliminates this exemption and reverts back to current law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the conforming changes are effective upon passage.

§§ 50-52 & 68 — CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

Modifies a provision in PA 26-8 by (1) making a review mandatory, once requested, (2) allowing after the review, the council to refer an equity joint venture to DCP for enforcement action, and (3) changing certain deadlines; also adds provisions that (1) prohibit social equity applicants from entering into certain agreements that may limit control and (2) require annual reporting and recordkeeping by certain cannabis establishments that obtain approval from the council

Existing law generally prohibits cultivators, producers, dispensary facilities, and micro-cultivators from increasing their ownership in an equity joint venture by more than 50% for seven years after receiving

final licensure. The law also requires the Social Equity Council to develop criteria for evaluating ownership and control changes of any equity joint venture.

PA 26-8, among other things, allows a change in ownership or control in an equity joint venture after five years of final licensure under certain requirements. Among others, at least 90 days before the change, the equity joint venture must (1) submit certain written notices disclosing the intention of the change and (2) send written notice to the social equity applicant disclosing that he or she may, within 60 days before the change is effective, submit a written request for the council to perform an optional nonfinancial review of the change. The bill modifies these requirements, as described below.

The bill also makes minor and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except certain conforming changes are effective October 1, 2026 (§ 51).

Review of Changes and Timeline

Under PA 26-8, the council must complete the review to determine whether, among other things, the social equity applicant (1) has retained legal counsel to advise him or her on the change; (2) understands the structure and implications; (3) understands the financial terms; (4) has engaged with his or her business partners, if any, to ensure that the change is appropriate; and (5) consents to the change free of any coercion or undue pressure.

This bill (1) specifies that the timelines applicable to Social Equity Council reviews are based on the proposed effective date of the change and (2) requires, instead of allows, the Social Equity Council to review the change if one is requested. This bill also gives the council more time to complete the review and send its decision notice to the social equity applicant. It does so by requiring the review and notification to be done at least 15, rather than 30, days before the proposed change is effective.

Delay or Rejection Due to Optional Review

This bill eliminates the provision in PA 26-8 that specifies that (1) it

does not allow the council to delay or reject any change because of the results of the review and (2) changes made in violation of the bill's relevant provisions are void and have no effect.

Instead, under this bill, if the council concludes in its review that there was coercion or undue pressure, or that the proposed change does not comply with the venture's organizational documents, the council may refer the venture to DCP for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of up to $10 million dollars or action against the license.

Prohibition on Social Equity Council Making Certain Approvals

The bill explicitly prohibits the council from approving the following, if they violate the law's relevant requirements related to ownership and control: (1) any equity joint venture or (2) any transfer, assignment, sale, or acquisition of an ownership or financial interest in a cannabis establishment. It also requires any conflicting arrangements to be corrected.

Prohibited Agreements That May Limit Control

Beginning on November 1, 2026, it prohibits any social equity applicant from entering into any agreement, including a consulting agreement or similar contractual arrangement, if the agreement:

1. transfers or delegates any operational control of the cannabis establishment to a person who does not meet the social equity applicant criteria;

2. grants any authority or ability to control, direct, determine, or materially influence (directly or indirectly) decisions concerning the cannabis establishment, including decisions on hiring, pricing, purchasing, inventory management, or day-to-day operations (regardless of if the individual retains nominal approval rights);

3. results in the individual serving as the cannabis establishment's nominal or passive owner; or

4. impairs the individual's (a) final decision-making authority over the cannabis establishment's management, policies, and operations, or (b) authority to hire, terminate, and supervise the cannabis establishment's executive management and key personnel.

For these contracts, when a person who does not meet the social equity applicant criteria provides personnel, staffing, operational systems, or vendor relationships, it is considered evidence of control if it results in operational dependence by a social equity applicant. It is also considered evidence of control when the applicant does not have authority to override decisions made by the person.

The bill specifies that its limitations on contracts and similar arrangements that may infringe on control do not prohibit an individual who meets the social equity applicant criteria, from:

1. engaging any third-party vendor or consultant to provide bona fide advisory, technical, or support services, provided the services do not confer any control described above; or

2. delegating any operational or management functions, provided the individual retains final decision-making authority.

Reporting and Recordkeeping by Establishments That Receive Approval

The bill requires each cannabis establishment the council approves to:

1. starting annually, by January 15, 2027, submit to the council a signed statement certifying that either (a) no material change occurred in the cannabis establishment's ownership, control, or financing arrangements during the preceding calendar year, or (b) a material change occurred and providing the nature of the material change; and

2. maintain records sufficient to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the ownership and control requirements for at least five

years.

§ 53 — PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

Requires cannabis testing laboratories to perform real-time uploads to the prescription drug monitoring program and makes a conforming change

The bill requires cannabis testing laboratories to perform real-time uploads to the prescription drug monitoring program. As under existing law as amended by PA 26-8, any cannabis or medical cannabis product sold must be recorded into the program.

The bill also makes a conforming change to implement a provision of PA 26-8.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 54 & 68 — CANNABIS FLOWER THC LIMIT

Reverts back to current law by eliminating a provision in PA 26-8, that eliminated the cap on THC for cannabis flower

PA 26-8, § 79, among other things, lifts the cap on THC (measured on a dry-weight-basis) for cannabis flower and prohibits DCP from limiting cannabis flower dosage, potency, or concentration. The bill eliminates these provisions and reverts back to current law where cannabis flower is capped at 35% THC on a dry-weight basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the repealer is effective upon passage.

§§ 55 & 57 — CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes several clarifying, conforming, and technical changes to implement PA 26-8

The bill makes several clarifying, conforming, and technical changes to implement PA 26-8.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the conforming changes on the infused beverage manufacturers is effective October 1, 2026.

§ 58 — ADVERTISEMENT VOLUME WHEN STREAMING

Modifies the "streaming video services" definition to apply it to a person (individual or entity) who provides programming or content, rather than a service, as under sSB 4

sSB 4, § 20, as amended by Senate "A," among other things, prohibits

a streaming video service from transmitting to a consumer commercial advertising audio that is louder than the video it accompanies, consistent with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations, and makes violations a CUTPA violation.

The bill primarily modifies the "streaming video services" definition to apply it to a person (individual or entity) who provides programming or content rather than a service as under sSB 4, as amended by the Senate and passed by both chambers. The bill also specifies that these services do not include (1) a television broadcast station, cable operator, or other multichannel video programming distributor, or (2) any person that serves video programming or video content without commercial advertisements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 59 — 30-DAY CREDIT LIMIT

Prohibits a cannabis establishment from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from a cannabis testing laboratory

The bill prohibits a cannabis establishment from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from a cannabis testing laboratory.

By law, a "cannabis establishment" is a cannabis producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or packager, delivery service, or transporter.

PA 26-8, § 49, prohibits retailers, hybrid retailers, and dispensary facilities from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from any cultivator, micro-cultivator, or producer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 60 — RISK-BASED RESIDENTIAL FIRE INSPECTION PILOT PROGRAM

Requires the state fire marshal to create a two-year risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program to improve the scheduling, documentation, and prioritization of fire inspections of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families

The bill requires the state fire marshal to create a two-year risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program to improve the scheduling, documentation, and prioritization of fire inspections of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families. She must do so by January 1, 2027, in consultation with the administrative services commissioner and the working group the bill establishes (see § 61), and within available appropriations.

The bill requires the state fire marshal to select at least three municipalities from those that apply (but the bill does not set an application process), including two with populations of at least 100,000 and one with a population of at least 35,000 but under 100,000. In selecting participating municipalities, she must consult with the municipality's appointing authority for local fire marshals to determine its (1) volume and diversity of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families, (2) availability of local resources, and (3) capability to consistently implement the pilot program. If any participating municipality withdraws or is unable to meet the pilot program's requirements, the state fire marshal may select a comparable municipality as a replacement.

Under the bill, participating municipalities must:

1. implement a fire inspection schedule using a standardized scoring method that assigns scores for violations and classifies residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features;

2. maintain timely fire inspections as required by other existing law, while allocating more fire inspection resources to high-risk residential buildings;

3. comply with the program's data collection and record-keeping

requirements, including using a data system designated by the state fire marshal to record fire inspection data; and

4. review the current fire inspection revenue structure and staffing allocation.

For each participating municipality, the state fire marshal must:

1. specify a standardized scoring method that assigns scores to violations identified during fire inspections based on the severity of life-safety hazards related to the violations,

2. establish a grading system that classifies the subject residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features and other risk indicators for prioritizing their annual fire inspections,

3. develop a pre-inspection checklist for building owners to encourage voluntary correction of potential hazards before a fire inspection, and

4. standardize the documentation (including photographs) of fire inspection findings to support enforcement actions and compliance follow-up.

The bill also requires her to designate one or more data systems, including the National Emergency Response Information System, that is capable of:

1. collecting and exporting data related to, at a minimum, residential building classifications with risk-relevant construction and fire prevention features, dates and types of fire inspections, violations cited with assigned score, corrective action status, and fire inspections timelines under existing law;

2. generating residential building classifications based on data recorded into the system;

3. producing quarterly reports on fire inspection activities, including responses to complaints and outcomes of public

reporting; and

4. establishing a baseline of residential fire inspection activity for each municipality based on a two-year history of data collection or, when the data is unavailable, based on predictive data the state fire marshal deems sufficient to establish a baseline.

Under the bill, the "National Emergency Response Information System" is the national data system developed or designated by the U.S. Fire Administration, or its successor system, for the collection, reporting, and analysis of fire and emergency incident data.

By February 1, 2027, and annually after until February 1, 2029, the state fire marshal must submit to the Public Safety and Security Committee a report on the pilot program, whether it should be made permanent, and if the working group's recommendations were integrated into the program.

The bill ends the pilot program on January 1, 2029.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Background — Related Bill

sSB 408 (File 306), as amended by Senate "A," has identical provisions.

§ 61 — RISK-BASED RESIDENTIAL FIRE INSPECTION WORKING GROUP

Establishes a working group to advise the state fire marshal on several areas, including the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program's design and implementation

The bill's working group has 12 members, consisting of the state fire marshal (or her designee) and the 11 others shown in the table below.

Table: Working Group Appointed Members

Appointing Authority	*Number of Appointments*	*Appointee Qualifications*
State fire marshal	Two	Representatives must be from a municipality participating in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program
Connecticut Fire	Four	One must represent a municipality

Appointing Authority	*Number of Appointments*	*Appointee Qualifications*
Marshals Association		participating in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program
Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Services Organizations	Two	None specified
Public Safety and Security Committee's chairpersons and ranking members	Two	Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities	One	Representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

All initial appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill's passage, except the state fire marshal's appointments must be appointed as soon as practical after she selects the pilot program's participating municipalities. Any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority. Members appointed by the Public Safety and Security Committee's leadership may make designees.

The Public Safety and Security Committee's chairpersons must select the working group's chairpersons from among the working group's members. The working group's chairpersons must schedule the group's first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill's passage. The Public Safety and Security Committee's staff must serve as the same for the working group.

The bill establishes several duties and reporting requirements for the working group and requires it to end when it submits its final report or February 1, 2029, whichever is later.

Duties and Reporting

The bill requires the working group to advise the State Fire Marshal on:

1. the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program's design and implementation;

2. the scheduling, documentation, and prioritization of fire

inspections of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families;

3. any data collection required by the pilot program and an assessment of participating municipalities' capacity to report the data;

4. the pilot program's progress and any data quality issues; and

5. any modifications to the pilot program's reporting requirements.

By December 1, 2026, and then annually until December 1, 2028, the working group must submit to the state fire marshal its evaluation of and recommendations for implementing the pilot program, including an evaluation of the pilot program's effectiveness in improving statutory inspection compliance, reducing inspection backlog, identifying and correcting high severity life safety hazards, improving firefighter operational safety through better hazard intelligence, reducing repeat violations, supporting consistent enforcement actions, and assessing fiscal and staffing impacts. This effectiveness evaluation must compare the fire inspection activity in each participating municipality before and after participating in the pilot program, and, where practicable, against similarly situated nonparticipating municipalities.

By December 1, 2026, the working group's report must:

1. designate the type of data required to establish a baseline of residential fire inspection activity in a municipality based on a two-year history or, when this data is unavailable, based on predictive data;

2. identify the gaps in the availability of this data for each participating municipality;

3. determine initial inspection volumes and timelines;

4. develop a plan for data collection and quality assurance during the pilot program;

5. develop a standardized scoring method for violations based on the severity of life-safety hazards, grading system for residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features, pre-inspection checklist for owners of residential buildings, and standardized documentation system for fire inspection findings; and

6. recommend any adjustments to the program's implementation.

By December 1, 2027, the working group's report must:

1. determine any adjustment to inspection volumes and timelines;

2. aggregate violations by severity and changes from initial baseline data for each participating municipality;

3. identify any trends in voluntary hazard correction due to the pre-inspection checklist developed by the program;

4. assess the use of the data system designated by the program and the quality of the data; and

5. include an overview of the pilot program's results.

By December 1, 2028, the working group's report must include its recommendations for:

1. legislation required to continue or alter the inspection schedule developed during the pilot program for each participating municipality;

2. state-wide implementation, other expansion, modification, or termination of the pilot program; and

3. any statutory, regulatory, staffing, funding, or technological changes required for broader implementation of the pilot program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Related Bill

sSB 408 (File 306), as amended by Senate "A," has identical provisions.

§ 62 — JUICE BAR RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Imposes new restrictions on juice bars and requirements on their associated cafe permittees, including (1) allowing towns to prohibit juice bar operations or set hours of operations and (2) authorizing municipalities to prohibit alcohol sales at cafe permit premises while a juice bar is operating

The bill makes several changes to the law regulating "juice bars," which are places where nonalcoholic beverages are served to minors (under age 21) on the premises of a cafe permit holder. Generally, existing law:

1. allows a cafe to operate a juice bar in a room or separate area where alcohol is not sold, consumed, dispensed, or present;

2. requires cafe permittees, between 5 and 30 days before a scheduled event, to send the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality where the cafe is located written notice by certified mail or email about when the cafe premises will have a juice bar during that event;

3. allows the chief local law enforcement officer to designate one or more officers to attend the scheduled event; and

4. prohibits cafe permit holders, and their agents and employees, who operate juice bars on the premises from serving alcohol to a customer without a conspicuous wristband issued by the permittee showing they have verified that the customer is of legal drinking age (at least age 21).

The bill requires cafe permittees, at all times when a part of the premises is being operated as a juice bar, to limit the number of patrons where the juice bar is being operated to no more than 10% of the total building occupant load established by the fire marshal under the Fire Safety Code. It also allows, at any time before or during a scheduled event, the chief law enforcement officer, or the officer's designee, to reject the event or order it to be stopped if either, in their sole discretion,

determines that (1) there is insufficient police capacity to properly and safely monitor the event or enforce the law or (2) the event may, or has, become a danger to public safety.

Under existing law and the bill, violators of the above provisions are subject to a fine, up to one year imprisonment, or both. The maximum fines are (1) $2,500 for a first offense; (2) $5,000 for a second offense; and (3) $10,000 for a third or subsequent offense.

By law, DCP and its agents may conduct any inquiry, investigation, or hearing related to the juice bar laws (CGS § 30-8). The department may also revoke, suspend, or place conditions on any permit or provisional permit, or impose a fine of up to $1,000 per violation for cause as determined by a hearing (CGS § 30-55). The bill specifies that DCP may investigate any purported violation of the juice bar laws and, if it finds a violation, impose those existing penalties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Related Bill

sSB 408 (File 306), as amended by Senate "A," has identical provisions.

§§ 63 & 64 — CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Expands the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree criminal mischief to include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems

The bill expands the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree criminal mischief to include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems (such as utilities, transportation, communications, emergency response, and other state and municipal systems). Under existing law and the bill, both crimes require the person to have acted with no reasonable grounds to believe he or she had the right to do so.

By law, 1st degree criminal mischief is a class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine up to $5,000, or both and 2nd degree criminal mischief is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364

days in prison, a fine up to $2,000, or both.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Related Bill

SB 506 (File 619), favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, has identical provisions.

1st Degree Criminal Mischief

Actual Service Interruption or Impairment. The bill expands 1st degree criminal mischief to include when a person, intending to damage another's tangible property, damages or tampers with the tangible property of a utility or mode of public transportation, power, or communication. Existing law already includes instances where someone intentionally interrupts or impairs these services.

Specific Services or Systems Damage. Under existing law, a person commits 1st degree criminal mischief by intentionally interrupting or impairing public services by damaging or tampering with any of the following:

1. tangible property owned by the state, a municipality, or a person for fire alarm or police alarm purposes;

2. telecommunication systems operated by the State Police or a municipal police department;

3. emergency medical or fire service dispatching systems;

4. fire suppression equipment owned by the state, a municipality, a person, or a fire district; or

5. fire hydrants or hydrant systems owned by the state or a municipality, person, fire district, or private water company.

The bill expands this crime to instances where the person intended to damage another person's tangible property.

2nd Degree Criminal Mischief

Risk of Interruption or Impairment. Under existing law, a person commits 2nd degree criminal mischief when the person intentionally causes a risk of interruption or impairment of public service by damaging or tampering with tangible property of a public utility or mode of public transportation, power, or communication.

The bill expands this crime to include situations where the person intended to damage another person's tangible property and instead caused the risk to public property and services described above.

§ 65 — COMPLIANCE BY HOTEL AND MOTEL OPERATORS

Allows up to $250,000 appropriated to the attorney general for FY 27 to be transferred to DCP for the costs of registering and ensuring compliance by hotel and motel operators, among others

The bill allows up to $250,000 from the amount appropriated in PA 25-168, § 1, as amended by sSB 1, as amended by Senate "A;" to the attorney general for personal services for FY 27, to be transferred to DCP for personal services, costs of registering and ensuring compliance by operators of hotels, motels, inns, and similar lodgings.

The attorney general's office and DCP must enter into a memorandum of understanding to effectuate this provision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2026)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 27 Nay 12 (04/17/2026)