



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 183

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5222

House of Representatives, March 26, 2026

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-295b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Any person who, on October 1, 1969, holds a certificate of
4 authority or renewal issued pursuant to sections 20-295 and 20-295a of
5 the general statutes, revised to 1968, shall be entered on the roster of
6 licensed architects and shall thereafter be authorized and entitled to
7 practice architecture in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

8 (b) An architect licensed in this state may perform the work of an
9 interior designer as prescribed in chapter 396a without obtaining a
10 certificate of registration as an interior designer under said chapter.
11 [Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an architect licensed
12 in this state shall not be required to satisfy the continuing education

13 requirements for registered interior designers established in subsections
14 (f) and (g) of section 20-377s if such architect satisfies all continuing
15 education requirements set forth in this chapter necessary for such
16 architect to maintain such license.]

17 (c) An architect licensed in this state who holds a certificate of
18 registration as an interior designer issued under chapter 396a shall be
19 subject to [(1) the continuing education requirements for registered
20 interior designers established in subsections (f) and (g) of section 20-
21 377s, and (2)] the fee for renewal of such certificate of registration
22 established in subsection (e) of section 20-377s, as amended by this act.

23 Sec. 2. Section 20-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

25 Applications for licensure under this chapter shall be on forms
26 prescribed and furnished by the Department of Consumer Protection.
27 The nonrefundable application fee for a professional engineer license
28 shall be eighty dollars. The nonrefundable application fee for an
29 engineer-in-training license shall be seventy-six dollars, which shall
30 accompany the application and which shall include the cost of the
31 issuance of a license. The nonrefundable application fee for a land
32 surveyor license shall be eighty dollars. The nonrefundable application
33 fee for a surveyor-in-training license shall be sixty-four dollars, which
34 shall accompany the application and which shall include the cost of the
35 issuance of a license. The initial license fee for a professional engineer
36 license or a land surveyor license shall be [two hundred twenty] four
37 hundred forty dollars. The application fee for a combined license as
38 professional engineer and land surveyor shall be eighty dollars. The
39 initial license fee for such combined license shall be [two hundred
40 twenty] four hundred forty dollars.

41 Sec. 3. Section 20-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the
42 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

43 (a) (1) The Department of Consumer Protection shall notify each
44 person licensed under this chapter of the date of the expiration of such

45 license and the amount of the fee required for its renewal for [one year]
46 two years. Such license renewals shall be accompanied by the payment
47 of [the professional services fee for class G, as defined in section 33-182L]
48 five hundred seventy dollars in the case of a professional engineer
49 license, a professional engineer and land surveyor combined license, or
50 a land surveyor license. The license shall be considered lapsed if not
51 renewed on or before the expiration date.

52 (2) [Annual] Biennial renewal of an engineer-in-training license or a
53 surveyor-in-training license shall not be required. Any such license shall
54 remain valid for a period of ten years from the date of its original
55 issuance and, during this time, it shall meet in part the requirements for
56 licensure as a professional engineer or land surveyor. It shall not be the
57 duty of the department to notify the holder of an engineer-in-training
58 license or a surveyor-in-training license of the date of expiration of such
59 license other than to publish it annually in the roster.

60 (3) Renewal of any license under this chapter or payment of renewal
61 fees shall not be required of any licensee serving in the armed forces of
62 the United States until the next renewal period immediately following
63 the termination of such service or the renewal period following the fifth
64 year after such licensee's entry into such service, whichever occurs first.
65 The status of such licensees shall be indicated in the annual roster of
66 professional engineers and land surveyors.

67 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
68 concerning fees, any person who is licensed under the provisions of this
69 chapter, who is age sixty-five or over and who is no longer actively
70 engaged in the practice of engineering or any of its branches, or land
71 surveying, may renew such license [annually] biennially upon payment
72 of [the professional services fee for class A, as defined in section 33-182L]
73 one hundred twenty dollars.

74 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 20-308 of the general statutes is
75 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
76 *1, 2026*):

77 (a) The board may, upon application and the payment of a fee of [one
78 hundred ninety] three hundred eighty dollars to the Department of
79 Consumer Protection, authorize the department to issue a license as a
80 professional engineer, or a combined license as a professional engineer
81 and land surveyor or, upon application and the payment of a fee of [one
82 hundred ninety] three hundred eighty dollars, to issue a license as a land
83 surveyor to any person who holds a certificate of qualification, licensure
84 or registration issued to such person by the proper authority of any
85 state, territory or possession of the United States, or any country, or the
86 National Bureau of Engineering Registration, provided the
87 requirements for the licensure or registration of professional engineers
88 or land surveyors under which such license, certificate of qualification
89 or registration was issued shall not conflict with the provisions of this
90 chapter and shall be of a standard not lower than that specified in
91 section 20-302. Upon request of any such applicant the board may, if it
92 determines that the application is in apparent good order, authorize the
93 department to grant to such applicant permission in writing to practice
94 engineering or land surveying or both for a specified period of time
95 while such application is pending. The board may waive the first part
96 of the examination specified in subdivision (1) of section 20-302 in the
97 case of an applicant for licensure as a professional engineer who holds
98 a certificate as an engineer-in-training issued to him by the proper
99 authority of any state, territory or possession of the United States,
100 provided the requirements under which the certificate was issued do
101 not conflict with the provisions of this chapter and are of a standard at
102 least equal to that specified in said subdivision (1). The board may waive
103 that part of the examination specified in subdivision (3) of section 20-
104 302 relating to the fundamentals of land surveying, in the case of an
105 applicant for licensure as a land surveyor who holds a certificate as a
106 surveyor-in-training issued to him by the proper authority of any state,
107 territory or possession of the United States, provided the requirements
108 under which the certificate was issued do not conflict with the
109 provisions of this chapter and are of a standard at least equal to that
110 specified in said subdivision (3).

111 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 20-314 of the general statutes is

112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
113 *2026*):

114 (c) In order to determine the competency of any applicant for a real
115 estate licensee's license, the commission or Commissioner of Consumer
116 Protection shall, on payment of an application fee of one hundred
117 twenty dollars by an applicant for a real estate broker's license or an
118 application fee of eighty dollars by an applicant for a real estate
119 salesperson's license, subject such applicant to personal written
120 examination as to the applicant's competency to act as a real estate
121 broker or real estate salesperson, as the case may be. Each examination
122 shall be prepared by the department or by a national testing service
123 designated by the commissioner and shall be administered to applicants
124 by the department or by such testing service at such times and places as
125 the commissioner may deem necessary. The commission or
126 commissioner may waive the uniform portion of the written
127 examination requirement in the case of an applicant who has taken the
128 national testing service examination in another state within two years
129 from the date of application and has received a score deemed
130 satisfactory by the commission or commissioner. An applicant shall
131 submit to the commission or commissioner evidence that the applicant
132 has successfully completed the final examination for the real estate
133 license for which such applicant has applied, which successful
134 completion shall occur within two years from the date of application
135 unless the applicant submits to the commission a written request for,
136 and the commission grants, a hardship extension of such two-year
137 period. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
138 chapter 54, establishing passing scores for examinations. In addition to
139 such application fee, applicants taking the examination administered by
140 a national testing service shall be required to pay directly to such testing
141 service an examination fee covering the cost of such examination. Each
142 payment of such application fee shall entitle the applicant to take such
143 examination within the one-year period from the date of payment.

144 Sec. 6. Subdivision (3) of section 20-330 of the general statutes is
145 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

146 *passage*):

147 (3) "Plumbing and piping work" means the installation, repair,
148 replacement, alteration, maintenance, inspection or testing of
149 alternative fuels, petroleum-based products, gas, water and associated
150 fixtures, tubing and piping mains and branch lines up to and including
151 the closest valve to a machine or equipment used in the manufacturing
152 process, laboratory equipment, sanitary equipment, other than
153 subsurface sewage disposal systems, fire prevention apparatus, all
154 water systems for human usage, sewage treatment facilities and all
155 associated fittings within a building and includes lateral storm and
156 sanitary lines from buildings to the mains, process piping, swimming
157 pools and pumping equipment, and includes making connections to
158 back flow prevention devices, and includes low voltage wiring, not
159 exceeding twenty-four volts, used within a lawn sprinkler system, but
160 does not include (A) solar thermal work performed pursuant to a
161 certificate held as provided in section 20-334g, except for the repair of
162 those portions of a solar hot water heating system that include the basic
163 domestic hot water tank and the tie-in to the potable water system, (B)
164 the installation, repair, replacement, alteration, maintenance, inspection
165 or testing of fire prevention apparatus within a structure, except for
166 standpipes that are not connected to sprinkler systems, (C) medical gas
167 and vacuum systems work, and (D) millwright work. For the purposes
168 of this subdivision, "process piping" means piping or tubing that
169 conveys liquid or gas that is used directly in the production of a
170 chemical or a product for human consumption;

171 Sec. 7. Section 20-337 of the general statutes is repealed and the
172 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

173 (a) Nothing in this chapter shall require that the ownership or control
174 of a business engaged in providing the work or services licensed under
175 the provisions of this chapter be vested in a person licensed under this
176 chapter, but all the work and services set forth in section 20-330, as
177 amended by this act, shall be performed by persons licensed for such
178 work or occupation under this chapter.

179 (b) (1) A business engaged in providing any work or services licensed
180 under the provisions of this chapter shall (A) designate a contractor of
181 record, and (B) disclose to the Department of Consumer Protection, in a
182 form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer
183 Protection, (i) the name, telephone number and electronic mail address
184 of such designated contractor of record, and (ii) any change in the
185 information disclosed to the department pursuant to subparagraph
186 (B)(i) of this subdivision, including, but not limited to, any change in
187 such information due to the designation of a substitute contractor of
188 record, not later than ten days after such change occurs.

189 (2) Each contractor of record designated pursuant to subdivision (1)
190 of this subsection shall be (A) an owner or direct employee of the
191 business, (B) licensed, in good standing, under this chapter to perform
192 the work or services provided by the business, (C) regularly engaged
193 with the business while such business is engaged in providing any work
194 or services licensed under the provisions of this chapter, and (D)
195 responsible for acting on behalf of the business in obtaining any
196 building permit required by such business.

197 (3) No contractor of record designated pursuant to subdivision (1) of
198 this subsection who is a direct employee of the business shall serve as
199 the designated contractor of record for more than one business at any
200 time.

201 (4) For purposes of this subsection, "direct employee" (A) means an
202 individual whose (i) manner and means of work performance are
203 subject to the right of control of, or are controlled by, the business, and
204 (ii) compensation is reported, or required to be reported, on a federal
205 Form W-2 issued by, or caused to be issued by, the business, and (B)
206 does not include any individual who is an independent contractor,
207 subcontractor or consultant of the business.

208 Sec. 8. Section 20-377s of the general statutes is repealed and the
209 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

210 (a) A registered interior designer shall include his or her certificate of

211 registration number in any advertisement and may include his or her
212 certificate of registration number in any written communication.

213 (b) No person shall: (1) Present or attempt to present, as his or her
214 own, the certificate of another, (2) knowingly give false evidence of a
215 material nature to the commissioner for the purpose of procuring a
216 certificate, (3) use or attempt to use a certificate which has expired or
217 which has been suspended or revoked, (4) represent himself or herself
218 falsely as, or impersonate, a registered interior designer, or (5) represent
219 in any manner that his or her certificate of registration constitutes an
220 endorsement of the quality of his or her workmanship or of his or her
221 competency by the commissioner.

222 (c) Certificates of registration issued to an interior designer shall not
223 be transferable or assignable.

224 (d) All certificates of registration issued under the provisions of
225 sections 20-377k to 20-377v, inclusive, shall expire annually.

226 (e) A registered interior designer may apply for renewal of a
227 certificate of registration. The fee for renewal of such certificate of
228 registration shall be one hundred ninety dollars, provided any architect
229 licensed in this state shall not be required to pay such fee.

230 [(f) A registered interior designer shall complete a minimum of four
231 hours of continuing education every three years. Such three-year period
232 shall commence on the first date of renewal of the applicant's certificate
233 of registration on or after October 1, 2015. The continuing education
234 shall be in areas related to the application of the State Building Code and
235 the Fire Safety Code.

236 (g) A registered interior designer who applies for a renewal of a
237 certificate of registration on or after October 1, 2018, shall sign a
238 statement on a form prescribed by the commissioner attesting that he or
239 she has satisfied the continuing education requirements of subsection (f)
240 of this section. Such applicant shall retain records of attendance or
241 certificates of completion that demonstrate compliance with such

242 continuing education requirements for a minimum of three years
243 following the year in which the continuing education activities were
244 completed. Such applicant shall submit such records to the
245 commissioner for inspection not later than forty-five days after a request
246 by the commissioner for such records.]

247 Sec. 9. Subdivision (5) of section 20-670 of the general statutes is
248 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
249 *passage*):

250 (5) "Comprehensive background check" means a background
251 investigation of a prospective employee performed by a homemaker-
252 companion agency, that includes (A) a review of any application
253 materials prepared or requested by the homemaker-companion agency
254 and completed by the prospective employee, (B) an in-person or video-
255 conference interview of the prospective employee, (C) verification of the
256 prospective employee's Social Security number, (D) if the prospective
257 employee has applied for a position within the homemaker-companion
258 agency that requires licensure on the part of such prospective employee,
259 verification that the required license is in good standing, (E) a check of
260 the registry established and maintained pursuant to section 54-257, (F)
261 a [local] state and national criminal background check of criminal
262 matters of public record based on the prospective employee's name and
263 date of birth that includes a search of a multistate and multijurisdiction
264 criminal record locator or other similar commercial nationwide
265 database with validation, and a search of the United States Department
266 of Justice National Sex Offender Public Website, conducted by a third-
267 party consumer reporting agency or background screening company
268 that is accredited by the Professional Background Screening Association
269 and in compliance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, (G) if the
270 prospective employee has resided in this state for less than three years
271 prior to the date of such prospective employee's application with the
272 homemaker-companion agency, a review of criminal conviction
273 information from the state or states where such prospective employee
274 resided during such three-year period, and (H) a review of any other
275 information that the homemaker-companion agency deems necessary in

276 order to evaluate the suitability of the prospective employee for the
277 position.

278 Sec. 10. Section 21a-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the
279 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

280 (a) As used in this section, "adulterated" has the same meaning as
281 provided in section 21a-101.

282 ~~[(a)]~~ (b) No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale in any
283 establishment or vending machine, or have in ~~[his]~~ such person's
284 possession with intent to sell therefrom, any food, beverage or
285 ingredient which is adulterated or misbranded.

286 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The commissioner may cause samples of any food, beverage
287 or ingredient so sold, offered, exposed or possessed to be taken and
288 examined as often as may be necessary to determine freedom from
289 adulteration or misbranding. Upon written notice to the establishment
290 or vending machine operator, the commissioner may ~~[impound and]~~
291 take the following actions to protect public health and safety: (1)
292 Impound any food or beverage which is adulterated or misbranded; (2)
293 forbid the sale of any food or beverage which is adulterated or
294 misbranded; and [, after hearing,] (3) prohibit such establishment from
295 selling or offering for sale any food or beverage which was adulterated
296 or misbranded until the conditions that caused such adulteration or
297 misbranding, and are likely to cause future adulteration or
298 misbranding, have been remedied.

299 (d) After a hearing, the commissioner may cause any [such]
300 adulterated or misbranded food or beverage to be destroyed, provided,
301 in the case of misbranding which may be corrected by proper labeling,
302 the commissioner may release such food or beverage to the
303 establishment or vending machine operator upon corrective action
304 being taken.

305 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 21a-430 of the 2026 supplement to
306 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

307 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

308 (a) No person shall place or cause to be placed in a public place a
309 donation bin for the donation of clothing or other articles unless (1) such
310 person obtains advance written consent from the owner of such public
311 place, or such owner's duly authorized agent, to place such donation
312 bin, or cause such bin to be placed, in such public place, and (2) such bin
313 contains a notice, in block letters at least two inches high, stating, (A) if
314 the donation is for a charitable purpose, (i) the name of the nonprofit
315 organization that will benefit from the donation, (ii) the charity
316 registration number the Department of Consumer Protection issued to
317 the nonprofit organization, (iii) the name and contact information of the
318 owner of such bin, and [(iii)] (iv) that the public may contact the
319 Department of Consumer Protection for further information, or (B) if not
320 intended for a charitable purpose, that such donation is not for a
321 charitable purpose. Such notice shall be on the same side of the bin
322 where the donation is likely to be made. As used in this section, "public
323 place" means any area that is used or held out for use by the public,
324 whether owned or operated by public or private interests, and "donation
325 bin" means a large container commonly placed in a parking lot for the
326 purpose of encouraging individuals to donate clothing or other items.

327 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 42-200 of the general statutes is
328 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
329 *2026*):

330 (b) A funeral service contract shall be in writing and shall contain,
331 except as provided in subsection (c) of this section: [the following:]

332 (1) The name, address, telephone number and Social Security number
333 of the beneficiary and the purchaser;

334 (2) The name, address, telephone number and license number of the
335 funeral director for the funeral service establishment providing the
336 goods or services;

337 (3) A list of the selected goods or services, if any;

338 (4) The amount of funds paid or to be paid by the purchaser for such
339 contract, the method of payment and a description of how such funds
340 will be invested and how such investments are limited to those
341 authorized pursuant to subsection (c) of section 42-202;

342 (5) A description of any price guarantees by the funeral service
343 establishment or, if there are no such guarantees, a specific statement
344 that the contract contains no guarantees on the price of the goods or
345 services contained in the contract;

346 (6) The name and address of the escrow agent designated to hold the
347 prepaid funeral services funds;

348 (7) A written representation, in clear and conspicuous bold type, that
349 (A) the purchaser should receive a notice from the escrow agent
350 acknowledging receipt of the initial deposit and the amount of such
351 deposit not later than [twenty-five] ten days after receipt of such deposit
352 by a licensed funeral director, and (B) the purchaser or the beneficiary
353 has the right to cancel such contract if (i) such contract is a revocable
354 funeral service contract, and (ii) the purchaser does not receive such
355 notice or the full amount of such deposit was not placed in escrow;

356 (8) A description of any fees to be paid from the escrow account to
357 the escrow agent or any third party provider;

358 (9) A description of the ability of the purchaser or the beneficiary to
359 cancel a revocable funeral service contract and the effect of cancelling
360 such contract, and the following statement immediately adjacent to the
361 space provided for the purchaser's signature: "YOU, THE BUYER, OR
362 YOUR BENEFICIARY MAY CANCEL THIS TRANSACTION AT ANY
363 TIME PRIOR TO THE RENDERING OF SERVICES.";

364 (10) For irrevocable contracts, a description of the ability of the
365 beneficiary to transfer such contract to another funeral home; [and]

366 (11) The signature of the purchaser or authorized representative and
367 the licensed funeral director of the funeral service establishment; and

368 (12) A statement signed by the purchaser attesting that, prior to
369 executing such contract, the purchaser received (A) a copy of the fact
370 sheet on funeral service contracts published on the Department of
371 Consumer Protection's Internet web site, and (B) time to review such
372 fact sheet.

373 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 42-202 of the general statutes is
374 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
375 *2026*):

376 (a) A licensed funeral service establishment shall deposit any money
377 or securities which such establishment receives pursuant to a funeral
378 service contract, and not later than [fifteen] three days after its receipt of
379 such money or securities, in one or more escrow accounts established in
380 accordance with the provisions of this section. Not later than [ten] five
381 days after the [initial] deposit of such money or securities, the escrow
382 agent shall notify the purchaser, in writing, of the agent's receipt of such
383 [initial] deposit and the amount of such [initial] deposit. Such escrow
384 agent shall notify the purchaser of any transfer of such funds or
385 securities, except when such transfer is to pay for services as required
386 by the funeral service contract. Such funds or securities shall not be
387 transferred to an insurance contract without a description to the
388 purchaser by the funeral director of any fees, costs or commissions
389 associated with such insurance contract and without obtaining the
390 written consent of the purchaser to such transfer.

391 Sec. 14. Section 42-207 of the general statutes is repealed and the
392 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

393 (a) An irrevocable funeral service contract may be entered into in
394 which the amount held in escrow or a death benefit payable under an
395 individual or group life insurance policy may be disbursed only upon
396 the death of the beneficiary, provided such a contract does not exceed
397 ten thousand dollars and all interest, growth or dividends accumulates
398 to the escrow account or insurance policy and are inaccessible to the
399 beneficiary. Such irrevocable funeral service contract may be transferred
400 from one funeral service establishment to another upon request of the

401 beneficiary or a legal representative of the beneficiary. The purchase of
402 an irrevocable funeral service contract shall not preclude an individual
403 from purchasing other funeral service contracts that are revocable,
404 provided any such revocable funeral service contract purchased by a
405 Medicaid beneficiary may be revoked only upon written notice by the
406 Medicaid beneficiary to the Commissioner of Social Services. An
407 irrevocable funeral service contract shall provide that, upon the death
408 of the beneficiary, the state of Connecticut shall receive any amounts
409 remaining after performance of the contract, up to (1) the total amount
410 of medical assistance paid by the state of Connecticut on behalf of the
411 beneficiary that is recoverable under 42 USC 1396p, and (2) the total
412 amount of all other forms of public assistance paid by the state of
413 Connecticut on behalf of the beneficiary or his or her dependent child.
414 The funeral service establishment providing services under such a
415 contract shall make payment of such remaining funds to the
416 Commissioner of Social Services not later than sixty days after all
417 services have been performed under such contract. If a funeral service
418 establishment pays such remaining amount to any person other than the
419 Commissioner of Social Services, the funeral service establishment shall
420 be liable to said commissioner for repayment of such amount.

421 (b) A purchaser shall have the right to cancel an irrevocable funeral
422 service contract at any time prior to midnight on the third calendar day
423 after the day on which the purchaser signed and received a copy of the
424 contract. A purchaser may not waive such right of cancellation, and any
425 contract providing that a purchaser has waived such right of
426 cancellation is voidable by the purchaser, the beneficiary or the legal
427 representative of the beneficiary. If a purchaser elects to cancel an
428 irrevocable funeral service contract under this subsection, or if a
429 purchaser, beneficiary or legal representative of a beneficiary elects to
430 void an irrevocable funeral service contract under this subsection, the
431 purchaser, beneficiary or legal representative, as applicable, shall do so
432 by giving to the person who sold the contract a notice by hand-delivery,
433 postage prepaid United States mail or overnight common carrier
434 delivery service. Such cancellation shall be without penalty or
435 obligation, and all payments made by the purchaser prior to such

436 cancellation shall be refunded to the purchaser not later than twenty
437 business days after the date on which the person who sold such contract
438 received a timely notice under this subsection.

439 (c) Each irrevocable funeral service contract shall contain the
440 following statement, or a substantially similar statement, in conspicuous
441 type:

442 "PURCHASER'S RIGHT TO CANCEL.

443 (1) BY SIGNING THIS CONTRACT YOU ARE INCURRING AN
444 OBLIGATION TO PURCHASE AN IRREVOCABLE FUNERAL
445 SERVICE CONTRACT. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, CANCEL THIS
446 CONTRACT WITHOUT PENALTY OR OBLIGATION BEFORE
447 MIDNIGHT OF THE THIRD CALENDAR DAY AFTER THE DATE
448 YOU SIGN AND RECEIVE A COPY OF THE CONTRACT.

449 (2) IF YOU DECIDE TO CANCEL THIS CONTRACT, YOU MAY DO
450 SO BY EITHER HAND-DELIVERING NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
451 TO THE CONTRACT SELLER OR BY MAILING NOTICE BY PREPAID
452 UNITED STATES MAIL TO THE CONTRACT SELLER, OR BY
453 PROVIDING NOTICE BY OVERNIGHT COMMON CARRIER
454 DELIVERY SERVICE TO THE CONTRACT SELLER. YOUR NOTICE
455 OF CANCELLATION IS EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE SENT. IF
456 MAILED OR SENT BY OVERNIGHT COMMON CARRIER FOR YOUR
457 PROTECTION, SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO CANCEL, YOU SHOULD
458 EITHER SEND YOUR NOTICE OF CANCELLATION BY CERTIFIED
459 MAIL WITH A RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED OR OBTAIN A
460 SIGNED AND DATED RECEIPT IF DELIVERING IT IN PERSON OR
461 BY OVERNIGHT COMMON CARRIER.

462 (3) A PURCHASER SHOULD NOT RELY ON STATEMENTS
463 OTHER THAN THOSE INCLUDED IN THIS CONTRACT.

464 (4) SHOULD YOU CANCEL, ANY PAYMENTS MADE BY YOU
465 UNDER THE CONTRACT AND ANY NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT
466 EXECUTED BY YOU WILL BE RETURNED WITHIN TWENTY

467 BUSINESS DAYS FOLLOWING RECEIPT BY THE CONTRACT
468 SELLER OF YOUR CANCELLATION NOTICE."

469 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 51-344a of the general statutes is
470 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
471 *passage*):

472 (a) Whenever the term "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain" or
473 "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford" is used or referred
474 to in the following sections of the general statutes, it shall be deemed to
475 mean or refer to the judicial district of Hartford on and after September
476 1, 1998: Sections 2-48, 3-21a, 3-62d, 3-70a, 3-71a, 4-61, 4-160, 4-164, 4-
477 177b, 4-180, 4-183, 4-197, 5-202, 5-276a, 8-30g, 9-7a, 9-7b, 9-369b, 10-153e,
478 12-208, 12-237, 12-268l, 12-312, 12-330m, 12-405k, 12-422, 12-448, 12-454,
479 12-456, 12-463, 12-489, 12-522, 12-554, 12-565, 12-572, 12-586f, 12-597, 12-
480 730, 13b-34, 13b-235, 13b-315, 13b-375, 14-57, 14-66, 14-67u, 14-110, 14-
481 195, 14-311, 14-311c, 14-324, 14-331, 15-125, 15-126, 16-41, 16a-5, 17b-60,
482 17b-100, 17b-238, 17b-531, 19a-85, 19a-86, 19a-425, 19a-498, 19a-517, 19a-
483 526, 19a-633, 20-12f, 20-13e, 20-29, 20-40, 20-45, 20-59, 20-73a, 20-86f, 20-
484 99, 20-114, 20-133, 20-154, 20-156, 20-162p, 20-192, 20-195p, 20-202, 20-
485 206c, 20-227, 20-238, 20-247, 20-263, 20-271, 20-307, 20-341f, 20-363, 20-
486 373, 20-404, 20-414, 21a-55, 21a-190i, 22-7, 22-228, 22-248, 22-254, 22-
487 320d, 22-326a, 22-344b, 22-386, 22a-6b, 22a-7, 22a-16, 22a-30, 22a-34, 22a-
488 53, 22a-60, 22a-62, 22a-63, 22a-66h, 22a-106a, 22a-119, 22a-180, 22a-182a,
489 22a-184, 22a-220a, 22a-220d, 22a-225, 22a-226, 22a-226c, 22a-227, 22a-
490 250, 22a-255l, 22a-276, 22a-310, 22a-342a, 22a-344, 22a-361a, 22a-374, 22a-
491 376, 22a-408, 22a-430, 22a-432, 22a-438, 22a-449f, 22a-449g, 22a-459, 23-
492 5e, 23-65m, 25-32e, 25-36, 28-5, 29-143j, 29-158, 29-161z, 29-323, 30-8, 31-
493 109, 31-249b, 31-266, 31-266a, 31-270, 31-273, 31-284, 31-285, 31-339, 31-
494 355a, 31-379, 35-3c, 35-42, 36a-186, 36a-187, 36a-471a, 36a-494, 36a-587,
495 36a-647, 36a-684, 36a-718, 36a-807, 36b-26, 36b-27, 36b-30, 36b-50, 36b-
496 71, 36b-72, 36b-74, 36b-76, 38a-41, 38a-52, 38a-134, 38a-139, 38a-140, 38a-
497 147, 38a-150, 38a-185, 38a-209, 38a-225, 38a-226b, 38a-241, 38a-337, 38a-
498 470, 38a-620, 38a-657, 38a-687, 38a-774, 38a-776, 38a-817, 38a-843, 38a-
499 868, 38a-906, 38a-994, [42-103c,] 42-110d, 42-110k, 42-110p, 42-182, 46a-
500 56, 46a-100, 47a-21, 49-73, 51-44a, 51-81b, 51-194, 52-146j, 53-392d and

501 54-211a.

502 Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
503 group to study issues related to prepaid funeral service contracts and
504 the establishment and implementation of a guaranty fund for
505 consumers who purchase such contracts.

506 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

507 (1) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing
508 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
509 relating to consumer protection;

510 (2) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
511 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
512 relating to consumer protection;

513 (3) One appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing
514 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
515 relating to consumer protection;

516 (4) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing
517 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
518 relating to consumer protection;

519 (5) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's
520 designee;

521 (6) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
522 designee;

523 (7) The Insurance Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

524 (8) The Banking Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

525 (9) The Probate Court Administrator, or the administrator's designee;

526 (10) A representative of an association representing funeral directors,
527 who shall be appointed jointly by the chairpersons of the joint standing

528 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
529 relating to consumer protection;

530 (11) A representative of an association representing banks, who shall
531 be appointed jointly by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee
532 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
533 consumer protection; and

534 (12) A representative of an association representing insurance
535 companies, who shall be appointed jointly by the chairpersons of the
536 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
537 matters relating to consumer protection.

538 (c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision
539 (1), (2), (3) or (4) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
540 General Assembly, provided any member of the working group
541 appointed under said subdivisions who is a member of the General
542 Assembly shall serve as a nonvoting member of the working group
543 unless such member is selected to serve as a chairperson of the working
544 group, in which case such member shall have a vote on the working
545 group.

546 (d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
547 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
548 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

549 (e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
550 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection
551 shall select two chairpersons of the working group from among the
552 members of the working group appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3)
553 or (4) of subsection (b) of this section. Such chairpersons shall schedule
554 the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than
555 sixty days after the effective date of this section. The working group
556 shall meet not less frequently than monthly and may meet at such other
557 times as the chairpersons, in their discretion, deem necessary.

558 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

559 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer
560 protection shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

561 (g) Not later than February 1, 2027, the working group shall submit
562 an initial report on its findings and recommendations to the joint
563 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
564 matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the
565 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

566 (h) Not later than January 1, 2028, the working group shall submit a
567 final report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
568 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
569 relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of
570 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate
571 on the date that it submits such final report or January 1, 2028,
572 whichever is later.

573 Sec. 17. Sections 42-103b to 42-103m, inclusive, of the general statutes
574 are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	20-295b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-305
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-306
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-308(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	20-314(c)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	20-330(3)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	20-337
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	20-377s
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	20-670(5)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	21a-39
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	21a-430(a)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	42-200(b)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	42-202(a)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	42-207
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	51-344a(a)
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 14(b), "United States mail, postage prepaid," was changed to "postage prepaid United States mail" for clarity; and in Section 16(c) and (e), "subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive," was changed to "subdivision (1), (2), (3) or (4)" for accuracy.

GL *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands what is considered plumbing and piping work resulting in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund to the extent additional plumbing and piping licenses are applied for¹.

The bill also changes the licensing period from one to two years for professional engineers and land surveyors and doubles the licensing fee which is revenue neutral over the biennium.

Additionally, the bill makes various changes to consumer protection statutes which result in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of plumbing and piping licenses applied for.

¹Plumbing and piping licenses have application fees of \$90 to \$150 and annual renewal fees of \$120 to \$150.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5222*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS STATUTES CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several unrelated changes to licensing and other programs overseen by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). The bill:

1. eliminates (a) the requirement that registered interior designers complete four hours of continuing education every three years on the state building and fire safety codes and (b) related recordkeeping provisions (§§ 1 & 8);
2. extends the licensing period for professional engineers and land surveyors from one to two years, doubles the current annual fees, and makes conforming changes (§§ 2-4);
3. requires applicants for a real estate broker or salesperson license to successfully complete the required final exam for the license within two years of applying for the license, unless the Real Estate Commission grants a hardship extension on the applicant's written request (§ 5);
4. expands the definition of plumbing and piping work to include work related to alternative fuels and petroleum-based products (§ 6);
5. requires a business that provides certain trade services to designate someone to serve as its contractor of record (§ 7);
6. specifies that a state and national, rather than local and national,

criminal records check is required for homemaker companion agency employees (§ 9);

7. extends to establishments certain provisions about 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 (§ 10);
8. requires donation bins in public places that are for charities to include the charity's DCP registration number (§ 11);
9. gives purchasers three days to cancel an irrevocable funeral service contract; makes other changes, including to required disclosures for funeral service contracts and the timeline for depositing funds; and establishes a working group to study issues on prepaid funeral service contracts and a guaranty fund for consumers who purchase these contracts (§§ 12-14 & 16); and
10. eliminates provisions governing apartment listing services (§§ 15 & 17).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except provisions on (1) real estate licensing exams, adulterated or misbranded food, donation bins, and funeral service contracts other than the working group are effective July 1, 2026, and (2) professional engineers and land surveyors are effective October 1, 2026.

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

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 for both of them from \$220 to \$440, (2) license renewal fee from \$285 to \$570, and (3) renewal fee for licensees aged 65 and over who no longer practice the profession from \$60 to \$120.

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.

§ 6 — SCOPE OF PLUMBING AND PIPING WORK

For purposes of licensing, the bill expands what is considered plumbing and piping work. Among other things, currently, this work means 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.

§ 7 — TRADE BUSINESSES DESIGNATING A 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 of (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 of the change.

§ 10 — ADULTERATED OR MISBRANDED FOOD

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.

§ 11 — DONATION BIN LABELS

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.

§§ 12-14 & 16 — FUNERAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

Right to Cancel Irrevocable Contract Within Three Days (§ 14)

The bill allows the purchaser of an irrevocable funeral service contract to cancel the contract until midnight three calendar days after signing and receiving a copy of the contract. The bill (1) prohibits waiving this right and (2) allows a purchaser, beneficiary, or beneficiary's legal representative to void a contract if it includes this waiver. Someone who cancels or voids a contract must send a notice to the seller by hand delivery, postage prepaid U.S. mail, or overnight delivery service. Within 20 business days of receiving a timely notice, the seller must refund all payments made by the purchaser before cancellation without any penalty or obligation.

The bill requires an irrevocable funeral service contract to have a statement substantially similar to the following in conspicuous type:

“PURCHASER’S RIGHT TO CANCEL.

(1) BY SIGNING THIS CONTRACT YOU ARE INCURRING AN OBLIGATION TO PURCHASE AN IRREVOCABLE FUNERAL SERVICE CONTRACT. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, CANCEL THIS CONTRACT WITHOUT PENALTY OR OBLIGATION BEFORE MIDNIGHT OF THE THIRD CALENDAR DAY AFTER THE DATE YOU SIGN AND RECEIVE A COPY OF THE CONTRACT.

(2) IF YOU DECIDE TO CANCEL THIS CONTRACT, YOU MAY DO SO BY EITHER HAND-DELIVERING NOTICE OF CANCELLATION TO THE CONTRACT SELLER OR BY MAILING NOTICE BY PREPAID UNITED STATES MAIL TO THE CONTRACT SELLER, OR BY PROVIDING NOTICE BY OVERNIGHT COMMON CARRIER DELIVERY SERVICE TO THE CONTRACT SELLER. YOUR NOTICE OF CANCELLATION IS EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE SENT. IF MAILED OR SENT BY OVERNIGHT COMMON CARRIER FOR YOUR PROTECTION, SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO CANCEL, YOU SHOULD EITHER SEND YOUR NOTICE OF CANCELLATION BY CERTIFIED MAIL WITH A RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED OR OBTAIN A SIGNED AND DATED RECEIPT IF DELIVERING IT IN PERSON OR BY OVERNIGHT COMMON CARRIER.

(3) A PURCHASER SHOULD NOT RELY ON STATEMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE INCLUDED IN THIS CONTRACT.

(4) SHOULD YOU CANCEL, ANY PAYMENTS MADE BY YOU UNDER THE CONTRACT AND ANY NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT EXECUTED BY YOU WILL BE RETURNED WITHIN TWENTY BUSINESS DAYS FOLLOWING RECEIPT BY THE CONTRACT SELLER OF YOUR CANCELLATION NOTICE.”

Depositing Funds in Escrow (§§ 12 & 13)

The bill reduces, from 15 to three days, the deadline for a licensed funeral service establishment to deposit money or securities in an escrow account after receiving them under a funeral service contract. It also reduces, from 10 to five days after the deposit, the deadline for the

escrow agent to notify the purchaser of the receipt and amount of the funds.

The law requires a funeral service contract to include certain provisions, including a statement that the purchaser should receive a notice from the escrow agent about the deposit described above in a clear and conspicuous type. The bill changes this provision to also state that the escrow agent's notice will state the amount of the deposit and that the purchaser will receive the notice within 10, instead of 25, days. It requires this to be in bold type and also requires it to state that the purchaser or beneficiary has the right to cancel the contract if it is a revocable contract and the purchaser does not receive the escrow agent's notice, or the full deposit was not placed in escrow.

Contract Contents (§ 12)

The law requires a funeral service contract to describe the purchaser's or beneficiary's ability to cancel a revocable funeral service contract. The bill requires it to state immediately next to where the purchaser signs:

“YOU, THE BUYER, OR YOUR BENEFICIARY MAY CANCEL THIS TRANSACTION AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE RENDERING OF SERVICES.”

The bill also requires a contract to include a signed statement by the purchaser that before executing the contract the purchaser received a copy of DCP's funeral service contract fact sheet and had time to review it.

Working Group (§ 16)

The bill establishes a working group to study issues related to prepaid funeral service contracts and creating a guaranty fund for consumers who buy these contracts. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the General Law Committee in (1) an initial report by February 1, 2027, and (2) a final report by January 1, 2028.

The working group consists of the following:

1. the banking, DCP, insurance, and public health commissioners and the probate court administrator, or their designees;
2. one member appointed by each of the General Law Committee's co-chairs and ranking members, who may be legislators (the co-chairs must choose two of these members to serve as working group co-chairs and legislators appointed to the working group under this provision are only voting members if also chosen to serve as a working group chair); and
3. one representative of an association representing funeral directors, one representative of an association representing insurance companies, and one representative of an association representing banks, each appointed jointly by the General Law Committee co-chairs.

The bill requires initial appointments within 30 days of the bill's passage and appointing authorities to fill any vacancies. The working group co-chairs must schedule and hold the first meeting within 60 days of the bill's passage. The working group must meet at least monthly and at other times the co-chairs deem necessary. The General Law Committee administrative staff serve as the working group's administrative staff.

§§ 15 & 17 — 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 providing 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 of more than 60 days; and
6. Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act violations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2026)