



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 268**

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5405

*House of Representatives, March 31, 2026*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING OWNERS, OPERATORS AND LESSEES OF CRANES AND HOISTING EQUIPMENT.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-221 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 As used in this chapter: (1) "Board" means the Examining Board for  
4 Crane Operators established under section 29-222, as amended by this  
5 act; (2) "commissioner" means the Commissioner of Administrative  
6 Services; (3) "crane" means power-operated equipment that can hoist,  
7 lower and horizontally move a suspended load and which has a  
8 manufacturer's maximum rated hoisting or lifting capacity exceeding  
9 two thousand pounds, including, but not limited to: (A) Articulating  
10 cranes such as knuckle-boom cranes, (B) crawler cranes, (C) floating  
11 cranes, (D) cranes on barges, (E) locomotive cranes, (F) mobile cranes  
12 such as wheel-mounted, rough terrain, all-terrain, commercial truck-  
13 mounted and boom truck cranes, (G) multipurpose machines when  
14 configured to hoist and lower, by means of a winch or hook, and

15 horizontally move a suspended load, (H) industrial cranes such as  
16 carry-deck cranes, (I) dedicated pile drivers when used in construction,  
17 demolition or excavation work, (J) service or mechanic trucks with a  
18 hoisting device, (K) cranes on monorails, (L) tower cranes such as fixed  
19 jib hammerhead boom, luffing boom and self-erecting, (M) pedestal  
20 cranes, (N) portal cranes, (O) overhead and gantry cranes, (P) straddle  
21 cranes, (Q) side boom cranes, (R) derricks, and (S) variations of such  
22 equipment; (4) "hoisting equipment", other than cranes, means  
23 motorized equipment (A) used in construction, demolition or  
24 excavation work, (B) at a construction site for a project, other than a  
25 project involving residential structures of less than four stories, the  
26 estimated cost of which is more than one million two hundred fifty  
27 thousand dollars, and (C) which has a manufacturer's rated hoisting or  
28 lifting capacity exceeding five tons and a manufacturer's rated  
29 maximum reach in excess of thirty-two feet; (5) "department" means the  
30 Department of Administrative Services; [and] (6) "apprentice" means a  
31 person who is not licensed under this chapter, who has filed an  
32 application for a license with the board and whose employer has  
33 registered him or her with the board to learn crane operations or  
34 hoisting equipment operations under the direct supervision of a  
35 licensed operator in accordance with section 29-224c; and (7) "lessee"  
36 means a person, firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability  
37 company, association or other legal entity that rents or leases a crane or  
38 hoisting equipment.

39 Sec. 2. Section 29-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
40 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

41 There shall be in the Department of Administrative Services an  
42 Examining Board for Crane Operators consisting of [five] seven  
43 members who shall be residents of this state. Members shall be  
44 appointed by the Governor subject to the provisions of section 4-9a. One  
45 member shall be an employee of the department, [one member shall be  
46 a crane operator] two members shall be crane operators having at least  
47 ten years of experience, [one member] two members shall represent the  
48 interests of crane owners and two members shall be public members.

49 Members shall not be compensated for their services but shall be  
50 reimbursed for necessary expenses in the performance of their duties. A  
51 quorum of the board for the purpose of transacting business shall exist  
52 only when there is present, in person, a majority of its membership. Any  
53 member absent from (1) three consecutive meetings of the board, or (2)  
54 fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar year shall be deemed  
55 to have resigned from the board.

56 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 29-223a of the general statutes is  
57 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
58 *1, 2026*):

59 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to: (1) Engineers  
60 under the jurisdiction of the United States, (2) engineers or operators  
61 employed by public utilities or industrial manufacturing plants, (3) any  
62 person operating either a bucket truck or a digger derrick designed and  
63 used for an electrical generation, electrical transmission, electrical  
64 distribution, electrical catenary or electrical signalization project, if such  
65 person: (A) Holds a valid limited electrical line contractor or  
66 journeyman's license issued pursuant to chapter 393 or any regulation  
67 adopted pursuant to said chapter, or (B) has engaged in the installation  
68 of electrical line work for more than one thousand hours, or (C) has  
69 enrolled in or has graduated from a federally recognized electrical  
70 apprenticeship program, (4) persons engaged in (A) the recreational  
71 boating or fishing industry, except when engaged in construction-  
72 related work, or [in] (B) agriculture, [or arboriculture,] or (5) persons  
73 engaged in activities, or using equipment, excluded under section 29-  
74 221a.

75 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 29-224 of the general statutes is  
76 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
77 *1, 2026*):

78 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to:  
79 (1) Engineers under the jurisdiction of the United States, (2) engineers  
80 or operators employed by public utilities or industrial manufacturing  
81 plants, (3) any person operating either a bucket truck or a digger derrick

82 designed and used for an electrical generation, electrical transmission,  
83 electrical distribution, electrical catenary or electrical signalization  
84 project, if such person: (A) Holds a valid limited electrical line contractor  
85 or journeyman's license issued pursuant to chapter 393 or any  
86 regulation adopted pursuant to said chapter, or (B) has engaged in the  
87 installation of electrical line work for more than one thousand hours, or  
88 (C) has enrolled in or has graduated from a federally recognized  
89 electrical apprenticeship program, (4) persons engaged in (A) the  
90 recreational boating or fishing industry, except when engaged in  
91 construction-related work, or [in] (B) agriculture, [or arboriculture,] (5)  
92 persons engaged in activities, or using equipment, excluded under  
93 section 29-221a, or (6) persons operating equipment, except a tower  
94 crane, that can hoist, lower and horizontally move a suspended load and  
95 has a manufacturer's maximum rated hoisting or lifting capacity  
96 exceeding two thousand pounds but not exceeding ten thousand  
97 pounds who, pursuant to federal Occupational Safety and Health  
98 Administration Standard 1926.1427, are (A) certified by an accredited  
99 crane operator testing organization, (B) qualified by an audited  
100 employer program, (C) qualified by the United States military, or (D)  
101 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

102 Sec. 5. Section 29-224b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
103 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

104 The commissioner or any employee of the Department of  
105 Administrative Services, while engaged in the performance of [his or  
106 her] the commissioner's or employee's duties, may (1) enter at all  
107 reasonable hours into and upon any premises in or on which the  
108 commissioner or employee has reason to believe a crane or hoisting  
109 equipment is located for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of  
110 this chapter and the regulations adopted thereunder, (2) require a crane  
111 operator or hoisting equipment operator to produce for verification  
112 such operator's license issued under this chapter, (3) require a crane  
113 owner to produce for verification such owner's certificate of registration  
114 issued under this chapter, and (4) require a crane operator, hoisting  
115 equipment operator, crane owner, hoisting equipment owner or lessee

116 to produce any document establishing an agreement between such  
117 operator, owner or lessee and a person, firm, partnership, corporation,  
118 limited liability company, association or other legal entity to perform  
119 crane or hoisting work on the premises.

120       Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) The Commissioner of  
121 Administrative Services or an employee of the Department of  
122 Administrative Services may issue a stop work order against a crane  
123 owner, crane operator, hoisting equipment owner, hoisting equipment  
124 operator, lessee or person that contracted with the owner, operator or  
125 lessee to perform crane or hoisting work, if the commissioner or  
126 employee determines that such owner, operator, lessee or person has  
127 committed one or more of the following violations: (1) Demonstrating  
128 incompetence or negligence, (2) permitting the operation of the owner's,  
129 operator's or lessee's crane in an unsafe manner, or (3) failing to comply  
130 with the provisions of section 29-223a of the general statutes, as  
131 amended by this act, or 29-224 of the general statutes, as amended by  
132 this act. For purposes of this section, the term "person" includes firms,  
133 partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, associations and  
134 any other legal entities.

135       (b) Such stop work order: (1) (A) Shall require the cessation of the  
136 owner's, operator's or lessee's crane, hoisting equipment or related  
137 lifting operations at the place or premises where the violation was  
138 determined to have occurred, and (B) shall not require the cessation of  
139 unrelated construction activities at such place or premises unless such  
140 activities present an immediate danger to any individual or property,  
141 (2) shall be effective when served upon the owner, operator or lessee  
142 and the person that contracted with the owner, operator or lessee to  
143 perform crane or hoisting work at the place or premises subject to such  
144 stop work order by posting notice of the stop work order in a  
145 conspicuous location at such place or premises, and (3) shall remain in  
146 effect until the commissioner (A) determines that the owner, operator,  
147 lessee or person has resolved the violation or violations that gave rise to  
148 the stop work order, and (B) issues an order releasing such stop work  
149 order.

150 (c) Any crane owner, crane operator, hoisting equipment owner,  
151 hoisting equipment operator, lessee or person who has been served with  
152 a stop work order pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may request  
153 an administrative hearing to contest such stop work order. Such request  
154 shall be made in writing to the commissioner not more than ten days  
155 after such owner, operator, lessee or person was served with such stop  
156 work order. Such hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the  
157 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.

158 (d) The commissioner shall notify the Examining Board for Crane  
159 Operators established under section 29-222 of the general statutes, as  
160 amended by this act, of each stop work order issued under subsection  
161 (a) of this section and any violation of such a stop work order.

162 (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
163 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the purposes  
164 of this section.

165 Sec. 7. Section 29-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
166 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

167 (a) The board may suspend or revoke a crane operator's license, a  
168 hoisting equipment operator's license or an apprentice's certificate, after  
169 notice and hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, upon  
170 a finding that the holder has demonstrated incompetence or [has been  
171 guilty of] negligence in the performance of [his or her] such holder's  
172 work.

173 (b) The board may suspend or revoke a crane owner's registration,  
174 after notice and hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,  
175 upon a finding that the holder has failed to properly maintain [his or  
176 her] such holder's crane or has permitted the operation of [his or her]  
177 such holder's crane in an unsafe manner.

178 (c) (1) The board may impose a civil penalty of not more than [three]  
179 five thousand dollars per violation per day on any crane or hoisting  
180 equipment owner or operator, [who violates] lessee or person that

181 contracted with an owner, operator or lessee to perform crane or  
182 hoisting work, after notice and hearing in accordance with the  
183 provisions of chapter 54, upon a finding that the owner, operator or  
184 lessee has violated any provision of this chapter or any regulations  
185 adopted thereunder. For purposes of this section, the term "person"  
186 includes firms, partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies,  
187 associations and any other legal entities.

188 (2) The board may impose a civil penalty of not more than one  
189 thousand dollars per violation per day on any crane or hoisting  
190 equipment owner or operator or lessee, after notice and hearing in  
191 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, upon a finding that the  
192 owner, operator or lessee has operated, or allowed the operation of, such  
193 owner's, operator's or lessee's crane or hoisting equipment without a  
194 valid license or certificate of registration, as applicable, issued under this  
195 chapter.

196 (3) If the board, after notice and hearing in accordance with the  
197 provisions of chapter 54, finds that a crane or hoisting equipment owner  
198 or operator, lessee or person that contracted with an owner, operator or  
199 lessee to perform crane or hoisting work violated a stop work order  
200 issued pursuant to section 6 of this act, the board shall impose a fine of  
201 five thousand dollars per day for each day the stop work order was  
202 violated.

203 (d) The board shall not renew a license or registration of any crane or  
204 hoisting equipment owner or operator who has an unpaid civil penalty  
205 until such time as such penalty is paid in full.

206 (e) The board, at any time after the issuance of a notice alleging a  
207 violation of any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted  
208 thereunder, may accept, in lieu of a hearing in accordance with the  
209 provisions of chapter 54, an agreement by any person charged with such  
210 violation. Negotiations relating to any such agreement shall be  
211 confidential and not subject to disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of  
212 Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, but any such agreement  
213 itself shall be a public record for purposes of said act.

214        (f) The Commissioner of Administrative Services may apply for the  
 215 enforcement of any civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section  
 216 against any person who is not licensed as a crane or hoisting equipment  
 217 operator or who has not obtained a registration of any crane under  
 218 subsection (a) of section 29-224 to the superior court for the judicial  
 219 district of Hartford, or to any judge thereof if the same is not in session,  
 220 for an order (1) directing payment in full of any unpaid balance of such  
 221 civil penalty, or (2) temporarily and permanently restraining and  
 222 enjoining such person from performing or allowing the performance of  
 223 the work of a crane or hoisting equipment operator. The application for  
 224 such order, and for such other appropriate decree or process, shall be  
 225 brought and the proceedings thereon conducted by the Attorney  
 226 General.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	29-221
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	29-222
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	29-223a(b)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2026	29-224(b)
Sec. 5	October 1, 2026	29-224b
Sec. 6	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 7	October 1, 2026	29-225

**PS**        *Joint Favorable Subst.*



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*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.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which makes several changes to the state's laws and regulatory process concerning cranes and hoisting equipment, results in no cost to the state.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5405*****AN ACT CONCERNING OWNERS, OPERATORS AND LESSEES OF CRANES AND HOISTING EQUIPMENT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to the state's laws on cranes and hoisting equipment, including how they are regulated by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Examining Board for Crane Operators. Generally, it:

1. expands the size of the board by two members, from five to seven;
2. eliminates licensure and registration exemptions for people engaged in arboriculture (i.e. cultivating trees and shrubs); and
3. changes the department's and board's investigative and enforcement authority, such as by allowing stop work orders to be issued, increasing the maximum civil penalty for violations, and expanding who the penalty can be applied against to include equipment owners' lessees and contractors.

The bill also makes conforming and technical changes, including specifying that notices and hearings must be done according to the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**EXAMINING BOARD FOR CRANE OPERATORS MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION (§ 2)**

Under current law, the Examining Board for Crane Operators in DAS has five members, of which one must be a DAS employee, one must be a crane operator with at least 10 years of experience, one must represent

crane owners' interests, and two must be public members. The bill expands the board's size by two members by adding a second crane operator who has the requisite experience and a second crane owners' representative. By law and under the bill, all board members are appointed by the governor and must be Connecticut residents.

#### **LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ARBORICULTURISTS (§§ 3 & 4)**

Current law exempts several classes of people from the state's crane and hoisting equipment licensure and registration requirements. The bill eliminates these exemptions for people engaged in arboriculture. Consequently, they will need to obtain the respective licenses or certificates of registration issued by the Examining Board for Crane Operators in order to (1) operate or permit the operation of a crane they own or (2) engage in, practice, or offer to perform the work of a hoisting equipment operator, hoisting equipment operator apprentice, crane operator, or crane operator apprentice (CGS §§ 29-223a(a) & 29-224(a)).

#### **CHANGES TO INVESTIGATING AND ENFORCING THE STATE'S CRANE AND HOISTING EQUIPMENT LAWS (§§ 1 & 5-7)**

The bill makes several changes to the investigative and enforcement authority of DAS and the Examining Board for Crane Operators, including to explicitly encompass lessees. Under the bill, a "lessee" is any individual or other legal entity that rents or leases a crane or hoisting equipment (§ 1).

##### ***Right of Entry for Investigation and Inspection (§ 5)***

Current law allows the DAS commissioner and its employees, while performing their duties and at all reasonable hours, to enter any premises where a crane or hoisting equipment is located to enforce the laws applicable to them. The bill limits this right of entry to premises where they have reason to believe a crane or hoisting equipment is located. It also specifies that they may require:

1. crane and hoisting equipment operators to produce their licenses for verification;

2. crane owners to produce their crane's certificate of registration for verification; and
3. crane and hoisting equipment operators, owners, and lessees to produce any document establishing an agreement they have with an individual or other legal entity to perform crane or hoisting work on the premises.

(Existing law already requires (1) crane and hoisting equipment operators to carry their licenses when operating their respective equipment and (2) cranes' certificates of registration to be affixed to them in their principal operating location (CGS §§ 29-223a(a) & 29-224(a); Conn. Agencies Regs., § 29-223-5a(d)).)

### **Stop Work Orders (§§ 6 & 7)**

The bill allows the DAS commissioner and its employees to issue a stop work order against a crane or hoisting equipment owner, operator, or lessee, or their contractors performing crane or hoisting work, if either determines the owner, operator, lessee, or contractor has committed one or more of the following violations: (1) demonstrating incompetence or negligence; (2) permitting the operation of the owner's, operator's, or lessee's crane in an unsafe manner; or (3) failing to comply with the state's crane and hoisting equipment licensure and registration requirements.

Under the bill, a stop work order:

1. must require that the owner's, operator's, or lessee's crane, hoisting equipment, or related lifting operations stop at the place or premises where the violation was determined to have occurred;
2. must not require unrelated construction activities at the place or premises to stop unless they present an immediate danger to an individual or property;
3. is effective when served upon the owner, operator, or lessee and

contractor by posting notice of the stop work order in a conspicuous location at the place or premises; and

4. remains in effect until the commissioner determines that the owner, operator, lessee, or contractor has resolved the violation and issues an order releasing the stop work order.

The bill allows anyone served with a stop work order to request an administrative hearing to contest it. The request must be made in writing to the commissioner within 10 days after being served, and the hearing must be conducted according to the UAPA.

Additionally, the bill requires the commissioner to (1) adopt regulations to carry out the bill's stop work order provisions and (2) notify the Examining Board for Crane Operators of each stop work order issued and any violation of an issued order. If the board, after notice and hearing, finds that a crane or hoisting equipment owner or operator, lessee, or contractor violated a stop work order, the bill requires it to impose a fine of \$5,000 per day for each day the order was violated.

### ***Suspensions, Revocations, and Penalties (§ 7)***

The bill modifies one of the circumstances when the Examining Board for Crane Operators may suspend or revoke a crane or hoisting equipment operator's license or an apprentice's certificate. Current law allows the board to do so after notice and hearing and a finding that the holder has been guilty of negligence in performing his or her work. The bill instead only requires a finding that the holder has demonstrated negligence in his or her work performance.

Additionally, the bill increases the existing maximum civil penalty against crane and hoisting equipment owners and operators for violating the state's crane and hoisting equipment laws from a fine of up to \$3,000 per violation to a fine of up to \$5,000 per violation per day. It also expands who this penalty may be applied against to include lessees and contractors. The bill specifies that penalties may only be imposed after notice and hearing and a finding that the owner, operator, or lessee violated the crane and hoisting equipment laws.

The bill also allows the board to impose a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation per day on any crane or hoisting equipment owner, operator, or lessee after notice and hearing and upon a finding that the owner, operator, or lessee has operated, or allowed the operation of, his or her crane or hoisting equipment without a valid license or certificate of registration.

At any time after issuing a notice alleging a violation, the bill allows the board to accept an agreement instead of holding a hearing. It makes agreement negotiations confidential and exempt from disclosure under the state’s Freedom of Information Act but makes the agreement itself a public record under the act.

Lastly, the bill allows the DAS commissioner to apply to Hartford Superior Court for the enforcement of any civil penalty imposed against any person who is not licensed as a crane or hoisting equipment operator or who has not obtained a registration of any crane for an order (1) directing payment in full of any unpaid balance of the civil penalty, or (2) temporarily and permanently restraining and enjoining the person from performing or allowing the performance of the work of a crane or hoisting equipment operator. The application for an order, and for any other appropriate decree or process, must be brought, and the proceedings conducted, by the attorney general.

**BACKGROUND**

***Related Bill***

sHB 5003, §§ 26-32, favorably reported by the Labor and Public Employees Committee, has identical provisions.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)