

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-76—sSB 477

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS, A MUNICIPAL OPTION TO ABATE DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES ON CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND, ALLOCATIONS OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027

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[§§ 1-7 — PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FILING DEADLINES](#)

Allows taxpayers in certain municipalities to claim a property tax exemption for specified property and grand lists even though they missed the applicable filing deadline to claim the exemption or provide required documentation, as applicable

The act allows taxpayers in six municipalities to claim certain property tax exemptions for the property and grand lists shown in the table below, even though they missed the filing deadline to claim the exemption or provide required documentation, as applicable. It does so by waiving the deadline if the taxpayer files for the exemption by July 31, 2026, and pays the statutory late filing fee. The tax assessor must confirm that he or she received the fee, verify the property's eligibility for the exemption, and subsequently approve the exemption. The municipality must refund any taxes, interest, or penalties paid on the property as if the claim was timely filed.

Exemption Deadline Waivers Under the Act

§	Municipality	Grand List	Exemption
1	Berlin	2025	Machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, biotechnology, and recycling (CGS § 12-81(76))
4	Middletown	2024	
6	Waterbury	2025	
2	Lebanon	2025	Property owned by, or held in trust for, a corporation organized exclusively for scientific, educational, literary, historical, or charitable purposes and used exclusively for these purposes, or preserving open space land (CGS § 12-81(7))
3	Meriden	2025	
5	Middletown	2025	
7	West Hartford	2025	

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 8 — PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR QUALIFYING PROPERTY OWNERS

Allows municipalities to abate all or part of the delinquent property taxes owed for qualifying land on the 2013 and 2014 grand lists

The act allows a municipality, by vote of its legislative body (or board of selectmen if the legislative body is a town meeting), to abate all or part of the delinquent property taxes owed to it for qualifying land on the 2013 and 2014 grand lists. To qualify for the abatement, the parcel must be less than 6,000 square feet and have been under the same continuous ownership for at least 45 years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 9 — VALIDATION OF PROPERTY TAX-RELATED ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS IN WILTON

Validates certain property tax-related actions and proceedings in Wilton

The act validates the actions and proceedings of Wilton's officers and officials related to (1) mailing the assessment increase notice for the 2025 grand list and (2) assessment appeals hearings held by the town's board of assessment appeals. It does this regardless of the statutory requirements for publishing the grand list, equalizing assessments, notifying property owners about increases or decreases in property valuations, and assessment appeals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 10, 21, 86, 104 & 108 — CARRYFORWARDS

Carries forward certain agencies' unspent funds and requires that they be used in FY 27 for specified purposes

The act carries forward unspent balances from FY 26 appropriations and requires that they be used for other purposes in the same agency, as listed in the table below. (PA 26-68 contains numerous other carry forward provisions for FY

27.)

Funds Carried Forward for FY 27

§	Agency	FY 26 Purpose	FY 27 Purpose	Amount
10	Office of Legislative Management	Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering	Same as FY 26	Up to \$45,000
21	Auditors of Public Accounts	Personal Services	Other Expenses	Up to \$200,000
86	Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)	Various Grants, for High Poverty Community Leadership Development	Leadership development of a community development corporation and its operations in Hartford's South End	Up to \$500,000
104	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Angel of Edgewood, Inc.	Up to \$100,000
108	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Rich Dae Foundation	Up to \$175,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 11-12 & 67 — CHANGES TO FY 27 EARMARKS FOR SDE GRANTS

Shifts the funding sources for, and makes various other changes to, FY 27 earmarks for SDE grants; adds earmarks for various purposes

The FY 26-27 biennial budget act earmarked specified amounts from the State Department of Education's (SDE) Other Expenses line item appropriation in FYs 26 and 27. PA 26-68, § 12, shifts the funding sources for, and makes various other changes to, the amounts earmarked for specified purposes in FY 27. This act additionally:

1. increases, from \$210,000 to \$220,000, the amount earmarked for a grant to the Stamford Public Education Foundation (§ 11);
2. shifts the funding source for a \$500,000 grant to the State Education Resource Center (SERC) for disconnected youth programming from SDE's Various Grants line item to its SERC line item (§ 12); and
3. shifts a \$75,000 grant earmarked in FYs 26 and 27 for the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County for the Bridgeport Public Schools Debate League to the United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut for the same debate league and specifies that the amount earmarked for FY 26 carries forward for the same purpose in FY 27 (§ 67).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 13-17 — COMPENSATION FOR JUDGES AND CERTAIN OTHER STATE OFFICIALS

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Increases the salary and other compensation for judges and certain other judicial officials by approximately 4.35% starting in FY 27; correspondingly increases the salary of certain other state officials whose salary, by law, is tied to that of judges

Starting on July 1, 2026, the act increases the following by approximately 4.35%: (1) salaries for judges, family support magistrates, family support referees, and judge trial referees; (2) additional amounts that certain judges receive for performing administrative duties; and (3) salaries of certain officials whose compensation, by law, is determined in relation to the salary of the chief justice or a Superior Court judge or a state referee's per-diem rate (including, starting with the next term for these offices, the governor and other constitutional officers).

The act also makes technical changes, including removing obsolete language.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Judicial Salaries

The table below shows the act's changes to judicial salaries starting in FY 27.

Judicial Salaries

Position	Prior Salary	Salary Under the Act Starting July 1, 2026
Supreme Court chief justice	\$248,936	\$259,764
Chief court administrator (if a judge)	239,210	249,616
Supreme Court associate judge	230,334	240,354
Appellate Court chief judge	227,786	237,695
Appellate Court judge	216,336	225,775
Deputy chief court administrator (if a Superior Court judge)	212,381	221,620
Superior Court judge	208,059	217,109
Chief family support magistrate	181,101	188,979
Family support magistrate	172,361	179,859
Family support referee	269/day*	280/day*
Judge trial referee	312/day*	326/day*

*Plus expenses, mileage, and retirement pay

As under existing law, judges with at least 10 years of judicial or other state service also receive semi-annual longevity payments equal to a specified percentage of their annual salary.

Administrative Judges

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The law pays judges extra compensation for taking on certain administrative duties. The act increases these annual payments, which are in addition to the judges' annual salaries, from \$1,419 to \$1,481 starting on July 1, 2026. The judges who receive this additional amount are (1) the appellate system's administrative judge; (2) each judicial district's administrative judge; and (3) each chief administrative judge for (a) facilities, administrative appeals, the judicial marshal service, or judge trial referees, and (b) the Superior Court's family, juvenile, criminal, or civil divisions.

Related Increases

The act's provisions result in salary, rate, or maximum compensation increases for other officials or judges whose compensation is tied to those of judges or judge trial referees. Specifically:

1. the salaries of workers' compensation administrative law judges vary depending on service time and are tied to those of Superior Court judges (CGS § 31-277),
2. the salaries of probate court judges vary depending on probate district classification and range from 45% to 75% of a Superior Court judge's salary (CGS § 45a-95a),
3. senior judges receive the same per-diem rates as state referees (CGS §§ 51-47b(a) & 52-434b),
4. the probate court administrator's salary is the same as that of a Superior Court judge (CGS § 45a-75), and
5. the maximum compensation a retired judge may receive equals the highest annual salary during the fiscal year for the judicial office the judge held at retirement (CGS § 51-47b(b)).

Additionally, existing law generally makes the salary for the (1) governor equal to the salary for the Connecticut Supreme Court chief justice and (2) lieutenant governor, secretary of the state, state treasurer, state comptroller, and state attorney general equal to the salary for Superior Court judges. For these six officials, any salary increase does not take effect until the start of the next term for that office (CGS §§ 3-2, -11, -77, -111 & -124).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 18-20 & 82 — HOSPITAL PROVIDER TAX TECHNICAL FIXES

Makes technical fixes to hospital tax provisions in the budget act

The act makes technical fixes to effectuate certain hospital provider tax-related provisions in the budget act (PA 26-68, §§ 357, 361 & 362). Specifically, the act (§ 20) repeals provisions (1) changing the definitions that are applicable to most provisions related to the tax by inserting children's general hospitals into the "hospital" term (a conforming change) and adding a definition for "health system" that is the same as an existing statutory term (§18) and (2) requiring the tax and related supplemental payments to hospitals to revert to the structure and amounts in effect on June 1, 2025, under specified circumstances (§ 19). It replaces these

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provisions with substantially similar ones. It also corrects a statutory reference related to new information reporting requirements (§ 82).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the repealer and information reporting provisions are effective upon passage.

§ 22 — MUNICIPAL CHARTER AMENDMENT PROCESS EXCEPTION

Temporarily allows municipalities with populations greater than 20,000, but less than 30,000, to start the charter revision process with a majority, rather than a two-thirds, vote of the appointing authority's membership

State law has a procedure that a municipality may use to revise its charter. Generally, this process must be started by a (1) resolution adopted by two-thirds of its entire appointing authority (see *Background — Municipal Appointing Authorities*) or (2) petition signed by at least 10% of the municipality's electors (meaning eligible voters).

The act creates a limited exception for any municipality with a population greater than 20,000 but less than 30,000, based on the 2020 federal decennial census. From May 7, 2026, until December 31, 2026, an eligible municipality may instead start the process by a majority vote of the entire appointing authority (rather than a two-thirds vote, as the law generally requires). As under existing law, the process may also be started by a petition signed by at least 10% of the municipality's electors.

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, once the process is initiated, the appointing authority must appoint a charter commission within 30 days. The commission must consider changes that the appointing authority or petitioners, as applicable, recommend and others the commission decides are needed. The law sets out public hearing requirements and the process for the appointing authority to vote on the proposed changes. Voters can petition to hold a referendum on any of the commission's proposed changes that the appointing authority votes to reject, and voters must ultimately vote on the changes, regardless of whether the appointing authority initially approved them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Municipal Appointing Authorities

A municipality's appointing authority is the (1) town's board of selectmen, town council, or board of directors; (2) city's common council or other body empowered to make ordinances; or (3) borough's board of burgesses (CGS § 7-187).

§§ 23 & 24 — CORNFIELD POINT ASSOCIATION'S CHARTER

Doubles the maximum assessment a specific special taxing district is allowed to impose on property owners, capping it at \$1,000 per improved lot and \$200 per unimproved lot

The act amends Cornfield Point Association's special act charter. This special

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taxing district for a shoreline community was previously allowed to impose an annual assessment of up to \$500 per lot with a dwelling or cottage on it and up to \$100 per vacant lot. The act doubled these caps, making them \$1,000, and \$200, respectively.

The act also specifies that this charter change is not to be invalidated because of the association's failure to timely file its request for legislation with the secretary of the state (see *Related Act*).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Related Act

PA 26-132 eliminates a statutory requirement that a unit of local government (such as a town or taxing district) seeking a change to its special act powers (generally its charter) file a copy of the request with the secretary of the state before the legislative session begins.

§ 25 — HARTFORD REVALUATION DELAY

Allows Hartford to delay implementing its 2026 revaluation until October 1, 2027

By law, municipalities must revalue their real property once every five years. The act allows Hartford to delay implementing its 2026 revaluation by one year, until the 2027 assessment year, if its legislative body approves. The act correspondingly allows Hartford (specifically, its rate maker) to prepare new tax bills to reflect this delay. Under the act, Hartford's subsequent revaluations are not delayed, and it must resume following its set five-year revaluation schedule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 26, 27 & 95-98 — HEALTH CARE GROWTH AND QUALITY BENCHMARKS AND PRIMARY CARE SPENDING TARGETS

Makes technical and minor changes to the revised methodology for assessing compliance with health care cost growth benchmark, cost drivers, quality benchmark, hospital growth benchmark, and primary care spending targets

The act makes technical changes to the revised methodology required under PA 26-68 for assessing compliance with health care cost growth benchmark, cost drivers, quality benchmark, hospital growth benchmark, and primary care spending targets.

It also makes related minor changes to requirements created under PA 26-68, § 365, for the Office of Policy Management (OPM) secretary, such as specifying that the preliminary results that the secretary must provide each hospital are to be based on the prior year's data.

The act also repeals duplicative provisions in PA 26-68 (§§ 132-137) on the transfer of oversight of the health care cost growth and quality benchmarks and primary care spending target from the Office of Health Strategy to OPM.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the section that repeals duplicative

provisions is effective upon passage.

§§ 28 & 57 — HOSPITAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES

Amends a budget act provision on translation services for notices of hospital financial assistance policies, to clarify that hospitals must translate the notice if a set threshold of the community speaks a given language; repeals a budget act provision that requires hospitals to deem patients as meeting their financial assistance programs' income requirements if the patients are enrolled in certain public assistance programs

The budget act requires each hospital to have a written financial assistance policy, consistent with federal regulations requiring nonprofit hospitals to have these policies in order to maintain their tax-exempt status. It also requires hospitals to include a notice about their financial assistance policy on each patient bill, with a statement on the first page that translation services for the notices are available if a language is spoken by at least 1,000 people or 5% of the community served by the hospital facility or likely to be affected or encountered by the facility. Instead of requiring the statement on translation services, this act directly requires hospitals to translate the notice if the population threshold is met.

This act also repeals a budget act provision requiring hospitals with financial assistance programs, starting in 2027, to consider patients as meeting the program's income requirements if the patients are enrolled in certain public assistance programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on translation services is effective October 1, 2026.

§§ 29-31 — FUEL CELL PROJECTS IN ANSONIA

Makes a specific fuel cell project in Ansonia eligible for a buy-all NRES tariff, authorizes the state to contract with the project owner and the Green Bank to select state electricity accounts to be beneficial accounts for the project, makes the project eligible for a natural gas rebate, and allows the Siting Council to reopen the petition on the project; sets a new project completion deadline for a separate fuel cell project in Ansonia selected in the SCEF program

NRES Fuel Cell Project

The act makes a specific fuel cell project in Ansonia ("project number NE 53142") eligible for a Non-Residential Energy Solutions (NRES) program tariff under which electric distribution companies (EDCs; Eversource or United Illuminating) purchase all of the project's energy and renewable energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis (a "buy-all" tariff), under terms applicable to a municipal customer. It does so regardless of (1) utility-related laws that, among other things, limit NRES to zero-emissions projects (fuel cells are generally considered low-emissions projects), and (2) the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's (PURA) decisions and rulings in the proceeding for the NRES program review for the fourth year of the program.

The act authorizes the state, acting through the administrative services commissioner, to contract with the project owner and the Connecticut Green Bank

to select electricity accounts for the state that would be beneficial accounts for any power generated by this fuel cell project. Generally, beneficial accounts are additional accounts customers designate to benefit from a facility's energy or related products.

When determining the project's eligibility, the act allows PURA to consider the financial condition of the municipality where the project is proposed to be located (Ansonia).

The act also defines the project as a "customer-side distributed resource" for purposes of eligibility for a natural gas rebate. This provision requires each EDC to give a rebate to customers with customer-side distributed resource projects that use natural gas. By law, the rebate is equal to the customer's retail delivery charge for natural gas and EDCs may recover their rebate costs from the federally mandated congestion charge on electric bills.

By law, the Siting Council has jurisdiction over energy generation projects and must approve certain projects through a declaratory ruling unless the council finds a substantial adverse environmental effect. For this fuel cell project, the council declined to issue a declaratory ruling, stating that the petition from the project developer was incomplete. The act allows the council to reopen the petition upon the petitioner's application and allows the council to consider the financial condition of the municipality where the project is proposed to be located (Ansonia).

SCEF Fuel Cell Project (§ 31)

The act changes the deadline for a different project in Ansonia. "Project number 3066" is a 3.996 megawatt fuel cell project in Ansonia that was selected in the fourth year of the Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF) program. Regardless of existing law or PURA's regulations and procedures, the act makes the deadline for completing the project three years after the act passes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 32 — SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY GAS REBATE

Removes selection deadline for SCEF gas rebates

The law generally requires each gas company (the Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, the Southern Connecticut Gas Company, and Eversource) to have a program that gives rebates to customers that use natural gas for a SCEF (for example, a fuel cell). Under prior law, to get the rebate, projects must have been selected to participate in the SCEF program by December 31, 2023. The act removes this deadline, requiring the companies to give these rebates to SCEFs regardless of when they are selected to participate in the program.

By law, the rebate is equal to the retail delivery charge for transporting natural gas to the SCEF, and a gas company may recover the costs of providing the rebates through its decoupling mechanism, authorized under existing law. (PA 26-127, § 19, includes an identical provision.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 33 — HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ACCOUNT REPORTS

Adds the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to the recipients of required DSS reports on the budget act's hospital supplemental payment account

The budget act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, starting by January 1, 2027, to annually report to the Appropriations and Public Health committees on the collection of funds for deposit into the hospital supplemental payment account and how the account's funds were used during the prior calendar year. This act also requires the reports to be sent to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

The budget act creates the hospital supplemental payment account, to be used by DSS to make Medicaid supplemental payments to hospitals, hospital-affiliated medical groups, and faculty practice plans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 34 — ADDITIONAL FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

Modifies the budget adjustments act by (1) increasing, from one day to 20 days, the minimum number of production days needed to qualify for the additional film and digital media production tax credit that act created and (2) requiring DECD to notify eligible production companies about the credit

PA 26-68, § 275, creates an additional film and digital media production tax credit available for the 2027 and 2028 income years for production expenses or costs incurred for state-certified qualified productions for which principal photography shooting occurs in Bridgeport, Hartford, or New Haven, or any combination of these cities. This act (PA 26-76) increases, from one day to 20 days, the minimum number of production days needed to qualify for the credit.

Under PA 26-68, § 275, unchanged by this act, (1) eligible companies apply to DECD for a voucher (also known as an eligibility certificate) for the credit; (2) the credit equals a percentage of their production expenses and costs, ranging from 30% to 50%, with a minimum threshold of \$100,000; and (3) the total amount of credits is capped at \$1.5 million.

This act requires DECD to notify eligible production companies about the additional credit created by PA 26-68, § 275, when the department issues eligibility certificates for the other film and digital media production tax credit available under state law. More specifically, for these companies, DECD must determine, based on information provided in the company's application for the latter credit, whether the company's production reasonably anticipates that principal photography shooting will occur in Bridgeport, Hartford or New Haven, or any combination of these cities, for at least 20 days, and that production expenses or costs will at least be \$100,000. If DECD determines a company may qualify for the additional credit, the department must give the company written notice about that, including a description of the minimum production expenses or costs threshold and the application requirements to apply for the credit. The notice must also identify an

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estimated amount reserved for the company from the \$1.5 million total and, if requested, the remaining balance of unreserved funds available.

This act specifies that any (1) notice or reservation does not constitute final approval for the credit and does not guarantee that a voucher will be issued and (2) voucher issued must be subject to a company's completion of its production, submission and approval of its voucher application, verification of its expenses and costs, and satisfaction of the legal requirements for the credit and compliance with other applicable legal provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, and applicable to income years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

§ 35 — COST NOTIFICATION FOR INFUSION AND INJECTION SERVICES

Allows health carriers and utilization review companies to give a notification required in the budget act electronically

Starting January 1, 2027, PA 26-68, § 216, requires health carriers (insurers, HMOs, fraternal benefit societies, and hospital or medical service corporations) and utilization review companies, when preauthorizing or pre-certifying infusion or injection services provided at infusion centers, to give the insured written notification that these services provided at hospital-based off-campus outpatient infusion centers may cost more than those provided at non-hospital-based infusion centers. This act also allows that notice to be provided electronically.

This notification requirement applies to individual and group health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut that cover (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 36 — LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND SUPERVISING AUTHORITIES NEAR ELECTIONS SITES

Creates additional exemptions from PA 26-42, § 57, on prohibited acts by officers and supervising authorities near elections sites

PA 26-42, § 57, generally prohibits certain acts near elections sites and subjects violators to certain penalties. Elections sites include, for example, (1) polling places, (2) early voting and same-day election registration locations, and (3) absentee ballot drop boxes.

Among other things, PA 26-42 generally prohibits (1) officers and agents authorized by any state or the federal government to use force against, search, detain, or arrest people, and (2) those that supervise or have control over these officers and agents, hereinafter "officers and supervising authorities," from knowingly being within 250 feet of elections sites. However, these officers and supervising authorities may be within this perimeter for several reasons under that act, including voting while off-duty as allowed by state law. This act also allows

officers and supervising authorities to vote while on duty.

This act also specifies that these officers and supervising authorities may access, travel to and from, or remain at law enforcement unit buildings that (1) were constructed and occupied by a municipal or state law enforcement agency before July 1, 2026; (2) are operated by one of these agency types; and (3) are located within 250 feet of an elections site. The act defines “law enforcement unit buildings” as any building or structure used by police officers when performing their official duties, including headquarters, stations, substations, and barracks.

Similarly, the act also allows off-duty officers and supervising authorities to remain within 250 feet of an elections site as long as necessary while present at another place or location within this perimeter (for example, doing business at a nearby location).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 37-39 — AUTOMATIC ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Repeals and replaces PA 26-42, § 9, on automatic absentee ballot applications; repeals a provision that delayed its effective date

PA 26-42, § 9, established procedures for voters to automatically receive absentee ballot applications for elections, primaries, and referenda they were eligible to vote in. This act repeals that provision and establishes different procedures for doing so. This act also makes a conforming change by repealing PA 26-68, § 55, which delayed implementation of PA 26-42, § 9.

Under this act, any elector (voter) may submit a request to their local town clerk to automatically receive absentee ballot applications for elections, referenda, and primaries in a form and way set by the secretary of the state. The town clerk must issue an absentee ballot application for applicable election contests to each active voter who submits a request by the earlier of (1) 90 days before the election contest or (2) as soon as practicable. The application must have the voter’s information already filled in (information of a person helping the voter with the application does not need to be prefilled).

Before issuing automatic applications, the registrars of voters and the town clerk must compare the list of voters that will receive automatic applications against the municipality’s official active registry (list of active voters in the town). They must do so in order to (1) identify voters that are scheduled to receive automatic applications but are no longer active voters in the town and (2) remove them from automatic absentee ballot status.

Additionally, under this act, voters must also lose their automatic status if (1) they notify the clerk in writing they no longer want automatic applications, (2) an automatic absentee ballot application sent to the voter is returned as undeliverable, or (3) the voter is placed on the inactive registry list.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, except the repeal and conforming change are effective upon passage.

§ 40 — MEDICAID RATE PARITY FOR OPTOMETRISTS

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Requires the DSS commissioner to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates for optometrists so that they equal ophthalmologist rates and seek federal approval to amend the Medicaid state plan if needed

The act requires the DSS commissioner to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates for licensed optometrists so that they equal those of licensed physicians (presumably, ophthalmologists) for performing the same medical service or procedure in Current Procedural Terminology codes 92004 (new patient comprehensive eye examinations), 92014 (existing patient comprehensive eye examinations), 92015 (determining eye refractions), and 92250 (computerized corneal topography). It requires the commissioner to seek federal approval to amend the Medicaid state plan if needed to adjust the rates.

PA 21-2, June Special Session, § 333, already required the DSS commissioner to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates for licensed (1) nurse-midwives to receive the same rates as licensed obstetrician-gynecologists for performing the same services or procedures and (2) podiatrists to receive the same rates as licensed physicians for performing the same services or procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 41 — MODIFICATION OF INSURANCE DEPARTMENT STUDY REQUIREMENT

Makes an Insurance Department study requirement in PA 26-68 contingent on the availability of appropriations

The act directs the Insurance Department to conduct a study required in § 217 of PA 26-68, provided there are available appropriations. In which case, as required by PA 26-68, the department, in consultation with the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, must study and report on the following to the legislature by October 1, 2027:

1. potential ways to lower the cost of infusion and injection services provided at hospital-based off-campus outpatient facilities,
2. appropriate patient protections for stop-loss insurance policies used with self-funded employee health benefit plans, and
3. surprise bills for ground ambulance services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 42 — WAGE INCREASES FOR NURSING HOME EMPLOYEES

Eliminates a budget act provision that restricted wage increases for nursing home employees authorized under PA 25-168 for nurses to only those who solely provide direct care; excludes nursing home directors and assistant directors, starting July 1, 2026, from these wage increases

PA 25-168, § 332, requires the DSS commissioner, regardless of the state's nursing home Medicaid reimbursement law and within available appropriations, to increase nursing home reimbursement rates to support wage increases for employees (nurses; nurse's aides; and dietary, housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, and plant operation personnel) as follows: (1) 3% effective July 1, 2025; (2) 3%

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effective July 1, 2026; and (3) 4% effective January 1, 2027.

This act repeals a provision in the budget act (PA 26-68, § 445) that restricted these wage increases for nurses to only those who solely provide direct patient care services and supports and do not work in administrative roles.

Instead, the act excludes nursing home directors and assistant directors, starting July 1, 2026, from receiving these wage increases.

Under existing law, if a facility receives a rate adjustment for these wage increases and does not provide them, DSS may decrease the facility's rate by the same amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 43 — DSS CON DETERMINATIONS

Amends PA 26-74 to allow DSS to set lower occupancy rates to determine bed need when making CON decisions for projects that relocate beds to comply with a two-bed per room limit

By law, nursing homes must generally receive certificate of need (CON) approval from DSS when relocating licensed beds or decreasing bed capacity, among other things. DSS must consider various factors, including whether there is a clear public need for the request based on the bed need in nearby towns. Under PA 26-74, a service area with a demonstrated bed need is one whose nursing home occupancy is above 96% for at least two consecutive quarters.

Additionally, starting July 1, 2026, existing law generally prohibits placing newly admitted nursing home residents in a room with more than two beds. This act creates an exception to the threshold in PA 26-74 to allow the DSS commissioner to establish bed need based on an occupancy that is lower than 96% for projects that relocate nursing home beds in order to comply with this two-bed per room limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 44 — WAIVES TWO-BED PER ROOM LIMIT FOR CERTAIN NURSING HOMES

Waives two-bed per room limit for state-established nursing homes that serve people transitioning from correctional facilities or receiving DMHAS services

Existing law allows the Department of Correction (DOC), the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and DSS to establish nursing homes for people who require a nursing home level of care and (1) are transitioning from a correctional facility in the state or (2) receive DMHAS services. Starting July 1, 2026, existing law generally prohibits placing newly admitted nursing home residents in a room with more than two beds. The act waives this requirement for any state-established nursing homes described above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 45 — SUFFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTWITHSTANDING

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Amends a notwithstanding for a school construction project at Suffield Middle School passed in the budget act to extend the application deadline to be on the 2026 priority list

Through legislation, the state can exempt school construction projects from certain statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants. (These exemptions are commonly referred to as “notwithstandings.”)

PA 26-68, § 420, waives the filing deadline for an unspecified project at Suffield Middle School to be included on the 2026 priority list if the district applies before July 1, 2026. This act (1) extends this deadline to July 1, 2027, and (2) makes a technical correction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 46 — AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER CONTRACTS

Removes a requirement that ALPR contracts between public agencies and private vendors bar storing the contracting agency’s ALPR data with ALPR data the vendor stores under a contract with a different agency or person

PA 26-14, §§ 13-15 sets various restrictions and requirements related to automated license plate readers (ALPRs). Among other things, it prohibits public agencies from entering or renewing contracts with private vendors for ALPR system usage or data unless the contract bars the vendor from engaging in certain activities with respect to ALPR data collected in the state.

This act removes a provision from PA 26-14 that requires these contracts to bar the vendor from holding or storing the contracting agency’s ALPR data with ALPR data it holds or stores under a contract with a different agency or other person.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 47 — REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANT

Changes the recipient and purpose of an FY 27 regional performance incentive program grant

PA 26-68, § 52, requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to distribute a \$250,000 regional performance incentive program grant to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for FY 27 for a pilot program to consolidate public service answering points. This act changes the purpose of this to a study on the consolidation of public service answering points.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 48 — CONNECTICUT STATE BIRD

Designates Sue Bird as an additional state bird during the month of March

Under existing law, the Connecticut state bird is the American robin. The act designates Suzanne (Sue) Bird as a second state bird during the month of March. (Sue Bird was a top University of Connecticut basketball player.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 49 — NORTHWEST RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY GRANT-IN-AID

Gives a \$500,000 grant-in-aid to the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority

The act requires, by June 30, 2026, a \$500,000 grant-in-aid to be given to the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority. The grant must come from a nonlapsing account established by the OPM secretary for the purpose of winding down the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 50 — ANGEL INVESTOR TAX CREDIT PROGRAM CHANGES

Modifies requirements for businesses to qualify for tax credits under the angel investor tax credit program, including reducing the minimum percentage of a business's employees that must live in Connecticut

The act makes changes to the angel investor tax credit program, which, generally, allows angel investors who make cash investments of at least \$25,000 in the qualified securities of certain Connecticut businesses to be eligible for a personal income tax credit equal to 25% of their investment. By law, an “angel investor” is generally an investor whom the Securities and Exchange Commission considers to be an accredited investor. A “Connecticut business” is any business, other than a cannabis business, whose principal place of business is in Connecticut.

To qualify for the tax credit, existing law requires the investments to be in Connecticut businesses that meet several criteria, including that the business:

1. applied for and received approval from Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (CI) to get credit-eligible investments;
2. had gross revenues of less than \$1 million in the most recent income year;
3. has less than 25 employees;
4. has been operating in Connecticut for fewer than seven consecutive years;
5. is primarily owned by the management of the business and their families; and
6. received less than \$2 million in investments from credit-eligible angel investors.

Prior law additionally required that 75% of the business's employees live in Connecticut. The act reduces this percentage to 50% and, beginning July 1, 2026, requires applications to CI from a business and a related person to be treated as a single Connecticut business under the program.

Existing law and the act define “related person” in relation to a corporation claiming a credit as:

1. a corporation, partnership, association, or trust controlled by that corporation;
2. an individual, corporation, partnership, association, or trust that is in control of that corporation;
3. a corporation, partnership, association, or trust controlled by an individual,

corporation, partnership, association, or trust that is in control of that corporation; or

4. a member of the same controlled group as that corporation.

For the purposes of the “related person” definition and the angel investor tax credit program, the act adds a definition for “control,” which is (1) for corporations, direct or indirect ownership of stock possessing at least 50% of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of the corporation entitled to vote and (2) for trusts, direct or indirect ownership of at least 50% of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of the trust. For determining the ownership of a corporation’s stock, partnership’s or association’s capital or profits, or trust’s beneficial interest, the definition generally requires that:

1. direct or indirect ownership of these assets by or for a corporation, partnership, estate, or trust is considered to be owned proportionately by or for its shareholders, partners, or beneficiaries;
2. an individual is considered as owning the asset, directly or indirectly, by or for his or her family; and
3. the family of an individual includes only his or her brothers and sisters (full and half siblings), spouse, ancestors, and lineal descendants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 51 — STATEWIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Requires the OPM secretary to establish a statewide language access implementation plan for executive branch agencies; sets annual reporting requirements to the legislature on the plan’s implementation

The act requires the OPM secretary, by January 1, 2027, to consult with certain officials to develop a statewide language access implementation plan for state agencies and update it at least every two years. The plan applies to any executive branch department, board, commission, office, or other agency.

The plan must be designed to (1) improve access to public services and benefits and (2) increase meaningful access to public programs, hearings, meetings, appeals, workforce development, licensure, identification documents, and other governmental opportunities that support family economic engagement and mobility.

The act specifies that these provisions do not (1) require any state agency to translate any of the agency’s printed or electronic forms or applications before any deadlines or phases in the plan, (2) limit the plan to written forms or applications, or (3) alter any separate obligations under state or federal law relating to disabilities (see *Background — Federal Law*).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Consultation

The act requires the OPM secretary, when making the plan, to consult the administrative services, social services, and public health commissioners and any other department heads or stakeholders he deems appropriate.

Plan Contents

The act requires the plan to do the following:

1. assess the language access needs of individuals with limited-English proficiency (LEP) in the state, using the U.S. Census Bureau’s most recently published American Community Survey and any available relevant state agency service data;
2. identify the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by LEP individuals in the state;
3. inventory public-facing printed and electronic forms, applications, notices, websites, public meetings, hearings, appeals, complaint processes, application processes, workforce development programs, and other civic or governmental interactions and service delivery points used by state agencies;
4. identify high-priority, public-facing documents and interactions for phased translation and interpretation, including hearings, meetings, complaint processes, and workforce development programs that need live interpretation or sign language access;
5. designate a limited number of these documents and interactions for the first implementation phase;
6. establish a phased implementation schedule for state agencies, including designating what should be included in the first implementation phase, in a way that maximizes administrative efficiencies and minimizes unnecessary costs by using, where practicable, (a) centralized procurement of translation and interpretation services; (b) shared language access services templates and glossaries across state agencies; (c) existing personnel; (d) technology-assisted translation tools with appropriate review by state agency personnel for accuracy, accessibility, and public use; and (e) other strategies identified by the OPM secretary;
7. establish recommended standards for translation and interpretation services, plain language notices of available services, sign language access, accessibility, and agency reporting;
8. include recommendations for potentially expanding language access requirements, as appropriate, to local and regional boards of education, higher education constituent units, health care facilities or institutions receiving state funds or federal funds administered by the state, and state contractors; and
9. identify any necessary legislation, appropriation, administrative action, or procurement changes for implementing the plan and any recommended expansion.

Under the act, a “high-priority public-facing document” is any printed or electronic form, notice, or instruction needed to apply for, obtain, maintain, or renew a public benefit, public service, vital record (birth, marriage, fetal death, or death certificates), or identification document that is identified in the statewide plan.

Reporting

Starting by January 15, 2027, the act requires the OPM secretary to annually report to the Appropriations, Education, Government Administration and Elections (GAE), Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Human Services, and Public Health committees. The report must include (1) a plan summary and any updates; (2) any estimated costs or cost savings with using centralized procurement, shared services, existing personnel, technology-assisted translation tools, and phased implementation of the plan; (3) any expansion recommendations; and (4) any legislative recommendations.

Background — Federal Law

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 generally prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives federal funds or other federal financial assistance, which has been interpreted to include the requirement to provide “meaningful access” to people with LEP. Other federal laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 1557 of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, place additional requirements on state and local governments to ensure those with LEP can access governmental benefits and services.

§ 52 — LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

Requires JCLM to develop a legislative language access plan and report to the legislature

By January 1, 2027, the act requires the Joint Committee on Legislative Management (JCLM) to develop a legislative language access plan for public hearings and meetings and online notices and content to improve access for people with LEP or people who need sign language access. The plan must (1) prioritize legislative documents and interactions for translation or interpretation services or sign language access; (2) establish procedures for requesting translation or interpretation services for legislative public hearings or meetings; and (3) include any implementation recommendations for any necessary legislation, appropriation, or administrative action.

Starting by January 15, 2027, JCLM must annually report to the Appropriations and GAE committees with (1) a summary of the plan and any revisions and (2) any legislative or appropriation recommendations for implementing it.

By July 1, 2027, JCLM must post information on the legislature’s website about language assistance service availability and how to request these services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 53 — YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDING

Changes how DOL must allocate youth employment and training funds to the regional workforce development boards from specified percentages to a need-based formula

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The act changes how the Department of Labor (DOL) must allocate youth employment and training funds to the regional workforce development boards. It also specifies that these funds are for services to people ages 14 to 24.

Prior law set the percentage of the funds that each board must receive (32.5% to Capitol Workforce Partners; 22.5% to The Workforce Alliance; 12.5% to The Workplace, Inc.; 22.5% to the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Inc.; and 10% to the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board).

The act instead requires these funds to be allocated based on a formula the DOL commissioner sets in collaboration with the boards that uses available data, including each workforce development region's number of (1) students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch; (2) economically disadvantaged youth, as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent American Community Survey; and (3) at-risk students. The act allows the commissioner, in consultation with the boards, to update the formula to reflect current conditions in these regions.

However, under the act, the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board's funding allocation (under the initial formula and any updates) cannot be less than the amount allocated to it in FY 26.

Under the act, an "at-risk student" generally is a high school student in danger of not graduating for reasons such as not earning enough credits to graduate, being chronically absent, or behavioral and other disciplinary issues, such as suspensions and expulsions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 54 — BRIDGEPORT ONE-TIME PAYMENT AND THE MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT

Amends a provision in the budget adjustment act providing one-time municipal payments to specify that Bridgeport's payment is not considered part of its education budget for purposes of the state's minimum budget requirement law

PA 26-68, § 464, appropriates \$100,000,006 in FY 26 to OPM for one-time payments to municipalities and carries forward any unspent funds to FY 27 for the same purpose. It also specifies the payment amount for each municipality.

This act amends this provision to specify that Bridgeport's payment is not considered part of the city's budgeted appropriation for education and must be excluded from its minimum budget requirement (MBR) calculation. By law, the MBR generally prohibits a town from budgeting less for education than it did in the previous fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 55 — FUNDS EARMARKED FOR SHORE LINE EAST

Modifies funding earmarks in PA 26-68 for Shore Line East

PA 26-68, § 480, earmarked funds from the Department of Transportation's (DOT) FY 26 and FY 27 appropriations for Rail Operations (\$3 million and \$4 million, respectively) for Shore Line East. This act (1) requires both earmarks to be

from DOT's FY 27 Rail Operations appropriation; (2) requires \$4 million to be earmarked for the Shore Line East rail line and \$3 million for increasing service on the line; and (3) makes a technical correction. PA 26-21, § 5, has identical provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 56 — FINISH LINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Specifies (1) a time frame within which students must have earned their associate's degree to qualify for the Finish Line Scholars program, as modified by PA 26-68, and (2) that students must have maintained their eligibility while previously participating in the Mary Ann Handley program to qualify

Prior law required a student to have completed at least 60 credits at Connecticut State Community College (CT State) through the Mary Ann Handley program to be eligible for the Finish Line Scholars program. PA 26-68, § 470 eliminates this and instead requires the student to have received an associate's degree. This act specifies that the associate's degree must have been earned during the fall 2025 semester or any following semester.

The act further modifies program eligibility requirements, specifying that a student must have not only participated in the Mary Ann Handley program, but also maintained eligibility throughout their participation.

By law, the Finish Line Scholars program awards grants to students who enrolled at CT State and received a Mary Ann Handley program award (debt-free community college program) and then enroll in a bachelor's program at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities or Charter Oak State College.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 58 — REPEAL OF GREYFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM CHANGES

Repeals provisions in the budget adjustments act that made changes to a greyfield revitalization program

The act repeals PA 26-68, § 207, which limited a greyfield revitalization program to greyfields in East Hartford and the statutorily designated Capital City Economic Development District and expanded the program's scope to include greyfield renovations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 59 — CONNECTICUT WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY GAP PLAN

Modifies the budget adjustments act by altering the workforce and productivity gap contribution plan that OPM must submit to the General Assembly

PA 26-68, § 274, requires the OPM secretary to submit a plan to the General Assembly, by January 1, 2027, that includes a workforce and productivity gap contribution portion that must have four items, including a formula for an annual surcharge for each income or tax year an employer maintains a productivity gap.

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This act (PA 26-76) eliminates the second item in the workforce and productivity gap contribution plan concerning an augmented productivity tax exemption that ensures that any augmented productivity achieved by an employer is permanently exempt from Connecticut taxation.

This act also changes the fourth item in the plan, which requires it to include the establishment of a workforce and economic stability account. PA 26-68, § 274, requires the account to be used (1) for depositing the collected surcharges in and (2) exclusively for workforce retraining, technical education, and career transition programs for displaced employees. This act instead requires the account's surcharge collected funds to be used for grants to employers to (1) acquire generative or assistive artificial intelligence technologies that demonstrate a measurable increase in per-worker output without a corresponding reduction in headcount and (2) train staff on those technologies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 60 — FUNDS EARMARKED FOR OFFICE OF HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE STUDY

Earmarks funds for an Office of Healthcare Advocate study on the accreditation of health services at Department of Correction facilities

The act reserves up to \$100,000 of the DOC FY 27 Other Expenses appropriation and makes the funds available to the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA) to study DOC facilities attaining accreditation for health services, including mental health services, from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 61 & 62 — CT INNOCENCE FUND REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT

Renames the innocence project revolving loan account created by PA 26-68, §§ 250 & 251

PA 26-68, §§ 250 & 251, created the “innocence project revolving loan account,” to be used by the judicial branch to issue loans to claimants who may qualify for wrongful incarceration compensation from the state. This act keeps these provisions but renames the account the “CT innocence fund revolving loan account.”

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 63 — GOVERNOR’S GUARD ACCOUNTS

Eliminates the subaccounts established in the budget adjustment act and instead requires money in the Governor’s Guards horse account to be allocated and accounted for by each unit

The budget adjustment act (PA 26-68, § 487) established two subaccounts within the Governor’s Guards horse account. This act eliminates these subaccounts and instead requires money in the Governor’s Guards horse account to be allocated

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and accounted for by each unit (First and Second Company). Funds generated by, or attributed to, a specific unit must be credited to that unit and spent only on maintaining horses related to that unit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 64 & 65 — FREE AND REDUCED BUS FARES

Requires (1) DOT, rather than SDE, to administer a free bus pass program for students and (2) DOT to spend \$2.5 million of its FY 27 bus operations appropriation to issue related grants and provide discounted CTtransit bus fares for veterans and students

PA 26-21, § 7, requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to administer a program to give local or regional boards of education grants to buy passes for state-owned or -controlled public buses (CTtransit buses) and give them for free to their public school students in grades 9-12.

This act instead requires DOT to administer the program and expands it to also include transit district-provided public bus service.

This act also requires DOT to spend \$2.5 million of its FY 27 bus operations appropriation from the Special Transportation Fund to (1) give grants under the student bus pass program (see above) and (2) provide discounted CTtransit bus fares for veterans and public school students in grades 9-12. (Existing law generally requires the DOT commissioner to give up to a 50% fare discount for CTtransit buses to veterans, seniors, youth, and people with disabilities. It also allows school boards to buy passes for use on these buses at the discounted rate and either give them for free to their public school students in grades 9-12 or sell them to these students at cost or for a reduced cost (CGS § 13b-38j).)

Under the act, a “veteran” is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service) (CGS § 27-103).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the DOT appropriation provision is effective upon passage.

§ 66 — WORKFORCE NAVIGATOR

Requires the regional workforce navigator position created by PA 26-12 to be held by a regional workforce development board’s employee, rather than a board member

PA 26-12, § 27, requires the membership of each of the state’s regional workforce development boards to include a regional workforce navigator. This act removes that requirement and instead requires each board to employ a regional workforce navigator.

As under PA 26-12, the workforce navigator must coordinate with the boards, the Governor’s Workforce Council, and DOL to connect people in adult education programs, and public school students in grades 9 through 12, with workforce

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opportunities such as internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing opportunities, and credentials offered in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 68, 87 & 88 — CHANGES TO CARRYFORWARDS IN PA 26-68

Modifies specified carryforwards in PA 26-68

The act modifies specified carryforwards in PA 26-68, as described in the table below.

Changes to Carryforwards for FY 27

§	PA 26-68		This Act
	Agency and FY 26 Appropriation	Carryforward Amount and Purpose	
68	DECD, Various Grants	Up to \$1,150,000 for a grant to Working Cities Challenge/ Middletown Works	Requires that the grant be made to Working Cities Challenge and \$150,000 of it be used for Middletown Works
87	Judicial Department, Youth Services Prevention	Up to \$100,000 transferred to DECD, Various Grants, for a grant to My Architecture Workshops	Increases the maximum carryforward amount to \$200,000
88	SDE, Other Expenses	Up to \$25,000 for a grant to Burns Latino Academy for musical instruments and instruction	Increases the maximum carryforward amount to \$90,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 69 — STATE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFIED SERVICE EXEMPTION

Modifies the exemption of certain positions from the state employee classified service under PA 26-68

PA 26-68, § 181, exempts certain positions, including positions titled “agency legal director” and “first assistant commissioner of Revenue Services” from the state employee classified service, which excuses them from various civil service exams and other hiring and promotion procedures.

This act specifies that “agency legal director” does not include the agency legal director of the Department of Revenue Services or the OPM general counsel. The act also amends this provision to remove the position of first assistant commissioner of Revenue Services from being exempted.

It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 70 — FARM INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

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Applies expanded eligibility for the farm investment tax credit to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, rather than January 1, 2028

PA 26-75, § 2, expands who qualifies as an eligible farmer under the farm investment tax credit program to include Connecticut taxpayers whose federal gross income from farming for the income or tax year is at least \$250,000. Under PA 26-75, this change applied to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2028. Under this act, it instead applies to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 71 — FOOD RESOURCE GRANTS

Allows DoAg to use GO bonds authorized in FY 23 to make grants to food systems and for food system enhancements

PA 22-118 authorized \$10 million in general obligation (GO) bonds in FY 23 to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) for grants for food resource organization capital improvements. This act also allows DoAg to use these funds to make grants (1) to food systems and (2) for food system enhancements. (PA 26-68, § 312, also extends grant eligibility to food systems.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 72 — CONNECTICUT DATA PRIVACY ACT EXEMPTION

Exempts precise geolocation data DOT uses for certain purposes from the CTDPA

The act exempts precise geolocation data DOT uses for certain purposes from the Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA). Specifically, it is precise geolocation data that has been deidentified or aggregated from personal data and that DOT collected, used, processed, shared, or transferred for (1) transportation planning; (2) traffic management and operations; (3) highway safety analysis; (4) infrastructure design, maintenance, or performance monitoring; or (5) public sector research done by or for an authorized state agency.

By law, the CTDPA establishes a framework for controlling and processing personal data. Among other things, it requires a controller (an individual or legal entity that determines the purpose and how to process personal data) to limit the collection of personal data and establish security practices, among other things.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 73-75 — PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

Requires presidential electors to pledge they will vote for the presidential candidate they were elected to support; establishes procedures for removing electors who fail to vote for their pledged candidate and nullifying their votes

By law, when a voter casts a ballot for a presidential candidate, the ballot is cast for a slate of presidential electors who have pledged to vote for that candidate when

all state electors convene to choose the president and vice president of the United States.

The act specifically requires candidates for presidential elector and individuals who fill a vacancy for these offices to execute a pledge that they will vote for the candidate they are pledged to vote for. It permanently disqualifies any person who fails to vote for their pledged candidate from serving as a presidential elector in the future. Additionally, the act establishes procedures for rejecting an elector's ballot if it is cast for anyone other than the pledged candidate.

State law previously required presidential electors to vote for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates under whose names they ran on the official ballot, but did not nullify their vote if they failed to do so.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes, including specifying how electors must be chosen if the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which Connecticut has joined, is activated.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Presidential Elector Pledges

Under the act, each (1) presidential elector candidate nominated by a political party under state law or (2) person who files a candidacy for presidential elector with a political party designation, must execute the following pledge:

"If chosen for the office of presidential elector, I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots for the nominees for President and Vice President of the political party by which I was nominated."

The act specifies that if a political party's nominee for President or Vice President dies or withdraws before the meeting of electors, the presidential elector's pledge above must apply to the successor nominee.

Similarly, a person who files a candidacy without a political party designation or who registers a candidacy for a write-in candidate must execute the following pledge:

"If chosen for the office of presidential elector, I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots for the candidate for President listed on this filing and for such candidate's running mate as Vice President."

In either case, a copy of the executed pledge must be included in the filed certificate of endorsement, candidacy for nomination, or registration, as applicable.

Relatedly, to be chosen to fill a vacancy for these offices, a person must execute the following pledge:

"I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots consistent with the pledge of the presidential elector who I am replacing."

Voting of Presidential Electors

By law, all the state's presidential electors must meet at the secretary of the state's (SOTS) office at noon on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday of the December following their election. Prior law required each elector to vote for his or her pledged candidate. The act instead sets procedures for nullifying the ballots of electors who do not vote for their pledged candidate.

Under the act, SOTS must give presidential electors their ballots and then

preside over the voting process. Presidential electors must mark their ballots, sign them, and legibly print their names. After completing their ballots, electors must present them to SOTS, who may accept them only if marked for the candidate the electors are pledged for.

If a ballot is marked for another candidate or an elector refuses to vote for the pledged candidate or comply with the act's procedures, the elector forfeits the office, creating a vacancy. As under existing law, the remaining presidential electors choose a new elector by ballot.

The act specifies that each time a vacancy is filled, the procedures above must be repeated until all ballots are accepted.

Certificate of Votes

Federal law sets procedures states must follow when transmitting the results of the presidential electors' meeting. First, the electors must make and sign six certificates of their votes, seal them with their appointment certificates, and then transmit them to certain people specified by federal law. The act requires SOTS to provide these certificates and assist in this process.

Under the act, if an elector refuses to sign the certificates of votes, they forfeit the office of presidential elector, and a vacancy is created. The vacancy must be filled as described above and the procedures above repeated until all ballots are accepted and the certificates of votes are signed.

Certificate of Ascertainment of Appointment

Under federal law, SOTS must issue a certificate of ascertainment of appointment for presidential electors once the winners have been declared and transmit it to the U.S. Archivist. Generally, this certificate is the official list of people declared to be the state's presidential electors.

If the list of electors has changed since SOTS issued the certificate (for example, filling a vacancy), the act requires SOTS to immediately amend the certificate, issue it, and transmit it to the U.S. Archivist by the most expeditious available method, as required under federal law for the original list.

Relatedly, the act generally requires SOTS to note these and related procedures in the original certificate filed with the U.S. Archivist.

§ 76 — ANALYSIS OF HOSPITAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORTING

Makes a clarifying change to PA 26-68 on the transfer, from OHS to OHA, of oversight of hospital community benefit reporting

The budget act eliminates the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and generally transfers its powers, duties, and functions to other agencies. This includes transferring OHS's oversight of hospital community benefit reporting to OHA. This act removes a budget act provision that requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to annually summarize and analyze hospital community benefit program reporting, clarifying that OHA is the agency taking over those functions from OHS.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 77 & 78 — UNLICENSED HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Lowers the budget act's civil and criminal penalties for opening, managing, or operating a health care facility without a required DPH license or certificate

The budget act allows the Department of Public Health (DPH), after a hearing, to impose a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day against anyone who opens, manages, or operates a health care facility without a required DPH license (or certificate for nursing facility management services). This act lowers the maximum daily civil penalty to \$5,000.

The budget act also generally makes this action a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, and sets a maximum \$5,000 daily fine for this offense. This act lowers the criminal penalty to a class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to three months in prison, and sets a maximum \$2,000 daily fine for this offense.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 79 — EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FY 26 FUNDS

Carries forward unspent endowment funds and allows them to be used for authorized expenses in FY 27 and beyond

Existing law requires any Early Childhood Education Endowment funds that are not spent by the end of the fiscal year to be deposited back into the endowment. The act overrides this provision to carry forward endowment funds released for FY 26. Under the act, these funds remain available to the Office of Early Childhood for authorized expenses in FY 27 and beyond, until the funds are fully spent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 80 — HARTFORD SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION AID

Specifies that the \$5 million PA 26-68 provides in supplemental FY 26 education aid for Hartford must be deducted from Hartford's FY 27 supplemental amount

PA 26-68, § 391, generally requires supplemental education grants to be paid to towns in FY 27, but it requires \$5 million of the amount specified for Hartford's supplemental education aid grant to be distributed to the city in FY 26. This act specifies that this \$5 million must be deducted from the supplemental amount that Hartford will receive for FY 27.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 81 — FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA TAX CREDIT

Repeals a duplicate budget act provision extending the increased redemption rate for film and digital media tax credits claimed against the sales tax

The act repeals a duplicate provision in the budget act (PA 26-68, § 223) that

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extends, to the 2026 and 2027 income years, the increased redemption rate for film and digital media tax credits claimed against the sales tax. A separate provision (PA 26-68, § 268) makes the same change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 83 — HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ACCOUNT

Specifies that DSS must pay Medicaid supplemental payments from the hospital supplemental payment account

The budget act (PA 26-68) creates several Medicaid supplemental payment pools, sets a payment schedule for each one beginning with FY 27, and establishes a hospital supplemental payment account. This act amends it to specify that DSS must pay the Medicaid supplemental payments from the hospital supplemental payment account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 84 — REPEAL OF DUPLICATE STUDENT LOAN OMBUDSMAN REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Repeals a duplicate reporting requirement on the Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman's 2025 and 2026 activities

The act repeals a duplicate budget act provision (PA 26-68, § 485) requiring the student loan ombudsman to report on its office's 2025 and 2026 activities (§ 386 of that act also requires it).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 85 — ICHRA TAX CREDIT

Requires that the tax credit against certain state business taxes for qualified small businesses (those with fewer than 50 employees) that offer employees an ICHRA, as established by PA 26-68, be offered through the state's health insurance exchange

This act requires that the tax credit established in PA 26-68, § 263, for qualified small businesses that offer employees an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA, see *Background — ICHRA*) be offered through the state's health insurance exchange. The act leaves unchanged the application and approval processes, including the issuance of certification letters for approved credits, set out in PA 26-68. This act additionally requires that the commissioner of revenue services give Access Health CT a copy of each certification letter and further allows him to enter a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the exchange's chief executive officer (CEO) to facilitate the credit's administration by sharing additional information, including tax returns and related information. Under the act, Access Health CT's CEO cannot further disclose any tax returns or information the commissioner shares to a third party without the commissioner's permission, and these tax returns and information can only be used by the exchange as set out in the MOU.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage and applicable to income and taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Background — ICHRA

Established by federal rule in 2019, an ICHRA allows employers to reimburse employees for buying individual health coverage (for example, through the individual insurance exchange, Access Health CT).

§§ 89-92 — MODIFICATIONS TO TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT PROVISIONS

Modifies provisions of the budget adjustment act related to Tweed-New Haven Airport and Airport Authority

This year's budget adjustment act makes various changes related to Tweed-New Haven Airport (PA 26-68, §§ 166-169, 171 & 172). Among other things, it:

1. modifies the appointments of Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority's board of directors 30 days after the local building official and fire marshal issue a building permit for a passenger terminal facility, meeting certain requirements, on the side of the Tweed-New Haven Airport next to East Haven;
2. starting immediately after building permit issuance, generally requires affirmative votes from at least 10 board members for certain specified actions;
3. expands the authority's powers and duties;
4. defines the term "airport project" for the laws governing Tweed-New Haven Airport; and
5. requires the state treasurer to annually make certain payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) grants to East Haven and New Haven, after the OPM secretary certifies that a passenger terminal facility on the side of the Tweed-New Haven Airport next to East Haven (see above) has opened and is operational.

This act makes various modifications to the provisions described above. Specifically, the act:

1. specifies that the passenger terminal facility must be located on the East Haven side of the airport (rather than the side of the airport next to East Haven) for the provisions on modified authority board appointments, actions that require affirmative votes from at least 10 board members, and PILOT payments (§§ 90 & 91);
2. specifies that the terms of authority board members appointed by the South Central Regional Council of Governments terminate when the East Haven mayor makes his two additional initial appointments (§ 91);
3. adds amendments to authority bylaws to the list of specified actions that require 10 affirmative board votes after building permit issuance (§ 91);
4. eliminates a provision specifying that the authority's bylaws are considered procedures (§ 89) (existing law sets a specific process by which the board must adopt written procedures for certain actions it takes (CGS § 15-120k));

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5. further expands the authority's powers by allowing it to (a) manage, maintain, supervise, and operate any improvements or additions to the airport (in addition to the airport itself as under existing law) and (b) operate the authority, subject to applicable federal law and regulations (§ 92);
6. specifies that the authority's power to contract with any person in relation to a financing project extends to a "participating corporation" (legal business entity, quasi-public authority, or government entity) (§ 92);
7. specifies that a "financing project" includes an airport project (in addition to an airport project's leasing, licensing, or operation) and makes minor changes to the items and activities that are considered airport project costs (§ 89); and
8. specifies that the treasurer must begin PILOT payments after the OPM secretary certifies that East Haven has approved a building permit for the facility (rather than after the facility has opened and is operational), but not before July 1, 2027 (§ 90).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 93 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY BONDS

Allows, rather than requires, certain bond-related actions taken under delegated authority to be subject to board approval

This year's budget act changes the authority of the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority to issue bonds (PA 26-68, § 170). Among other things, it allows the authority's board to adopt a resolution delegating authority to its chairperson or vice-chairperson or the authority's executive director or another officer to take certain actions related to bonds (set their sale date, receive bids or proposals, sell them, and take other actions). This act allows, instead of requires, these actions taken under delegated authority to be subject to board approval. It also makes a minor change on revenue bonds and how they specify their repayment sources.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 94 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Specifies that if East Haven or New Haven submits, or the two jointly submit, a proposal to DECD to establish an airport development zone surrounding Tweed-New Haven Airport, the proposal must be for census tracts within the municipality that submits it (or within both for a joint proposal)

The budget act requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to establish an airport development zone surrounding Tweed-New Haven Airport if East Haven or New Haven submits a proposal to do so or both municipalities submit one jointly. This act specifies that the proposal must be for census tracts within the municipality that submits it (or within both if a joint proposal).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 99 — MAGNET SCHOOL FUNDING

Modifies provision in PA 26-68 by increasing FY 27 funding designated for magnet schools not operated by a local or regional board of education

PA 26-68, § 379, reduced the portion of the State Department of Education's (SDE's) FY 27 magnet school appropriation designated for certain magnet schools from \$12 million to \$6,250,000. This act amends PA 26-68 by raising the amount from \$6,250,000 to \$6,410,000. The funds are for interdistrict magnet schools operated by entities that are (1) not local or regional boards of education; (2) independent institutions of higher education's board of governors (or equivalent); or (3) other SDE-approved third-party, not-for-profit corporations. The money must be distributed proportionately based on the share of enrolled students in the schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 100 — YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION GRANTS

Modifies grants in PA 26-68 from the Judicial Department's appropriation for Youth Services Prevention

PA 26-68, § 16, reserves specified amounts from the Judicial Department's FY 26 Youth Services Prevention appropriation for grants to certain organizations. This act (1) eliminates a \$200,000 grant to My Architecture Workshops, Inc. and (2) requires that any unspent funds released to the remaining grantees carry forward until they are fully spent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 101 — SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR NON-ELECTRONIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Limits the budget act's sales and use tax exemption for non-electronic school supplies to supplies purchased for non-business purposes; requires DRS to issue related policies and procedures

PA 26-68, § 272, exempts from the state's 6.35% sales and use tax non-electronic school supplies, like backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, and paper. This act instead limits the exemption to non-electronic school supplies that are purchased for non-business purposes.

Additionally, it directs the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) to issue policies and procedures that (1) identify which school supplies qualify for the exemption and (2) set criteria for determining when a purchase is for business purposes. DRS must post these policies and procedures on its website and submit them to SOTS for posting on the eRegulations System at least 15 days before they take effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, and applicable to sales occurring on or after that date.

§ 102 — SAFETY NET MITIGATION WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Adds to the working group the ranking members of the Appropriations, Housing, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees and requires committee chairpersons and ranking members to jointly choose the working group's chairpersons

The budget act establishes a safety net mitigation working group to advise on, monitor, and coordinate the state's response to changes in federal law or policy that impact public health, social services, or other safety net programs. Working group members include, among others, the Appropriations, Housing, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committee chairpersons, who must jointly choose the working group's chairpersons. This act adds the ranking members for these committees to this working group and requires the chairpersons and ranking members to jointly choose its chairpersons.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 103 — AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSING IN NEWTOWN

Modifies a provision in the budget adjustment act that requires DOT to allow Newtown to build an at-grade rail crossing on the Housatonic Railroad, subject to certain conditions

The budget adjustment act generally requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to allow Newtown to build an at-grade pedestrian crossing on the Housatonic Railroad, if the crossing is (1) approved by Newtown and the Housatonic Railroad and (2) built according to DOT's recommendations (PA 26-68, § 180). This act additionally specifies that this requirement applies to building a public, at-grade crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists across the roadway and track of the Housatonic Railroad's Stepney Branch (rather than as part of the Housatonic Valley Rail Trail). It also requires that the crossing be (1) located at approximately Milepost 0.0 in Newtown and (2) approved by the Maybrook Railroad Company, in addition to Newtown and the Housatonic Railroad Company.

The act additionally specifies that the Housatonic and Maybrook Railroad companies, and their respective successors, are "owners" of the railroad for the purposes of the state law on owners' liability for land made available for public recreation. (By law, a land owner who makes it freely available to the public for recreation (such as hiking or bicycling) is generally not liable for any injury to a person or property that is caused by the owner's act or omission (CGS § 52-557g).)

The act also makes related minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 105 — TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS DURING CODIFICATION

Requires the Legislative Commissioners' Office to make necessary technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes when codifying the act

The act requires the Legislative Commissioners' Office to make technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes as necessary, including corrections to internal references, to codify it.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 106 — SOCIAL WORK AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Alters when the DESPP commissioner must enter an MOU with SCSU for the social work and law enforcement project; requires the MOU to be for at least \$850,000 and address expanding and supporting the project

The law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, to establish a social work and law enforcement project at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). It correspondingly required the DESPP commissioner to enter an MOU with SCSU by January 1, 2026, to establish the project.

The act instead requires DESPP to enter the MOU by January 1, 2027. It also requires the MOU to (1) be for at least \$850,000, and (2) address expanding and supporting the social work and law enforcement project, in addition to its establishment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 107 — SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDA NOTIFICATIONS

Makes a provision on school budget referenda notifications in PA 26-68 effective upon passage instead of October 1, 2026

PA 26-68, § 252, explicitly allows a school superintendent to issue written notice through the school district's schools to inform parents or legal guardians that a referendum about the district is coming up, subject to certain requirements. This act moves up the effective date from October 1, 2026, to upon PA 26-68's passage (May 26, 2026).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage