



PA 26-82—sSB 296

Judiciary Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION WITH RESPECT TO
THE CONNECTICUT UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES ACT AND SPORTS
WAGERING**

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes related to Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violations and records, the crime of cheating, and certain gaming violations.

The act expands when the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) can require restitution after finding a CUTPA violation. Previously, DCP could do so in cases involving up to \$10,000. The act expands this to cases involving up to \$25,000 per consumer.

It also changes how long DCP can withhold records about CUTPA investigations from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Previously, these records could be withheld during an ongoing investigation for the lesser of 18 months from the filing of a complaint or from the start of an investigation. The act instead permits withholding these records until the investigation closes (§ 1).

The act expands the crime of cheating in a lawful gambling game to include when a person, to gain an advantage for himself, herself, or another person:

1. intentionally attempts to change the results of a sports wager's outcome through a promise or offer of an advantage or benefit to another person or
2. solicits or accepts for himself, herself, or another person an advantage, benefit, or the promise or offer of one, with intent to change the results of a sports wager's outcome.

In both circumstances, the wager or the conduct must occur in Connecticut (§ 3). The act makes this, as with most other forms of cheating (see [BACKGROUND](#)), a class D felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

The act specifies certain actions the attorney general can take related to online gaming and sports wagering at the DCP commissioner's request. By law, the DCP commissioner can ask the attorney general to seek restraining orders and injunctions in court to stop violations of these laws. The act also allows the attorney general, at the commissioner's request, to seek (1) these court orders to stop someone from offering or advertising sports wagering services to state residents without a license and (2) other relief the court deems appropriate. However, this does not:

1. apply to newspaper, periodical, radio, or television advertising where the publisher, owner, agent, or employee did not know the advertising was false, misleading, unfair, or deceptive and did not have a direct financial interest in the advertised product or service or
2. limit the commissioner's or attorney general's other rights and remedies (§

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4).

For purposes of criminal penalties for allowing an underage person to open an account or place wagers, the act also specifies that online gaming is online casino gaming or online sports wagering (§ 2). By law, a violation is a class C misdemeanor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the CUTPA and cheating provisions are effective October 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the DCP commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in certain cases, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

Cheating in Lawful Gambling Games

Under existing law, cheating includes:

1. knowingly using an altered or counterfeit item, or knowingly tampering with cards or dice or substituting tampered cards or dice for ones provided by the game operator;
2. knowingly using a device or substance intending to cheat or change the random results of a game of chance; or
3. intentionally placing or changing a wager after the time permitted to place it or after the game results are known.

Cheating is a class D felony, except that placing or changing wagers after the time permitted or after results are known is a class B misdemeanor.