



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 296**

February Session, 2026



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

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

1 Section 1. Section 42-110d of the 2026 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4 (a) For the purposes of this chapter the Commissioner of Consumer  
5 Protection shall have the power to order an investigation and  
6 examination to be made. In addition to other powers conferred upon the  
7 commissioner by this chapter, the commissioner or the commissioner's  
8 authorized representatives may issue subpoenas to any person involved  
9 in any matter under investigation and examination, administer an oath  
10 or affirmation to any person, and conduct hearings in aid of any  
11 investigation or examination, provided none of the powers conferred by  
12 this chapter shall be used for the purpose of compelling any natural  
13 person to furnish testimony or evidence which might tend to  
14 incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection or the commissioner's  
16 authorized representatives shall have the right to (1) enter any place or  
17 establishment within the state, at reasonable times, for the purpose of  
18 making an investigation; (2) check the invoices and records pertaining

19 to costs and other transactions of commodities; (3) take samples of  
20 commodities for evidence upon tendering the market price therefor to  
21 the person having such commodity in such person's custody; (4)  
22 subpoena documentary material relating to such investigation; and (5)  
23 have access to, for the purpose of examination, documentary material  
24 and the right to copy and receive electronic copies of such documentary  
25 material of any person being investigated or proceeded against. The  
26 commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representatives shall  
27 have power to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of  
28 witnesses and the production of all such documentary material relating  
29 to any matter under investigation.

30 (c) In addition to other powers conferred upon the Commissioner of  
31 Consumer Protection, the commissioner may execute in writing and  
32 cause to be served, through reasonable efforts to effectuate notice as set  
33 forth in section 21a-2, an investigative demand upon any person  
34 suspected of using, having used or about to use any method, act or  
35 practice declared by section 42-110b to be unlawful or upon any person  
36 from whom the commissioner wants assurance that section 42-110b has  
37 not, is not or will not be violated. Such investigative demand shall  
38 contain a description of the method, act or practice under investigation,  
39 provide a reasonable time for compliance, and require such person to  
40 furnish under oath or otherwise, as may be specified in said demand, a  
41 report in writing setting forth relevant facts or circumstances together  
42 with documentary material. Notwithstanding subsection (f) of this  
43 section, responses to investigative demands issued under this  
44 subsection may be withheld from public disclosure during the full  
45 pendency of the investigation.

46 (d) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in conformance with  
47 sections 4-176e to 4-185, inclusive, whenever the commissioner has  
48 reason to believe that any person has been engaged or is engaged in an  
49 alleged violation of any provision of this chapter, shall deliver to such  
50 person, in a manner that is sufficient to effectuate notice as set forth in  
51 section 21a-2, a complaint stating the charges and containing a notice of  
52 a hearing, to be held upon a day and at a place therein fixed at least

53 fifteen days after the date of such complaint. The person so notified shall  
54 have the right to file a written answer to the complaint and charges  
55 therein stated and appear at the time and place so fixed for such hearing,  
56 in person or otherwise, with or without counsel, and submit testimony  
57 and be fully heard. Any person may make application, and upon good  
58 cause shown shall be allowed by the commissioner to intervene and  
59 appear in such proceeding by counsel or in person. The testimony in any  
60 such proceeding, including the testimony of any intervening person,  
61 shall be under oath and shall either be reduced to writing by the  
62 recording officer of the hearing or recorded in an audio or audiovisual  
63 format. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized  
64 representatives shall have the power to require by subpoena the  
65 attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of any  
66 documentary material at such proceeding. If upon such hearing the  
67 commissioner is of the opinion that the method of competition or the act  
68 or practice in question is prohibited by this chapter, the commissioner  
69 or the commissioner's designee shall issue a final decision, which may  
70 include orders for such person to cease and desist from using such  
71 methods of competition or such act or practice. The commissioner may  
72 impose a civil penalty, in an amount not to exceed the amount set forth  
73 in subsection (b) of section 42-110o, after a hearing conducted pursuant  
74 to chapter 54, or, if the amount involved is less than ~~[ten]~~ twenty-five  
75 thousand dollars per consumer, an order directing restitution, or both.  
76 The commissioner may apply for the enforcement of any cease and  
77 desist order, civil penalty, order directing restitution or consent order  
78 issued or imposed under this chapter to the superior court for the  
79 judicial district of Hartford, or to any judge thereof if the same is not in  
80 session, for an order temporarily or permanently restraining and  
81 enjoining any person from continuing any violation of such cease and  
82 desist order, an order directing payment of any civil penalty or  
83 restitution or a consent order. Such application for a temporary  
84 restraining order, temporary and permanent injunction, order directing  
85 payment of any civil penalty or restitution and for such other  
86 appropriate decree or process shall be brought and the proceedings  
87 thereon conducted by the Attorney General.

88 (e) In addition to any injunction issued pursuant to subsection (d) of  
89 this section, the court may make such additional orders or judgments as  
90 may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any moneys or  
91 property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of  
92 any practices prohibited by this chapter, including the appointment of a  
93 receiver or the revocation of a license or certificate authorizing the  
94 person subject to the order or injunction to engage in business in this  
95 state, or both.

96 (f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection or the Attorney  
97 General or their employees shall disclose, in accordance with the  
98 provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-  
99 200, all records concerning the investigation of any alleged violation of  
100 any provision of this chapter, including, but not limited to, any  
101 complaint initiating an investigation and all records of the disposition  
102 or settlement of a complaint. For purposes of this section, "disposition"  
103 shall include the following action or nonaction with respect to any  
104 complaints or investigations: (1) No action taken because of (A) a lack  
105 of jurisdiction, (B) unsubstantiated allegations, or (C) a lack of sufficient  
106 information to draw a conclusion, as determined by the commissioner,  
107 after investigation; (2) referral to another state agency, or to a federal or  
108 local agency, or to law enforcement authorities; (3) an acceptance of an  
109 assurance of voluntary compliance in accordance with the provisions of  
110 section 42-110j; and (4) formal action taken, including the institution of  
111 administrative proceedings pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or  
112 court proceedings pursuant to section 42-110m, 42-110o or 42-110p. The  
113 commissioner may withhold such records from disclosure during the  
114 pendency of an investigation or examination held in accordance with  
115 subsection (a) of this section, but in no event shall the commissioner  
116 withhold any such records [longer than a period of eighteen months  
117 after the date on which the initial complaint was filed with the  
118 commissioner or] after the date on which the investigation or  
119 examination was [commenced, whichever is earlier] closed. Nothing  
120 herein shall be deemed to affect the rights of litigants, including parties  
121 to administrative proceedings, under the laws of discovery of this state.

122 Sec. 2. Section 12-863a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
123 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
124 *passage*):

125 (a) No person shall knowingly allow a person who is not of the legal  
126 age for participation in online casino gaming, online sports wagering  
127 and retail sports wagering to (1) open, maintain or use an account with  
128 an online gaming operator, or (2) make or attempt to make a wager on  
129 Internet games or with a sports wagering retailer.

130 (b) For purposes of this section, "online gaming operator", "Internet  
131 games" and "sports wagering retailer" have the same meanings as  
132 provided in section 12-850.

133 (c) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this  
134 section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

135 Sec. 3. Section 53a-127d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
136 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

137 (a) A person is guilty of cheating when, in the course of playing or  
138 conducting any lawful gambling game, he or she: (1) Knowingly uses  
139 an altered or counterfeit chip, token, tile, pull tab, wagering slip or check  
140 or knowingly marks, loads or tampers with any cards or dice or  
141 substitutes for cards or dice provided by the operator of a lawfully  
142 operated game of chance any cards or dice that have been marked,  
143 loaded or tampered with; or (2) knowingly uses any device, instrument,  
144 article or substance with intent to cheat or defraud or to alter or affect  
145 the otherwise random results of any lawfully operated game of chance;  
146 or (3) intentionally places, increases or attempts to increase a winning  
147 wager or decreases or attempts to decrease a losing wager after that  
148 period of time during which the rules of a lawfully operated game of  
149 chance permit a wager to be placed or after the results of the game in  
150 which the wager has been placed become known; or (4) intentionally  
151 attempts to alter the result of a betting outcome of a sports wager to  
152 advantage himself, herself or another person, through the use of a  
153 promise or offer of any advantage or benefit made or given to another

154 person, if either the wager or the attempt to alter the result occurred in  
155 this state; or (5) solicits or accepts any advantage or benefit or the  
156 promise or the offer thereof, for himself, herself or another person, with  
157 intent to alter the result of a betting outcome of a sports wager to  
158 advantage himself, herself or another person, if either the wager or the  
159 attempt to alter the result occurred in this state.

160 (b) Cheating is a class D felony, except that a violation of subdivision  
161 (3) of subsection (a) of this section is a class B misdemeanor.

162 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 12-861 of the general statutes is  
163 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
164 *passage*):

165 (c) The Attorney General, at the request of the commissioner, is  
166 authorized to apply in the name of the state to the Superior Court for an  
167 order temporarily or permanently restraining and enjoining any person  
168 from violating any provision of sections 12-852 to 12-871, inclusive, and  
169 from offering, advertising or making available to any resident of this  
170 state any sports wagering service without a license required under this  
171 chapter and to seek such other or further relief as the court deems  
172 appropriate. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the  
173 commissioner's or the Attorney General's rights and remedies otherwise  
174 provided by law, including by chapter 735a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	42-110d
Sec. 2	from passage	12-863a
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	53a-127d
Sec. 4	from passage	12-861(c)

**JUD** Joint Favorable Subst.