



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 302**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT REVISING VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN APPROVALS BY THE BANKING COMMISSIONER AND CONNECTICUT BANK BRANCH APPLICATIONS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 36a-34 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (b) The commissioner shall not grant any approval under section 36a-  
5 125, subsections (b), (c) and (d) of section 36a-145, as amended by this  
6 act, section 36a-181, section 36a-411 or subdivisions (1) and (2) of  
7 subsection (a) of section 36a-412 unless the commissioner finds, in  
8 accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to chapter 54, that (1)  
9 based on the most recent applicable performance evaluation and any  
10 related information required by the commissioner, the entity has a  
11 record of compliance with the requirements of federal CRA, sections  
12 36a-30 to 36a-33, inclusive, to the extent applicable, and applicable  
13 consumer protection laws; and (2) except as otherwise provided in this  
14 subsection, if the entity, and in the case of an approval pursuant to  
15 section 36a-411, the bank or any subsidiary bank of the Connecticut  
16 holding company, received any overall rating other than an assigned  
17 rating of "outstanding" on its most recent applicable community  
18 reinvestment performance evaluation, or, in the case of an approval

19 under subsection (b), (c) or (d) of section 36a-145, as amended by this  
20 act, if the entity received an overall rating of "needs to improve" or  
21 "substantial noncompliance" on its most recent applicable community  
22 reinvestment performance evaluation, the resulting entity will provide  
23 adequate services to meet the banking needs of all community residents,  
24 including low-income residents and moderate-income residents to the  
25 extent permitted by its charter, in accordance with a plan submitted by  
26 the applicant to the commissioner, in such form and containing such  
27 information as the commissioner may require, or, if acceptable to the  
28 commissioner, in accordance with an approved strategic plan prepared  
29 under federal CRA, or the relevant portion thereof, that is submitted by  
30 the applicant to the commissioner. Upon receiving any such plan, the  
31 commissioner shall make the plan available for public inspection and  
32 comment at the Department of Banking and cause notice of its  
33 submission and availability for inspection and comment to be published  
34 in the department's weekly bulletin. With the concurrence of the  
35 commissioner, the applicant or applicants shall publish, in the form of a  
36 legal advertisement in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in  
37 the area, notice of such plan's submission and availability for public  
38 inspection and comment. The notice shall state that the inspection and  
39 comment period will last for a period of thirty days from the date of  
40 publication. The commissioner shall not make such finding until the  
41 expiration of such thirty-day period. In making such finding, the  
42 commissioner shall, unless clearly inapplicable, consider, among other  
43 factors, whether the plan identifies specific unmet credit and consumer  
44 banking needs in the local community and specifies how such needs will  
45 be satisfied, provides for sufficient distribution of banking services  
46 among branches or satellite devices, or both, located in low-income  
47 neighborhoods, contains adequate assurances that banking services will  
48 be offered on a nondiscriminatory basis and demonstrates a  
49 commitment to extend credit for housing, small business and consumer  
50 purposes in low-income neighborhoods. The submission of such plan  
51 shall not be required in the case of an approval under subsection (d) of  
52 section 36a-145, provided, the commissioner may require the filing of  
53 such information in lieu of a plan as the commissioner deems

54 appropriate. If the commissioner determines that an applicant is an  
55 eligible entity, the commissioner may (A) exempt such applicant from  
56 the requirement that such applicant file a plan, or (B) require such  
57 information in lieu of a plan as the commissioner deems appropriate.  
58 Except with respect to an approval pursuant to section 36a-145, as  
59 amended by this act, and section 36a-181, the commissioner shall not  
60 approve the transaction if the transaction would result in a monopoly,  
61 or would be in furtherance of any combination or conspiracy to  
62 monopolize or attempt to monopolize the business of banking in this  
63 state or if the commissioner determines that the effect of the proposed  
64 transaction may be to substantially lessen competition, or would tend to  
65 create a monopoly, or would be in restraint of trade, unless the  
66 commissioner finds that the anticompetitive effects of the proposed  
67 transaction are clearly outweighed in the public interest by the probable  
68 effect of the transaction in meeting the convenience and needs of the  
69 community to be served.

70 Sec. 2. Subsection (n) of section 36a-145 of the general statutes is  
71 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
72 *1, 2026*):

73 (n) Upon receipt of an application pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
74 subsection (b) of this section, subdivisions (1) and (4) of subsection (c)  
75 of this section, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this section or  
76 subsection (j) of this section, the commissioner shall cause notice of the  
77 application to be published in the department's weekly bulletin. The  
78 commissioner shall determine whether the applicant is an eligible  
79 entity, as defined in section 36a-34, as amended by this act, and shall  
80 promptly notify the applicant of such determination. An application by  
81 an eligible entity shall be deemed approved on the [twelfth] fifth  
82 business day after expiration of the comment period provided in the  
83 department's weekly bulletin, unless the commissioner informs the  
84 applicant, in writing, prior to such [twelfth] fifth business day, that (1)  
85 an adverse comment has been received that warrants additional  
86 investigation or review; (2) the application presents a significant  
87 community reinvestment or compliance concern; (3) the application

88 presents a significant supervisory concern or raises significant legal or  
89 policy issues; or (4) the application requires additional information. The  
90 application may be deemed approved prior to the expiration of the  
91 [twelfth] fifth business day if the commissioner issues a written notice  
92 of the commissioner's intent not to disapprove the application.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	36a-34(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	36a-145(n)

**BA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*