



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 448**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF HARTFORD COUNTY.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 2 of number 562 of the special acts of 1937, as  
2 amended by section 14 of public act 93-380, is amended to read as  
3 follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4 Unless otherwise expressly provided by law, each board, bureau,  
5 committee and commission of The Metropolitan District shall have full  
6 power to organize by the appointment from its own number [or  
7 otherwise of] a chairman and vice chairman and such other officers as  
8 may be deemed necessary and expedient. [In case such appointment  
9 shall not be made from the membership of the respective boards, any  
10 officer so appointed shall have no vote in the proceedings of such  
11 board.] An employee of the district shall not be a member of the board  
12 of commissioners nor any committee or commission established by the  
13 board of commissioners or the charter.

14 Sec. 2. Section 33 of number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as  
15 amended by section 2 of special act 77-54 and section 1 of special act 01-  
16 3, is amended to read as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

17 (a) The district [commission] board shall conduct a public hearing on

18 any proposed ordinance or revision to an ordinance at which parties in  
19 interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard. Notice of the  
20 time and place of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper having  
21 a substantial circulation in [the metropolitan district] The Metropolitan  
22 District at least twice at intervals of not less than two days, the first not  
23 more than fifteen days nor less than ten days before such hearing, and  
24 the last not less than two days before such hearing. The proposed  
25 ordinance or revision to an ordinance shall be filed in the office of the  
26 town clerk in each municipality that is a member of the district for public  
27 inspection at least ten days before such hearing. [The proposed  
28 ordinance or revision to an ordinance may be published in full in such  
29 newspaper.]

30 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the  
31 district board shall publish each such proposed ordinance or revision to  
32 an ordinance in full in a newspaper having substantial circulation in The  
33 Metropolitan District.

34 (2) The district board may provide, by ordinance, that summaries of  
35 proposed ordinances or revisions to ordinances may be published,  
36 except that no proposed ordinance or revision to an ordinance that  
37 makes or requires an appropriation shall be summarized. Any such  
38 summary shall include the following statement: "This summary is  
39 prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for purposes of information,  
40 summarization and explanation. This summary does not represent the  
41 intent of the legislative body of The Metropolitan District for any  
42 purpose." In the event that such a summary is published, the district  
43 clerk shall make a copy of such proposed ordinance or revision to an  
44 ordinance available for public inspection, and shall, upon request, mail  
45 a copy of such proposed ordinance or revision to an ordinance to any  
46 person requesting such copy, at no charge to such person.

47 (c) No ordinance passed by the district board shall take effect until  
48 ten days from the passage of such ordinance nor until it has been  
49 published in full or summarized, as applicable, twice in [one or more  
50 daily papers issued within the metropolitan district] a newspaper

51 having substantial circulation in The Metropolitan District and the clerk  
52 of said district shall cause each ordinance passed by the said district  
53 board to be published without unnecessary delay, and a certificate of  
54 the district clerk upon the record of such ordinance that the same has  
55 been so published shall be prima facie evidence thereof in any suit or  
56 proceeding, and no ordinance shall be valid if repugnant to the laws of  
57 the state.

58 Sec. 3. Section 34 of number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as  
59 amended by section 2 of special act 01-3, is amended to read as follows  
60 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

61 The district board of [the metropolitan district] The Metropolitan  
62 District may, from time to time, revise the ordinances of said district  
63 combining therein existing ordinances and making such alterations as it  
64 may deem necessary.

65 Sec. 4. Number 283 of the special acts of 1949 is amended to read as  
66 follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

67 The [city and police court of the city] superior court for the judicial  
68 district of Hartford and any town, city, city and police, borough, or  
69 police court or trial justice shall have jurisdiction to enforce any  
70 ordinance, by-law or regulation of The Metropolitan District and may  
71 punish any offender by a fine not exceeding [fifty] two hundred fifty  
72 dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding thirty days or by both such  
73 fine and imprisonment.

74 Sec. 5. Section 35 of number 511 of the special acts of 1929 is amended  
75 to read as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

76 There shall be an attorney chosen by the district board who shall be  
77 counsel to the district and whose duties and compensation shall be fixed  
78 by a by-law or ordinance of said district. [He] The district counsel shall  
79 be an attorney of at least five years' practice and shall be a resident of  
80 the district or a district nonmember municipality. The district counsel of  
81 said district shall hold office during the pleasure of the board. The board

82 may also provide, by ordinance or otherwise, for the appointment by  
83 the counsel of such assistance as the board shall [approved] approve.

84 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 39 of number 511 of the special acts of  
85 1929, as amended by special act 80-14, special act 90-14, section 1 of  
86 special act 08-9 and section 1 of public act 15-114, is amended to read as  
87 follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

88 (b) Whenever any work shall be necessary to execute or perfect any  
89 public work or improvement, or whenever any supplies for the district  
90 shall be needed for any particular purpose and such work or supplies  
91 shall involve the expenditure of more than [twenty-five] fifty thousand  
92 dollars, except in the case of an emergency to be determined by the  
93 district board, a written contract for such work or supplies shall be made  
94 under such regulations or ordinances as the district board may establish,  
95 which contract shall be based on sealed bids. At least ten calendar days  
96 prior to the time designated for opening competitive bids or proposals,  
97 the district shall solicit competitive bids or proposals by (1) publishing  
98 notice in daily and weekly newspapers servicing the member  
99 municipalities provided a description of such legal notice containing a  
100 brief summary of the competitive bid or proposal being noticed and a  
101 reference to the Internet web site of the newspaper in which such legal  
102 notice is placed may be published in lieu of the full legal notice, and (2)  
103 posting notice on the Internet web site of the district. Any newspaper  
104 that offers publication of such legal notices on an Internet web site shall  
105 post the full legal notice in a conspicuous location on such web site and  
106 make any such full legal notice available to the public free of charge. The  
107 district may send such notice to trade associations or other groups active  
108 in the business or service solicited. Each contract awarded by the district  
109 shall be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder with bid requirements,  
110 except as provided in this subsection.

111 Sec. 7. Section 15 of number 511 of the special acts of 1929 is amended  
112 to read as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

113 Upon the acceptance and approval of such budget and upon the

114 completion of the grand lists, the district board, acting on the  
115 recommendation of the board of finance, may lay a tax upon the towns  
116 composing the district in a manner similar to that provided for by  
117 section 1224 of the general statutes, revision of 1918. The total amount  
118 of such tax shall be at least sufficient to pay the net estimated expenses  
119 and current charges of the district for the ensuing year and the same  
120 shall be divided among the towns in the proportion provided for which  
121 the total revenue received yearly from direct taxation in each town,  
122 including that received by all taxing districts therein, and including also  
123 that which would have been received from all property exempted from  
124 taxation under the provisions of any special act, or by town vote as  
125 provided by sections 1161 and 1162 of the general statutes, revision of  
126 1918, as averaged for the three fiscal years next preceding is to the total  
127 revenue so determined at such time as averaged in all the towns in the  
128 district. Each town's average total revenue shall be determined on the  
129 basis of the annual audits of financial statements required pursuant to  
130 chapter 111 of the general statutes for the three fiscal years next  
131 preceding, including any revenue that would have otherwise been  
132 received in any such fiscal year from any property exempted from  
133 taxation under the provisions of any special act or by town vote as  
134 provided by sections 1161 and 1162 of the general statutes, revision of  
135 1918. If any town fails to file a statement of such town's accounts and  
136 finances pursuant to such chapter in any of such three fiscal years, and  
137 such town's average total revenue for the three fiscal years next  
138 preceding and proportional share of such tax cannot be accurately  
139 calculated, the tax laid upon such town shall be determined on the basis  
140 of the most recent audit submitted by such town, to which an amount  
141 equal to ten per cent of such revenue shall be added for each applicable  
142 fiscal year for which such town failed to file such statement, which  
143 amount shall be compounded from year to year. Such tax shall be  
144 payable at such time as the district board may prescribe and the  
145 chairman shall draw and sign an order upon each town for its tax so  
146 imposed in favor of the district treasurer, notice of which shall forthwith  
147 be given by the district clerk to each town or city clerk and if any town  
148 shall neglect to pay its tax by the time prescribed, said treasurer shall

149 report such neglect to the clerk of the superior court for the judicial  
150 district of Hartford, [county,] who shall record it and issue an execution  
151 against the goods and estate of the inhabitants of such town in the name  
152 of the district treasurer, returnable in sixty days, directed to [the sheriff  
153 of said county or his deputy] a state marshal, for the amount of the tax  
154 remaining unpaid to be proceeded with as executions in civil actions.  
155 The towns and cities composing said metropolitan district are  
156 empowered in any such case to include in the tax collections for the  
157 current year an amount sufficient to pay such district tax.

158       Sec. 8. Section 50 of number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as  
159 amended by section 4 of special act 77-54, is amended to read as follows  
160 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

161       The water bureau of [the metropolitan district] The Metropolitan  
162 District is empowered to make such by-laws or regulations for the  
163 preservation, protection and management of the waterworks of said  
164 district as may be deemed advisable and enforce the same by suitable  
165 penalties; and, when such by-laws or regulations have been approved  
166 by the district board and shall have been published ten days at least in  
167 a daily newspaper issued within said district, they shall be of binding  
168 validity, and said bureau may bring, in the name of The Metropolitan  
169 District, actions of debt on such by-laws before the [court of common  
170 pleas for Hartford county] superior court for the judicial district of  
171 Hartford to recover any penalty for the breach of the same. The police  
172 court of the city of Hartford or any town court within said district shall  
173 also have jurisdiction over any breach of such by-laws or regulations  
174 and may punish the offender by a fine not exceeding [thirty] two  
175 hundred fifty dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding thirty days or  
176 by both fine and imprisonment. The water bureau shall have power to  
177 establish rates for the use of water, subject to the approval of the district  
178 board, and whenever any water rent shall remain unpaid after the time  
179 prescribed and limited for payment by the rules and regulations of said  
180 bureau, said bureau may charge and receive additional percentage for  
181 collecting the same, provided the conditions of such percentage be  
182 published as aforesaid in the rules of said bureau.

183 Sec. 9. Number 282 of the special acts of 1949, as amended by special  
184 act 80-25, is amended to read as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

185 The Metropolitan District may make rules, bylaws and ordinances  
186 with respect to connections with, the use of and discharge of substances  
187 into drains, sewers and their appurtenances which belong to or are  
188 under the jurisdiction or control of said district. The Metropolitan  
189 District may enter into agreements with property owners, which may  
190 be in the nature of a lien to be filed in the land records of the town in  
191 which the property is located, to secure payment of sanitary sewer  
192 connection charges which may be deferred for a period of up to [fifteen]  
193 twenty years, with interest thereon at such rate as the district board of  
194 said district shall, by ordinance, prescribe. Such lien shall be a lien upon  
195 the land that is benefitted by such sanitary sewer connection and shall  
196 attach to such land upon recordation of such agreement, signed by said  
197 property owner and the clerk of said district, describing the premises  
198 and the nature and amount of such connection charge, in the land  
199 records of the town in which the property is located.

200 Sec. 10. Section 60 of number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as  
201 amended by section 2 of number 312 of the special acts of 1945 and  
202 section 5 of special act 77-54, is amended to read as follows (*Effective*  
203 *October 1, 2026*):

204 Upon the final layout or completion of the construction of any public  
205 work or improvement, the bureau of public works shall give notice  
206 thereof and that such benefits are due and payable, by publication twice  
207 in a daily newspaper published in said metropolitan district, and all  
208 benefits assessed therefor shall be immediately due and payable. If the  
209 actual cost of the construction of any public work or improvement shall  
210 be less than the sum estimated by the bureau of public works and  
211 assessed upon the parties benefitted, each of the parties so assessed shall  
212 be entitled to a proportionate deduction from his assessments. Such  
213 benefits shall be a lien upon the land on account of which they were  
214 assessed, which liens shall commence and attach to such land from the  
215 time of passage by the district board of the vote laying out or ordering

216 the construction of such work or improvement; provided, within [thirty]  
 217 ninety days from such passage, a caveat or certificate briefly describing  
 218 the public work or improvement for which the benefits were assessed  
 219 and the property upon which such assessment is a lien, together with  
 220 the names of the owners thereof and the amount of benefits assessed  
 221 against it, shall have been delivered for record to the town clerk of the  
 222 town in which the property subject to said lien is located, and further  
 223 provided the same shall not remain in a lien thereon for a longer period  
 224 than three months from the date of the last publication of the notice of  
 225 the final layout or completion of such work or improvement and the  
 226 benefits assessed therefor shall be due and payable, unless the bureau  
 227 of public works shall, within that time, deliver for record to the town  
 228 clerk of the town wherein such property is located a certificate signed  
 229 by the clerk of said bureau describing said premises, the amount  
 230 assessed and the public work or improvement for which it was assessed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 562 of the special acts of 1937, Sec. 2
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 33
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 34
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 283 of the special acts of 1949
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 35
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 39(b)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 15



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Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 50
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 282 of the special acts of 1949
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 60

**PD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*