General Assembly **Substitute Bill No. 475**

February Session, 2026

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4b-52 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2026*):

4 (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
5 section, no repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the
6 state of one million dollars or less or, in the case of repairs, alterations
7 or additions to a building rented or occupied by (A) the Judicial Branch,
8 three million dollars or less, or (B) a constituent unit of the state system
9 of higher education, three million dollars or less, shall be made to any
10 state building or premises occupied by any state officer, department,
11 institution, board, commission or council of the state government and
12 no contract for any construction, repairs, alteration or addition shall be
13 entered into without the prior approval of the Commissioner of
14 Administrative Services, except repairs, alterations or additions to a
15 building under the supervision and control of the Joint Committee on
16 Legislative Management or the Military Department and repairs,
17 alterations or additions to a building under the supervision of The
18 University of Connecticut. Repairs, alterations or additions which are
19 made pursuant to such approval of the Commissioner of Administrative

20 Services shall conform to all guidelines and procedures established by
21 the Department of Administrative Services for agency-administered
22 projects. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
23 subsection, repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the
24 state of [five hundred thousand] three million dollars or less may be
25 made to any state building or premises under the supervision of the
26 Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a constituent unit of the state
27 system of higher education, under the terms of section 4b-11, and any
28 contract for any such construction, repairs or alteration may be entered
29 into by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a constituent unit
30 of the state system of higher education without the approval of the
31 Commissioner of Administrative Services.

32 Sec. 2. Section 4b-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

34 The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall (1) be responsible
35 for the administrative functions of construction and planning of all
36 capital improvements undertaken by the state, except (A) highway and
37 bridge construction, the construction and planning of capital
38 improvements related to mass transit, marine and aviation
39 transportation, (B) the Connecticut Marketing Authority, (C) planning
40 and construction of capital improvements to the State Capitol building
41 or the Legislative Office Building and related facilities by the Joint
42 Committee on Legislative Management, (D) any project as defined in
43 subdivision (16) of section 10a-109c, undertaken by The University of
44 Connecticut, and (E) construction and planning of capital
45 improvements related to the Judicial Department if such construction
46 and planning do not [constitute a project within the meaning of
47 subdivision (6) of section 4b-55] involve an expenditure of more than
48 three million dollars, including the preparation of preliminary plans,
49 estimates of cost, development of designs, working plans and
50 specifications, award of contracts and supervision and inspection. For
51 the purposes of this subparagraph (E), the term "Judicial Department"
52 does not include the courts of probate, the Division of Criminal Justice
53 and the Public Defender Services Commission, except where such

54 agencies share facilities in state-maintained courts; (2) select consultant
55 firms in accordance with the provisions of sections 4b-56 to 4b-59,
56 inclusive, to assist in the development of plans and specifications when
57 in the commissioner's judgment such assistance is desirable; (3) render
58 technical advice and service to all state agencies in the preparation and
59 correlation of plans for necessary improvement of their physical plants;
60 and (4) cooperate with those charged with fiscal programming and
61 budget formulation in the development of a capital program and a
62 capital budget for the state.

63 Sec. 3. Section 4-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

65 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 859 and except as
66 provided in **[**subsection (b)**]** subsections (b) and (c) of this section, any
67 unclaimed article of jewelry or any accumulation of such articles or
68 valuables in the custody of the administrative head of any state
69 institution shall be retained by such administrative head for a period of
70 three years, during which period he shall make every reasonable effort
71 to return each such article to its owner. At the end of said period such
72 administrative head may sell or otherwise dispose of such article with
73 the approval of the governing board of such institution. Any revenue
74 derived from the sale of any such articles shall be credited to the
75 "institutional general welfare fund" of the institution in which they were
76 found and, if from any institution not having such a fund, shall be paid
77 to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund of the state.

78 (b) The Commissioner of Correction shall adopt regulations in
79 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to set forth the manner in
80 which the department shall sell or otherwise dispose of any unclaimed
81 inmate property, clothing or jewelry after reasonable efforts have been
82 made to return the same to the rightful owner. All proceeds from any
83 such sale shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the
84 Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established by section 54-215.

85 (c) The Chief Court Administrator shall establish a procedure to set

86 forth the manner in which the Judicial Branch shall sell or otherwise
87 dispose of any unclaimed clothing, jewelry or other personal property
88 of a detainee after reasonable efforts have been made to return such
89 clothing, jewelry or personal property to the detainee. All proceeds from
90 any such sale shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the
91 Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established by section 54-215.

92 Sec. 4. Subsection (h) of section 46b-15f of the general statutes is
93 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
94 *2026*):

95 (h) For each year that funding is provided for the program under this
96 section, the organization administering the program shall either
97 conduct, or partner with an academic institution or other qualified
98 entity for the purpose of conducting, an analysis of the impact of the
99 program, including, but not limited to, (1) the procedural outcomes for
100 applications filed in association with services provided by grant
101 recipients under the program, (2) the types and extent of legal services
102 provided to individuals served pursuant to the program, including on
103 matters ancillary to the restraining order application, and (3) the
104 number of cases where legal services were provided before an
105 application was filed but legal representation did not continue during
106 the restraining order process and the reasons for such limited
107 representations. Not later than **[**July first**]** September thirtieth of the year
108 following any year in which the program received funding, the
109 organization administering the program shall submit a report on the
110 results of such analysis in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
111 4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
112 cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary. **[**Not later than December
113 1, 2023, the organization administering the program shall submit a
114 report in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
115 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
116 matters relating to the judiciary on the potential state-wide expansion of
117 the program. Such report shall include, but not be limited to: (A)
118 Whether there are or could be a sufficient number of grant recipients to
119 administer the program in each applicable courthouse in the state; (B)

120 which, if any, courthouse in the state is not a feasible location for
121 expansion of the program; and (C) the level of funding needed to fund
122 a state-wide expansion of the program.**]**

123 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 46b-38c of the general statutes is
124 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
125 *2026*):

126 (c) Each such local family violence intervention unit shall: (1) Accept
127 referrals of family violence cases from a judge or prosecutor, (2) prepare
128 written or oral reports on each case for the court by the next court date
129 to be presented at any time during the court session on that date, (3)
130 provide or arrange for services to victims and offenders, (4) administer
131 contracts to carry out such services, and (5) establish centralized
132 reporting procedures. All information provided to a family relations
133 counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services
134 supervisor employed by the **[**Judicial Department**]** Court Support
135 Services Division of the Judicial Branch in a local family violence
136 intervention unit shall be used solely for the purposes of preparation of
137 the report and the protective order forms for each case and
138 recommendation of services and shall otherwise be confidential and
139 retained in the files of such unit and not be subject to subpoena or other
140 court process for use in any other proceeding or for any other purpose,
141 except that a family relations counselor, family relations counselor
142 trainee or family services supervisor employed by the **[**Judicial
143 Department**]** Court Support Services Division:

144 (A) Shall disclose to the court and the prosecuting authority for
145 appropriate action information that the victim has indicated that the
146 defendant holds a permit to carry a pistol or revolver, possesses one or
147 more firearms or possesses ammunition;

148 (B) Shall disclose to an employee of the Department of Children and
149 Families: **[**information**]** (i) Information that indicates that a defendant
150 poses a danger or threat to a child or a custodial parent of the child; and
151 (ii) information about the progress and compliance with court-ordered

152 intervention and services when there are open cases within both the
153 family violence intervention unit and the Department of Children and
154 Families, which information shall be used for the sole purpose of child
155 protection services and shall not be used in any other court proceeding
156 unless otherwise authorized by law;

157 (C) May disclose to another [family relations counselor, family
158 relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor information
159 pursuant to guidelines adopted by the Chief Court Administrator]
160 employee of the Court Support Services Division, as authorized by the
161 executive director or designee of such division, all files and reports
162 regarding the defendant for purposes of: (i) Determining whether to
163 recommend pretrial release; (ii) preparing a presentence investigation
164 report or a pre-dispositional study; (iii) determining the supervision,
165 both pretrial and post-conviction, and service needs of a child or youth
166 or any other person referred to such division; and (iv) monitoring and
167 enforcing conditions of release or probation;

168 [(D) May disclose to a bail commissioner or an intake, assessment and
169 referral specialist employed by the Judicial Department information
170 regarding a defendant who is on or is being considered for pretrial
171 release;]

172 [(E)] (D) May disclose to a law enforcement agency information that
173 indicates that a defendant poses a danger or threat to another person;

174 [(F) May disclose, after disposition of a family violence case, to a
175 probation officer or a juvenile probation officer, for purposes of
176 determining service needs and supervision levels, information
177 regarding a defendant who has been convicted and sentenced to a
178 period of probation in the family violence case;

179 (G) May disclose, after a conviction in a family violence case, to a
180 probation officer for the purpose of preparing a presentence
181 investigation report, any information regarding the defendant that has
182 been provided to the family relations counselor, family relations
183 counselor trainee or family services supervisor in the case or in any

184 other case that resulted in the conviction of the defendant;**]**

185 **[**(H)**]** (E) May disclose to any organization under contract with the
186 Judicial Department to provide family violence programs and services,
187 for the purpose of determining program and service needs, information
188 regarding any defendant who is a client of such organization, provided
189 no information that personally identifies the victim may be disclosed to
190 such organization; and

191 **[**(I)**]** (F) Shall disclose such information as may be necessary to fulfill
192 such counselor's, trainee's or supervisor's duty as a mandated reporter
193 under section 17a-101a to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

194 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 46b-122 of the general statutes is
195 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
196 *2026*):

197 (c) Any judge hearing a juvenile matter, in which a child is alleged to
198 be uncared for, neglected, abused or dependent or in which a child is
199 the subject of a petition for termination of parental rights, may permit
200 any person whom the court finds has a legitimate interest in the hearing
201 or the work of the court to attend such hearing. Such person may include
202 a party, foster parent, relative related to the child by **[**blood or marriage**]**
203 blood, marriage or law, service provider or any person or representative
204 of any agency, entity or association, including a representative of the
205 news media. The court may, for the child's safety and protection and for
206 good cause shown, prohibit any person or representative of any agency,
207 entity or association, including a representative of the news media, who
208 is present in court from further disclosing any information that would
209 identify the child, the custodian or caretaker of the child or the members
210 of the child's family involved in the hearing.

211 Sec. 7. Section 46b-129 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
212 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
213 *1, 2026*):

214 (a) Any selectman, town manager, or town, city or borough welfare

215 department, any probation officer, or the Commissioner of Social
216 Services, the Commissioner of Children and Families or any child-
217 caring institution or agency approved by the Commissioner of Children
218 and Families, a child or such child's representative or attorney or a foster
219 parent of a child, having information that a child or youth is neglected,
220 uncared for or abused may file with the Superior Court that has venue
221 over such matter a verified petition plainly stating such facts as bring
222 the child or youth within the jurisdiction of the court as neglected,
223 uncared for or abused within the meaning of section 46b-120, the name,
224 date of birth, sex and residence of the child or youth, the name and
225 residence of such child's parents or guardian, and praying for
226 appropriate action by the court in conformity with the provisions of this
227 chapter. Upon the filing of such a petition, except as otherwise provided
228 in subsection (k) of section 17a-112, the court shall cause a summons to
229 be issued requiring the parent or parents or the guardian of the child or
230 youth to appear in court at the time and place named, which summons
231 shall be served not less than fourteen days before the date of the hearing
232 in the manner prescribed by section 46b-128, and the court shall further
233 give notice to the petitioner and to the Commissioner of Children and
234 Families of the time and place when the petition is to be heard not less
235 than fourteen days prior to the hearing in question.

236 (b) If it appears from the specific allegations of the petition and other
237 verified affirmations of fact accompanying the petition and application,
238 or subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to believe that (1)
239 the child or youth is suffering from serious physical illness or serious
240 physical injury or is in immediate physical danger from the child's or
241 youth's surroundings, and (2) as a result of said conditions, the child's
242 or youth's safety is endangered and immediate removal from such
243 surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's or youth's safety, the
244 court shall either (A) issue an order to the parents or other person
245 having responsibility for the care of the child or youth to appear at such
246 time as the court may designate to determine whether the court should
247 vest the child's or youth's temporary care and custody in a person
248 related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** <u>blood, marriage or</u>

249 law or in some other person or suitable agency pending disposition of
250 the petition, or (B) issue an order ex parte vesting the child's or youth's
251 temporary care and custody in a person related to the child or youth by
252 **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law or in some other person or
253 suitable agency. A preliminary hearing on any ex parte custody order
254 or order to appear issued by the court shall be held not later than ten
255 days after the issuance of such order. The service of such orders may be
256 made by any officer authorized by law to serve process, or by any
257 probation officer appointed in accordance with section 46b-123,
258 investigator from the Department of Administrative Services, state or
259 local police officer or indifferent person. Such orders shall include a
260 conspicuous notice to the respondent written in clear and simple
261 language containing at least the following information: (i) That the order
262 contains allegations that conditions in the home have endangered the
263 safety and welfare of the child or youth; (ii) that a hearing will be held
264 on the date on the form; (iii) that the hearing is the opportunity to
265 present the parents' position concerning the alleged facts; (iv) that an
266 attorney will be appointed for parents who cannot afford an attorney;
267 (v) that such parents may apply for a court-appointed attorney by going
268 in person to the court address on the form and are advised to go as soon
269 as possible in order for the attorney to prepare for the hearing; (vi) that
270 such parents, or a person having responsibility for the care and custody
271 of the child or youth, may request the Commissioner of Children and
272 Families to investigate placing the child or youth with a person related
273 to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law who
274 might serve as a licensed foster parent or temporary custodian for such
275 child or youth. The commissioner shall investigate any relative or
276 relatives proposed to serve as a licensed foster parent or temporary
277 custodian for such child or youth prior to the preliminary hearing and
278 provide a preliminary report to the court at such hearing as to such
279 relative's or relatives' suitability and any potential barriers to licensing
280 such relative or relatives as a foster parent or parents or granting
281 temporary custody of such child or youth to such relative or relatives;
282 and (vii) that if such parents have any questions concerning the case or
283 appointment of counsel, any such parent is advised to go to the court or

284 call the clerk's office at the court as soon as possible. Upon application
285 for appointed counsel, the court shall promptly determine eligibility
286 and, if the respondent is eligible, promptly appoint counsel. The
287 expense for any temporary care and custody shall be paid by the town
288 in which such child or youth is at the time residing, and such town shall
289 be reimbursed for such expense by the town found liable for the child's
290 or youth's support, except that where a state agency has filed a petition
291 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the agency
292 shall pay such expense. The agency shall give primary consideration to
293 placing the child or youth in the town where such child or youth resides.
294 The agency shall file in writing with the clerk of the court the reasons
295 for placing the child or youth in a particular placement outside the town
296 where the child or youth resides. Upon issuance of an ex parte order,
297 the court shall provide to the commissioner and the parent or guardian
298 specific steps necessary for each to take to address the ex parte order for
299 the parent or guardian to retain or regain custody of the child or youth.
300 Upon the issuance of such order, or not later than sixty days after the
301 issuance of such order, the court shall make a determination whether
302 the Department of Children and Families made reasonable efforts to
303 keep the child or youth with his or her parents or guardian prior to the
304 issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such
305 reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the
306 child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health
307 and safety. Any person or agency in which the temporary care and
308 custody of a child or youth is vested under this section shall have the
309 following rights and duties regarding the child or youth: (I) The
310 obligation of care and control; (II) the authority to make decisions
311 regarding emergency medical, psychological, psychiatric or surgical
312 treatment; and (III) such other rights and duties that the court having
313 jurisdiction may order.

314 (c) The preliminary hearing on the order of temporary custody or
315 order to appear or the first hearing on a petition filed pursuant to
316 subsection (a) of this section shall be held in order for the court to:

317 (1) Advise the parent or guardian of the allegations contained in all

318 petitions and applications that are the subject of the hearing and the
319 parent's or guardian's right to counsel pursuant to subsection (b) of
320 section 46b-135;

321 (2) Ensure that an attorney, and where appropriate, a separate
322 guardian ad litem has been appointed to represent the child or youth in
323 accordance with subsection (b) of section 51-296a and sections 46b-129a
324 and 46b-136;

325 (3) Upon request, appoint an attorney to represent the respondent
326 when the respondent is unable to afford representation, in accordance
327 with subsection (b) of section 51-296a;

328 (4) Advise the parent or guardian of the right to a hearing on the
329 petitions and applications, to be held not later than ten days after the
330 date of the preliminary hearing if the hearing is pursuant to an order of
331 temporary custody or an order to show cause;

332 (5) Accept a plea regarding the truth of the allegations;

333 (6) Make any interim orders, including visitation orders, that the
334 court determines are in the best interests of the child or youth. The court,
335 after a hearing pursuant to this subsection, shall order specific steps the
336 commissioner and the parent or guardian shall take for the parent or
337 guardian to regain or to retain custody of the child or youth;

338 (7) Take steps to determine the identity of the alleged genetic parent
339 of the child or youth, including, if necessary, inquiring of the birth
340 parent of the child or youth, under oath, as to the identity and address
341 of any person who might be the genetic parent of the child or youth and
342 ordering genetic testing, and order service of the petition and notice of
343 the hearing date, if any, to be made upon such alleged genetic parent;

344 (8) If the person named as the alleged genetic parent appears and
345 admits that such person is the genetic parent, provide such person and
346 the birth parent with the notices that comply with section 17b-27 and
347 provide them with the opportunity to sign an acknowledgment of

348 parentage on forms [that comply with section 17b-27. Such documents
349 shall be executed and filed in accordance with chapter 815y and a copy
350 delivered to the clerk of the superior court for juvenile matters. The clerk
351 of the superior court for juvenile matters shall send the original
352 acknowledgment of parentage to the Department of Public Health for
353 filing in the parentage registry maintained under section 19a-42a, and
354 shall maintain a copy of the acknowledgment of parentage in the court
355 file] prescribed by the Department of Public Health;

356 (9) If the person named as an alleged genetic parent appears and
357 denies that such person is the genetic parent of the child or youth, order
358 genetic testing to determine parentage in accordance with the
359 Connecticut Parentage Act. The clerk of the court shall send a certified
360 copy of any judgment adjudicating parentage to the Department of
361 Public Health for filing in the parentage registry maintained under
362 section 19a-42a. If the results of the genetic tests indicate that the person
363 named as the alleged genetic parent is not the genetic parent of the child
364 or youth, the court shall enter a judgment that such person is not the
365 genetic parent and the court shall remove such person from the case and
366 afford such person no further standing in the case or in any subsequent
367 proceeding regarding the child or youth;

368 (10) Identify any person or persons related to the child or youth by
369 blood, marriage or law residing in this state who might serve as licensed
370 foster parents or temporary custodians and order the Commissioner of
371 Children and Families to investigate and report to the court, not later
372 than thirty days after the preliminary hearing, the appropriateness of
373 placing the child or youth with such relative or relatives; and

374 (11) In accordance with the provisions of the Interstate Compact on
375 the Placement of Children pursuant to section 17a-175, identify any
376 person or persons related to the child or youth by blood, marriage or
377 law residing out of state who might serve as licensed foster parents or
378 temporary custodians, and order the Commissioner of Children and
379 Families to investigate and determine, within a reasonable time, the
380 appropriateness of placing the child or youth with such relative or

381 relatives.

382 (d) (1) (A) If not later than thirty days after the preliminary hearing,
383 or within a reasonable time when a relative resides out of state, the
384 Commissioner of Children and Families determines that there is not a
385 suitable person related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]**
386 blood, marriage or law who can be licensed as a foster parent or serve
387 as a temporary custodian, and the court has not granted temporary
388 custody to a person related to the child or youth by **[**blood or marriage**]**
389 blood, marriage or law, any person related to the child or youth by
390 **[**blood or marriage**]** blood, marriage or law may file, not later than
391 ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing, a motion to
392 intervene for the limited purpose of moving for temporary custody of
393 such child or youth. If a motion to intervene is timely filed, the court
394 shall grant such motion except for good cause shown.

395 (B) Any person related to a child or youth may file a motion to
396 intervene for purposes of seeking temporary custody of a child or youth
397 more than ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing. The
398 granting of such motion shall be solely in the court's discretion, except
399 that such motion shall be granted absent good cause shown whenever
400 the child's or youth's most recent placement has been disrupted or is
401 about to be disrupted.

402 (C) A relative shall appear in person, with or without counsel, and
403 shall not be entitled to court appointed counsel or the assignment of
404 counsel by the office of Chief Public Defender, except as provided in
405 section 46b-136.

406 (2) Upon the granting of intervenor status to such relative of the child
407 or youth, the court shall issue an order directing the Commissioner of
408 Children and Families to conduct an assessment of such relative and to
409 file a written report with the court not later than forty days after such
410 order, unless such relative resides out of state, in which case the
411 assessment shall be ordered and requested in accordance with the
412 provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children,

413 pursuant to section 17a-175. The court may also request such relative to
414 release such relative's medical records, including any psychiatric or
415 psychological records and may order such relative to submit to a
416 physical or mental examination. The expenses incurred for such
417 physical or mental examination shall be paid as costs of commitment are
418 paid. Upon receipt of the assessment, the court shall schedule a hearing
419 on such relative's motion for temporary custody not later than fifteen
420 days after the receipt of the assessment. If the Commissioner of Children
421 and Families, the child's or youth's attorney or guardian ad litem, or the
422 parent or guardian objects to the vesting of temporary custody in such
423 relative, the agency or person objecting at such hearing shall be required
424 to prove by a fair preponderance of the evidence that granting
425 temporary custody of the child or youth to such relative would not be
426 in the best interests of such child or youth.

427 (3) If the court grants such relative temporary custody during the
428 period of such temporary custody, such relative shall be subject to
429 orders of the court, including, but not limited to, providing for the care
430 and supervision of such child or youth and cooperating with the
431 Commissioner of Children and Families in the implementation of
432 treatment and permanency plans and services for such child or youth.
433 The court may, on motion of any party or the court's own motion, after
434 notice and a hearing, terminate such relative's intervenor status if such
435 relative's participation in the case is no longer warranted or necessary.

436 (4) Any person related to a child or youth may file a motion to
437 intervene for purposes of seeking guardianship of a child or youth more
438 than ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing. The granting
439 of such motion to intervene shall be solely in the court's discretion,
440 except that such motion shall be granted absent good cause shown
441 whenever the child's or youth's most recent placement has been
442 disrupted or is about to be disrupted. The court may, in the court's
443 discretion, order the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct
444 an assessment of such relative granted intervenor status pursuant to this
445 subdivision.

446 (5) Any relative granted intervenor status pursuant to this subsection
447 shall not be entitled to court-appointed counsel or representation by
448 Division of Public Defender Services assigned counsel, except as
449 provided in section 46b-136.

450 (e) If any parent or guardian fails, after service of such order, to
451 appear at the preliminary hearing, the court may enter or sustain an
452 order of temporary custody.

453 (f) Upon request, or upon its own motion, the court shall schedule a
454 hearing on the order for temporary custody or the order to appear to be
455 held not later than ten days after the date of the preliminary hearing.
456 Such hearing shall be held on consecutive days except for compelling
457 circumstances or at the request of the parent or guardian.

458 (g) At a contested hearing on the order for temporary custody or
459 order to appear, credible hearsay evidence regarding statements of the
460 child or youth made to a mandated reporter or to a parent may be
461 offered by the parties and admitted by the court upon a finding that the
462 statement is reliable and trustworthy and that admission of such
463 statement is reasonably necessary. A signed statement executed by a
464 mandated reporter under oath may be admitted by the court without
465 the need for the mandated reporter to appear and testify unless called
466 by a respondent or the child, provided the statement: (1) Was provided
467 at the preliminary hearing and promptly upon request to any counsel
468 appearing after the preliminary hearing; (2) reasonably describes the
469 qualifications of the reporter and the nature of his contact with the child;
470 and (3) contains only the direct observations of the reporter, and
471 statements made to the reporter that would be admissible if the reporter
472 were to testify to them in court and any opinions reasonably based
473 thereupon. If a respondent or the child gives notice at the preliminary
474 hearing that he intends to cross-examine the reporter, the person filing
475 the petition shall make the reporter available for such examination at
476 the contested hearing.

477 (h) If any parent or guardian fails, after due notice of the hearing

478 scheduled pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and without good
479 cause, to appear at the scheduled date for a contested hearing on the
480 order of temporary custody or order to appear, the court may enter or
481 sustain an order of temporary custody.

482 (i) When a petition is filed in said court for the commitment of a child
483 or youth, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall make a
484 thorough investigation of the case and shall cause to be made a
485 thorough physical and mental examination of the child or youth if
486 requested by the court. The court after hearing may also order a
487 thorough physical or mental examination, or both, of a parent or
488 guardian whose competency or ability to care for a child or youth before
489 the court is at issue. The expenses incurred in making such physical and
490 mental examinations shall be paid as costs of commitment are paid.

491 (j) (1) For the purposes of this subsection and subsection (k) of this
492 section, (A) "permanent legal guardianship" means a permanent
493 guardianship, as defined in section 45a-604, (B) "caregiver" means (i) a
494 fictive kin caregiver, as defined in section 17a-114, who is caring for a
495 child, (ii) a relative caregiver, as defined in section 17a-126, who is caring
496 for a child, or (iii) a person who is licensed or approved to provide foster
497 care pursuant to section 17a-114, who is caring for a child, and (C) "trial
498 home visit" means the temporary placement of a child or youth
499 committed to the Commissioner of Children and Families in the home
500 of such child's or youth's parent or guardian.

501 (2) Upon finding and adjudging that any child or youth is uncared
502 for, neglected or abused the court may (A) commit such child or youth
503 to the Commissioner of Children and Families, and such commitment
504 shall remain in effect until further order of the court, except that such
505 commitment may be revoked or parental rights terminated at any time
506 by the court; (B) vest such child's or youth's legal guardianship in any
507 private or public agency that is permitted by law to care for neglected,
508 uncared for or abused children or youths or with any other person or
509 persons found to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the
510 court, including, but not limited to, any relative of such child or youth

511 by [blood or marriage] blood, marriage or law; (C) vest such child's or
512 youth's permanent legal guardianship in any person or persons found
513 to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the court, including,
514 but not limited to, any relative of such child or youth by [blood or
515 marriage] blood, marriage or law in accordance with the requirements
516 set forth in subdivision (6) of this subsection; or (D) place the child or
517 youth in the custody of the parent or guardian with protective
518 supervision by the Commissioner of Children and Families subject to
519 conditions established by the court. Upon issuing any order pursuant to
520 this section, the court shall order specific steps that the parent must take
521 to facilitate the return of the child or youth to the custody of such parent
522 or to maintain the child or youth in the parent's custody while under an
523 order of protective supervision.

524 (3) If the court approves a permanency plan filed with the court that
525 recommends the reunification of the child or youth with such child's or
526 youth's parent or guardian, the Commissioner of Children and Families
527 may, with the agreement of all parties of record, authorize a trial home
528 visit prior to the revocation of the order of commitment pertaining to
529 such child or youth. The commissioner shall (A) provide the court and
530 all parties of record written notice of the commissioner's intent to
531 authorize any such trial home visit not later than fifteen days prior to
532 such authorization; (B) create a trial home visit plan that shall be
533 provided to all parties of record, and include, but need not be limited to,
534 announced and unannounced visits to the home by the department and
535 the provision of any services during such trial home visit that the
536 commissioner determines are necessary to promote the child's or
537 youth's well-being; and (C) file a motion for revocation of commitment
538 not later than thirty days after the date such trial home visit commences,
539 unless the commissioner removes the child or youth from the home
540 prior to that time pursuant to its responsibility and authority over
541 children and youth committed to the care and custody of the
542 commissioner. A trial home visit authorized under this section shall
543 remain in effect until the commissioner removes such child or youth
544 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision or the court grants a

545 motion for revocation of commitment filed pursuant to said
546 subparagraph.

547 (4) If the court determines that the commitment should be revoked
548 and the child's or youth's legal guardianship or permanent legal
549 guardianship should vest in someone other than the respondent parent,
550 parents or former guardian, or if parental rights are terminated at any
551 time, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that an award of legal
552 guardianship or permanent legal guardianship upon revocation to, or
553 adoption upon termination of parental rights by, any caregiver or
554 person or who is, pursuant to an order of the court, the temporary
555 custodian of the child or youth at the time of the revocation or
556 termination, shall be in the best interests of the child or youth and that
557 such caregiver is a suitable and worthy person to assume legal
558 guardianship or permanent legal guardianship upon revocation or to
559 adopt such child or youth upon termination of parental rights. The
560 presumption may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence that
561 an award of legal guardianship or permanent legal guardianship to, or
562 an adoption by, such caregiver would not be in the child's or youth's
563 best interests and such caregiver is not a suitable and worthy person.
564 **[**The court shall order specific steps that the parent must take to facilitate
565 the return of the child or youth to the custody of such parent.**]**

566 (5) The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child or youth for
567 the duration of the commitment, provided the child or youth has not
568 reached the age of eighteen years, or until another guardian has been
569 legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the care of
570 such child or youth, such other public or private agency or individual
571 shall be the guardian of such child or youth until such child or youth
572 has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child or youth
573 in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical education and
574 career school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, until
575 such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one years or until
576 another guardian has been legally appointed. The commissioner may
577 place any child or youth so committed to the commissioner in a suitable
578 foster home or in the home of a fictive kin caregiver, relative caregiver,

579 or in a licensed child-caring institution or in the care and custody of any
580 accredited, licensed or approved child-caring agency, within or without
581 the state, provided a child shall not be placed outside the state except
582 for good cause and unless the parent or guardian of such child are
583 notified in advance of such placement and given an opportunity to be
584 heard, or in a receiving home maintained and operated by the
585 commissioner. When placing such child or youth, the commissioner
586 shall provide written notification of the placement, including the name,
587 address and other relevant contact information relating to the
588 placement, to any attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to represent
589 the child or youth pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The
590 commissioner shall provide written notification to such attorney or
591 guardian ad litem of any change in placement of such child or youth,
592 including a hospitalization or respite placement, and if the child or
593 youth absconds from care. The commissioner shall provide such written
594 notification not later than ten business days prior to the date of change
595 of placement in a nonemergency situation, or not later than two business
596 days following the date of a change of placement in an emergency
597 situation. In placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall, if
598 possible, select a home, agency, institution or person of like religious
599 faith to that of a parent of such child or youth, if such faith is known or
600 may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided such home
601 conforms to the standards of the commissioner and the commissioner
602 shall, when placing siblings, if possible, place such children together. At
603 least ten days prior to transferring a child or youth to a second or
604 subsequent placement, the commissioner shall give written notice to
605 such child or youth and such child's or youth's attorney of said
606 commissioner's intention to make such transfer, unless an emergency or
607 risk to such child's or youth's well-being necessitates the immediate
608 transfer of such child or youth and renders such notice impossible.
609 Upon the issuance of an order committing the child or youth to the
610 commissioner, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such
611 order, the court shall determine whether the department made
612 reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her parent or
613 guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not

614 made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into
615 consideration the child's or youth's best interests, including the child's
616 or youth's health and safety.

617 (6) (A) A youth who is committed to the commissioner pursuant to
618 this subsection and has reached eighteen years of age may remain in the
619 care of the commissioner, by consent of the youth and provided the
620 youth has not reached the age of twenty-one years of age, if the youth is
621 (i) enrolled in a full-time approved secondary education program or an
622 approved program leading to an equivalent credential; (ii) enrolled full
623 time in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational
624 education; or (iii) participating full time in a program or activity
625 approved by said commissioner that is designed to promote or remove
626 barriers to employment. The commissioner, in the commissioner's
627 discretion, may waive the provision of full-time enrollment or
628 participation based on compelling circumstances. Not more than one
629 hundred twenty days after the youth's eighteenth birthday, the
630 department shall file a motion in the superior court for juvenile matters
631 that had jurisdiction over the youth's case prior to the youth's eighteenth
632 birthday for a determination as to whether continuation in care is in the
633 youth's best interest and, if so, whether there is an appropriate
634 permanency plan. The court, in its discretion, may hold a hearing on
635 said motion.

636 (B) Any youth who was committed to the commissioner pursuant to
637 this subsection and, having declined to consent to remain in the care of
638 the commissioner, left such care once such youth turned eighteen years
639 of age, may request, in a form and manner prescribed by the
640 commissioner, not later than sixty days prior to the date such youth
641 turns twenty-one years of age, to reenter into the care of the
642 commissioner. Upon receipt of such request, the commissioner shall
643 determine whether such youth meets the requirements described in
644 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. If the commissioner determines
645 that such youth meets such requirements, the department may request
646 that such youth enter into a written agreement governing the terms of
647 his or her voluntary reentry into the care of the commissioner and

648 permit such youth to reenter care. Not more than sixty days after the
649 execution of such agreement, the commissioner shall file a motion in the
650 superior court for juvenile matters that had jurisdiction over the youth's
651 case prior to the youth's eighteenth birthday for a determination as to
652 whether reentry into care is in the youth's best interest and, if so,
653 whether there is an appropriate permanency plan. The court may hold
654 a hearing on said motion.

655 (7) Prior to issuing an order for permanent legal guardianship, the
656 court shall provide notice to each parent that the parent may not file a
657 motion to terminate the permanent legal guardianship, or the court shall
658 indicate on the record why such notice could not be provided, and the
659 court shall find by clear and convincing evidence that the permanent
660 legal guardianship is in the best interests of the child or youth and that
661 the following have been proven by clear and convincing evidence:

662 (A) One of the statutory grounds for termination of parental rights
663 exists, as set forth in subsection (j) of section 17a-112, or the parents have
664 voluntarily consented to the establishment of the permanent legal
665 guardianship;

666 (B) Adoption of the child or youth is not possible or appropriate;

667 (C) (i) If the child or youth is at least twelve years of age, such child
668 or youth consents to the proposed permanent legal guardianship, or (ii)
669 if the child is under twelve years of age, the proposed permanent legal
670 guardian is: (I) A relative, (II) a caregiver, or (III) already serving as the
671 permanent legal guardian of at least one of the child's siblings, if any;

672 (D) The child or youth has resided with the proposed permanent
673 legal guardian for at least a year; and

674 (E) The proposed permanent legal guardian is (i) a suitable and
675 worthy person, and (ii) committed to remaining the permanent legal
676 guardian and assuming the right and responsibilities for the child or
677 youth until the child or youth attains the age of majority.

678 (8) An order of permanent legal guardianship may be reopened and
679 modified and the permanent legal guardian removed upon the filing of
680 a motion with the court, provided it is proven by a fair preponderance
681 of the evidence that the permanent legal guardian is no longer suitable
682 and worthy. A parent may not file a motion to terminate a permanent
683 legal guardianship. If, after a hearing, the court terminates a permanent
684 legal guardianship, the court, in appointing a successor legal guardian
685 or permanent legal guardian for the child or youth shall do so in
686 accordance with this subsection.

687 (k) (1) (A) Nine months after placement of the child or youth in the
688 care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to a voluntary
689 placement agreement, or removal of a child or youth pursuant to section
690 17a-101g or an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction,
691 whichever is earlier, the commissioner shall file a motion for review of
692 a permanency plan if the child or youth has not reached his or her
693 eighteenth birthday. Nine months after a permanency plan has been
694 approved by the court pursuant to this subsection or subdivision (5) of
695 subsection (j) of this section, the commissioner shall file a motion for
696 review of the permanency plan. Any party seeking to oppose the
697 commissioner's permanency plan, including a relative of a child or
698 youth by **[**blood or marriage**]** <u>blood, marriage or law</u> who has
699 intervened pursuant to subsection (d) of this section and is licensed as a
700 foster parent for such child or youth or is vested with such child's or
701 youth's temporary custody by order of the court, shall file a motion in
702 opposition not later than thirty days after the filing of the
703 commissioner's motion for review of the permanency plan, which
704 motion shall include the reason therefor. A permanency hearing on any
705 motion for review of the permanency plan shall be held not later than
706 ninety days after the filing of such motion. The court shall hold
707 evidentiary hearings in connection with any contested motion for
708 review of the permanency plan and credible hearsay evidence regarding
709 any party's compliance with specific steps ordered by the court shall be
710 admissible at such evidentiary hearings. The commissioner shall have
711 the burden of proving that the proposed permanency plan is in the best

712 interests of the child or youth. After the initial permanency hearing,
713 subsequent permanency hearings shall be held not less frequently than
714 every twelve months while the child or youth remains in the custody of
715 the Commissioner of Children and Families or, if the youth is over
716 eighteen years of age, while the youth remains in voluntary placement
717 with the department. The court shall provide notice to the child or
718 youth, the parent or guardian of such child or youth, and any intervenor
719 of the time and place of the court hearing on any such motion not less
720 than fourteen days prior to such hearing.

721 (B) (i) If a child is at least twelve years of age, the child's permanency
722 plan, and any revision to such plan, shall be developed in consultation
723 with the child. In developing or revising such plan, the child may
724 consult up to two individuals participating in the department's case
725 plan regarding such child, neither of whom shall be the foster parent or
726 caseworker of such child. One individual so selected by such child may
727 be designated as the child's advisor for purposes of developing or
728 revising the permanency plan. Regardless of the child's age, the
729 commissioner shall provide not less than five days' advance written
730 notice of any permanency team meeting concerning the child's
731 permanency plan to an attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to
732 represent the child pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

733 (ii) If a child is at least twelve years of age, the commissioner shall
734 notify the parent or guardian, foster parent and child of any
735 administrative case review regarding such child's commitment not less
736 than five days prior to such review and shall make a reasonable effort
737 to schedule such review at a time and location that allows the parent or
738 guardian, foster parent and child to attend.

739 (iii) If a child is at least twelve years of age, such child shall, whenever
740 possible, identify not more than three adults with whom such child has
741 a significant relationship and who may serve as a permanency resource.
742 The identity of such adults shall be recorded in the case plan of such
743 child.

744 (2) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions
745 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall approve a
746 permanency plan that is in the best interests of the child or youth and
747 takes into consideration the child's or youth's need for permanency. The
748 child's or youth's health and safety shall be of paramount concern in
749 formulating such plan. Such permanency plan may include the goal of
750 (A) revocation of commitment and reunification of the child or youth
751 with the parent or guardian, with or without protective supervision; (B)
752 transfer of guardianship or permanent legal guardianship; (C) filing of
753 termination of parental rights and adoption; or (D) for a child sixteen
754 years of age or older, another planned permanent living arrangement
755 ordered by the court, provided the Commissioner of Children and
756 Families has documented a compelling reason why it would not be in
757 the best interests of the child or youth for the permanency plan to
758 include the goals in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this
759 subdivision. Such other planned permanent living arrangement shall,
760 whenever possible, include an adult who has a significant relationship
761 with the child, and who is willing to be a permanency resource, and may
762 include, but not be limited to, placement of a youth in an independent
763 living program or long term foster care with an identified foster parent.

764 (3) If the permanency plan for a child sixteen years of age or older
765 includes the goal of another planned permanent living arrangement
766 pursuant to subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or
767 subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 17a-111b, the department
768 shall document for the court: (A) The manner and frequency of efforts
769 made by the department to return the child home or to secure placement
770 for the child with a fit and willing relative, legal guardian or adoptive
771 parent; and (B) the steps the department has taken to ensure (i) the
772 child's foster family home or child care institution is following a
773 reasonable and prudent parent standard, as defined in section 17a-114d;
774 and (ii) the child has regular opportunities to engage in age appropriate
775 and developmentally appropriate activities, as defined in section 17a-
776 114d.

777 (4) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions

778 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall (A) (i) ask the child
779 or youth about his or her desired permanency outcome, or (ii) if the child
780 or youth is unavailable to appear at such hearing, require the attorney
781 for the child or youth to consult with the child or youth regarding the
782 child's or youth's desired permanency outcome and report the same to
783 the court, (B) review the status of the child or youth, (C) review the
784 progress being made to implement the permanency plan, (D) determine
785 a timetable for attaining the permanency plan, (E) determine the
786 services to be provided to the parent if the court approves a permanency
787 plan of reunification and the timetable for such services, and (F)
788 determine whether the commissioner has made reasonable efforts to
789 achieve the permanency plan. The court may revoke commitment if a
790 cause for commitment no longer exists and it is in the best interests of
791 the child or youth.

792 (5) If the permanency plan for a child sixteen years of age or older
793 includes the goal of another planned permanent living arrangement
794 pursuant to subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
795 court shall (A) (i) ask the child about his or her desired permanency
796 outcome, or (ii) if the child is unavailable to appear at a permanency
797 hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
798 subsection, require the attorney for the child to consult with the child
799 regarding the child's desired permanency outcome and report the same
800 to the court; (B) make a judicial determination that, as of the date of
801 hearing, another planned permanent living arrangement is the best
802 permanency plan for the child; and (C) document the compelling
803 reasons why it is not in the best interest of the child to return home or
804 to be placed with a fit and willing relative, legal guardian or adoptive
805 parent.

806 (6) If the court approves the permanency plan of adoption: (A) The
807 Commissioner of Children and Families shall file a petition for
808 termination of parental rights not later than sixty days after such
809 approval if such petition has not previously been filed; (B) the
810 commissioner may conduct a thorough adoption assessment and child-
811 specific recruitment; and (C) the court may order that the child be photo-

812 listed within thirty days if the court determines that such photo-listing
813 is in the best interests of the child or youth. As used in this subdivision,
814 "thorough adoption assessment" means conducting and documenting
815 face-to-face interviews with the child or youth, foster care providers and
816 other significant parties and "child specific recruitment" means
817 recruiting an adoptive placement targeted to meet the individual needs
818 of the specific child or youth, including, but not limited to, use of the
819 media, use of photo-listing services and any other in-state or out-of-state
820 resources that may be used to meet the specific needs of the child or
821 youth, unless there are extenuating circumstances that indicate that
822 such efforts are not in the best interests of the child or youth.

823 (l) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall pay directly to
824 the person or persons furnishing goods or services determined by said
825 commissioner to be necessary for the care and maintenance of such child
826 or youth the reasonable expense thereof, payment to be made at
827 intervals determined by said commissioner; and the Comptroller shall
828 draw his or her order on the Treasurer, from time to time, for such part
829 of the appropriation for care of committed children or youths as may be
830 needed in order to enable the commissioner to make such payments.
831 The commissioner shall include in the department's annual budget a
832 sum estimated to be sufficient to carry out the provisions of this section.
833 Notwithstanding that any such child or youth has income or estate, the
834 commissioner may pay the cost of care and maintenance of such child
835 or youth. The commissioner may bill to and collect from the person in
836 charge of the estate of any child or youth aided under this chapter, or
837 the payee of such child's or youth's income, the total amount expended
838 for care of such child or youth or such portion thereof as any such estate
839 or payee is able to reimburse, provided the commissioner shall not
840 collect from such estate or payee any reimbursement for the cost of care
841 or other expenditures made on behalf of such child or youth from (1) the
842 proceeds of any cause of action received by such child or youth; (2) any
843 lottery proceeds due to such child or youth; (3) any inheritance due to
844 such child or youth; (4) any payment due to such child or youth from a
845 trust other than a trust created pursuant to 42 USC 1396p, as amended

846 from time to time; or (5) the decedent estate of such child or youth.

847 (m) The commissioner, a parent or the child's attorney may file a
848 motion to revoke a commitment, and, upon finding that cause for
849 commitment no longer exists, and that such revocation is in the best
850 interests of such child or youth, the court may revoke the commitment
851 of such child or youth. No such motion shall be filed more often than
852 once every six months.

853 (n) If the court has ordered legal guardianship of a child or youth to
854 be vested in a suitable and worthy person pursuant to subsection (j) of
855 this section, the child's or youth's parent or former legal guardian may
856 file a motion to reinstate guardianship of the child or youth in such
857 parent or former legal guardian. Upon the filing of such a motion, the
858 court may order the Commissioner of Children and Families to
859 investigate the home conditions and needs of the child or youth and the
860 home conditions of the person seeking reinstatement of guardianship,
861 and to make a recommendation to the court. A party to a motion for
862 reinstatement of guardianship shall not be entitled to court-appointed
863 counsel or representation by Division of Public Defender Services
864 assigned counsel, except as provided in section 46b-136. Upon finding
865 that the cause for the removal of guardianship no longer exists, and that
866 reinstatement is in the best interests of the child or youth, the court may
867 reinstate the guardianship of the parent or the former legal guardian.
868 No such motion may be filed more often than once every six months.

869 (o) Upon service on the parent, guardian or other person having
870 control of the child or youth of any order issued by the court pursuant
871 to the provisions of subsections (b) and (j) of this section, the child or
872 youth concerned shall be surrendered to the person serving the order
873 who shall forthwith deliver the child or youth to the person, agency,
874 department or institution awarded custody in the order. Upon refusal
875 of the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child or
876 youth to surrender the child or youth as provided in the order, the court
877 may cause a warrant to be issued charging the parent, guardian or other
878 person having control of the child or youth with contempt of court. If

879 the person arrested is found in contempt of court, the court may order
880 such person confined until the person complies with the order, but for
881 not more than six months, or may fine such person not more than five
882 hundred dollars, or both.

883 (p) A foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver
884 shall receive notice and have the right to be heard for the purposes of
885 this section in Superior Court in any proceeding concerning a foster
886 child living with such foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or
887 relative caregiver. A foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or
888 relative caregiver who has cared for a child or youth shall have the right
889 to be heard and comment on the best interests of such child or youth in
890 any proceeding under this section which is brought not more than one
891 year after the last day the foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or
892 relative caregiver provided such care. Any notice provided pursuant to
893 this subsection shall include the Internet web site address for any
894 proceeding that will be conducted on a virtual platform. The court shall
895 confirm compliance with the notice requirements set forth in this
896 subsection at any such proceeding.

897 (q) Upon motion of any sibling of any child committed to the
898 Department of Children and Families pursuant to this section, such
899 sibling shall have the right to be heard concerning visitation with, and
900 placement of, any such child. In awarding any visitation or modifying
901 any placement, the court shall be guided by the best interests of all
902 siblings affected by such determination.

903 (r) The provisions of section 17a-152, regarding placement of a child
904 or youth from another state, and section 17a-175, regarding the
905 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, shall apply to
906 placements pursuant to this section. In any proceeding under this
907 section involving the placement of a child or youth in another state
908 where the provisions of section 17a-175 are applicable, the court shall,
909 before ordering or approving such placement, state for the record the
910 court's finding concerning compliance with the provisions of section
911 17a-175. The court's statement shall include, but not be limited to: (1) A

912 finding that the state has received notice in writing from the receiving
913 state, in accordance with subsection (d) of Article III of section 17a-175,
914 indicating that the proposed placement does not appear contrary to the
915 interests of the child or youth, (2) the court has reviewed such notice, (3)
916 whether or not an interstate compact study or other home study has
917 been completed by the receiving state, and (4) if such a study has been
918 completed, whether the conclusions reached by the receiving state as a
919 result of such study support the placement.

920 (s) In any proceeding under this section, the Department of Children
921 and Families shall provide notice to (1) each attorney of record for each
922 party involved in the proceeding when the department seeks to transfer
923 a child or youth in its care, custody or control to an out-of-state
924 placement, and (2) the attorney for the child or youth, and any guardian
925 ad litem for such child or youth, of (A) any new report of abuse or
926 neglect pertaining to such child or youth or such child's or youth's
927 parent or guardian received pursuant to section 17a-103a, (B) whether
928 such report resulted in an investigation, and (C) the results of any such
929 investigation.

930 (t) If a child or youth is placed into out-of-home care by the
931 Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to this section, the
932 commissioner shall include in any report the commissioner submits to
933 the court information regarding (1) the safety and suitability of such
934 child's or youth's placement, taking into account the requirements set
935 forth in section 17a-114; (2) whether the department has received or
936 obtained the most recent information concerning such child's or youth's
937 medical, dental, developmental, educational and treatment needs from
938 any relevant service providers; (3) a timeline for ensuring that such
939 needs are met; (4) for any such child or youth under three years of age,
940 whether the child or youth was screened for developmental and social-
941 emotional delays pursuant to section 17a-106e, whether any such delays
942 were identified and, if so, whether the child or youth was referred to the
943 birth-to-three program pursuant to said section; (5) the dates of
944 administrative case review meetings and permanency team meetings;
945 (6) any new report alleging abuse or neglect pertaining to such child or

946 youth or a parent or guardian of such child or youth pursuant to section
947 17a-103a, and (A) whether such report resulted in an investigation, and
948 (B) the findings of any such investigation; and (7) any new criminal
949 charges pending against any such parent or guardian. Such information
950 shall also be submitted to the court (A) not later than ninety days after
951 such child or youth is placed into out-of-home care; (B) if such child's or
952 youth's out-of-home placement changes; and (C) if the commissioner
953 files a permanency plan on behalf of such child or youth. The court shall
954 consider such information in making decisions regarding such child's or
955 youth's best interests.

956 (u) Prior to the issuance of any order affecting the legal status or
957 placement of a child in any proceeding under this section, the court shall
958 confirm that (1) any attorney for such child has obtained a clear
959 understanding of the situation and the needs of such child, as described
960 in 42 USC 5106a(b)(2)(B), as amended from time to time; (2) any
961 guardian ad litem for such child has performed an independent
962 investigation of the case and is prepared to present information
963 pertinent to the court's determination of the best interests of such child,
964 in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (D) of subdivision
965 (2) of section 46b-129a; and (3) any attorney or guardian ad litem for
966 such child has (A) communicated regularly with such child, or, in the
967 case of a nonverbal child, such child's caregivers and service providers,
968 and (B) visited with such child with sufficient frequency as to be
969 informed of such child's situation and needs.

970 (v) In any proceeding to review, modify, terminate or extend an order
971 of protective supervision, the Department of Children and Families
972 shall file with the court information concerning (1) whether the
973 department has received or obtained the most up-to-date information
974 concerning the child's medical, dental, developmental, educational and
975 treatment needs from any relevant service providers; (2) whether the
976 child has received services recommended by any such providers and a
977 description of any concerns identified by such providers; (3) a
978 description of (A) any new report alleging abuse or neglect pertaining
979 to the child or a parent or guardian of the child received pursuant to

980 section 17a-103a, (B) whether such report resulted in an investigation,
981 and (C) the findings of any such investigation; (4) any new criminal
982 charges pending against any such parent or guardian; and (5) for any
983 child under three years of age, whether the child was screened for
984 developmental and social-emotional delays pursuant to section 17a-
985 106e, whether any such delays were identified and, if so, whether the
986 child was referred to the birth-to-three program pursuant to said
987 section.

988 (w) In any proceeding under this section, the Department of Children
989 and Families shall identify the source of any documentation, statements
990 or allegations included in the department's submissions to the court and
991 the date or dates upon which any such information was obtained by the
992 department.

993 Sec. 8. Section 46b-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the
994 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

995 No child shall be prosecuted for an offense before the regular criminal
996 docket of the Superior Court except as provided in section 46b-127,
997 [and] subsection (f) of section 46b-133c and subsection (f) of section 46b-
998 133d.

999 Sec. 9. Section 51-286f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1000 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1001 The prosecuting official in a criminal proceeding shall request [on the
1002 record] that a transcript be prepared of any sentencing hearing at which
1003 a defendant is sentenced to a definite, nonsuspended sentence of more
1004 than two years imprisonment. The Chief Court Administrator shall
1005 provide, in a format prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator, any
1006 such transcript to the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

1007 Sec. 10. Section 52-146v of the general statutes is repealed and the
1008 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1009 (a) As used in this section:

1010 (1) "Peer support team member" means any person engaged in
1011 directing or staffing any peer support program established by an
1012 employer for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder;

1013 (2) "First responder" means: Any peace officer, as defined in section
1014 53a-3; any firefighter, as defined in section 7-313g; any person employed
1015 as a firefighter by a private employer; any ambulance driver, emergency
1016 medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced
1017 emergency medical technician or paramedic, as defined in section 19a-
1018 175; any telecommunicator, as defined in section 28-30; and any
1019 employee of the Department of Correction; and

1020 (3) "Confidential communications" means all oral and written
1021 communications transmitted in confidence between a first responder
1022 and a peer support team member in the course of participation in an
1023 employer established peer support program and all records prepared
1024 by a peer support team member related to such first responder's
1025 participation in such program.

1026 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, and unless the
1027 first responder making the confidential communication waives the
1028 privilege, no peer support team member shall disclose any confidential
1029 communications (1) to any third person, other than a person to whom
1030 disclosure is reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of the
1031 purposes for which such member is consulted, (2) in any civil or
1032 criminal case or proceeding, or (3) in any legislative or administrative
1033 proceeding.

1034 (c) No person in any civil or criminal case or proceeding or in any
1035 legislative or administrative proceeding may request or require
1036 information from any first responder relating to the first responder's
1037 participation in a peer support program, including whether or not such
1038 first responder at any time participated in such peer support program.

1039 (d) Consent of a first responder shall not be required for the
1040 disclosure of such first responder's confidential communications:

1041 (1) Where mandated by any other provision of the general statutes;

1042 (2) Where a peer support team member believes in good faith that the
1043 failure to disclose such confidential communications presents a clear
1044 and present danger to any individual, including the first responder; and

1045 (3) Where the peer support team member was a witness or party to
1046 an incident that resulted in the delivery of peer support services to the
1047 first responder.

1048 (e) (1) A peer support team member shall not be liable for damages
1049 for any act, error or omission, not wanton, reckless or malicious,
1050 committed by the peer support team or peer support team member in
1051 performing peer support services for the benefit of an employee who is
1052 a first responder.

1053 (2) An employer shall not be liable for damages arising out of the
1054 establishment or maintenance of a peer support program established by
1055 such employer for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder.

1056 (3) As used in this subsection, "performing peer support services"
1057 includes, but is not limited to, the determination of whether disclosure
1058 of a first responder's confidential communications is appropriate
1059 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

1060 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 53a-32 of the general statutes is
1061 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1062 *1, 2026*):

1063 (a) At any time during the period of probation or conditional
1064 discharge, the court or any judge thereof may issue a warrant for the
1065 arrest of a defendant for violation of any of the conditions of probation
1066 or conditional discharge, or may issue a notice to appear to answer to a
1067 charge of such violation, which notice shall be personally served upon
1068 the defendant. Whenever a probation officer has probable cause to
1069 believe that a person on probation who is a serious firearm offender has
1070 violated a condition of probation, and such probation officer reasonably

1071 believes that such person may pose a risk to the safety of another person
1072 or persons or is for a new felony arrest or knows that a person on
1073 probation for a felony conviction has been arrested for the commission
1074 of a serious firearm offense, such probation officer shall apply to the
1075 court or any judge thereof for a warrant for the arrest of such person for
1076 violation of a condition or conditions of probation or conditional
1077 discharge. Any such warrant shall authorize all officers named therein
1078 to return the defendant to the custody of the court or to any suitable
1079 detention facility designated by the court. Whenever a probation officer
1080 has probable cause to believe that a person has violated a condition of
1081 such person's probation, such probation officer (1) may notify any police
1082 officer that such person has, in such officer's judgment, violated the
1083 conditions of such person's probation, and (2) shall notify such police
1084 officer if such person is a serious firearm offender and such probation
1085 officer reasonably believes that such person may pose a risk to the safety
1086 of another person or persons or is for a new felony arrest or is on
1087 probation for a felony conviction and has been arrested for the
1088 commission of a serious firearm offense. Such notice shall be sufficient
1089 warrant for the police officer to arrest such person and return such
1090 person to the custody of the court or to any suitable detention facility
1091 designated by the court. Whenever a probation officer so notifies a
1092 police officer, the probation officer shall notify the victim of the offense
1093 for which such person is on probation, and any victim advocate
1094 assigned to assist the victim, provided the probation officer has been
1095 provided with the name and contact information for such victim or
1096 victim advocate. Any probation officer may arrest any defendant on
1097 probation without a warrant or may deputize any other officer with
1098 power to arrest to do so by giving such other officer a written statement
1099 setting forth that the defendant has, in the judgment of the probation
1100 officer, violated the conditions of the defendant's probation. Such
1101 written statement, delivered with the defendant by the arresting officer
1102 to the official in charge of any correctional center or other place of
1103 detention, shall be sufficient warrant for the detention of the defendant.
1104 After making such an arrest, such probation officer shall present to the
1105 detaining authorities a similar statement of the circumstances of

1106 violation. Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, provisions
1107 regarding release on bail of persons charged with a crime shall be
1108 applicable to any defendant arrested under the provisions of this
1109 section. Upon such arrest and detention, the probation officer shall
1110 immediately so notify the court or any judge thereof.

1111 Sec. 12. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 54-56*l* of the general statutes
1112 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1113 *October 1, 2026*):

1114 (d) The court shall refer such person to the Court Support Services
1115 Division for confirmation of eligibility and assessment of the person's
1116 mental health condition. <u>If such person resides outside of the State of</u>
1117 <u>Connecticut, such person shall return to the State of Connecticut as</u>
1118 <u>instructed by the division for assessment of such person's mental health</u>
1119 <u>condition.</u> The prosecuting attorney shall provide the division with a
1120 copy of the police report in the case to assist the division in its
1121 assessment. The division shall determine if the person is amenable to
1122 treatment and if appropriate community supervision, treatment and
1123 services are available. If the division determines that the person is
1124 amenable to treatment and that appropriate community supervision,
1125 treatment and services are available, the division shall develop a
1126 treatment plan tailored to the person and shall present the treatment
1127 plan to the court.

1128 (e) Upon confirmation of eligibility and consideration of the
1129 treatment plan presented by the Court Support Services Division, the
1130 court may grant the application for participation in the program. If the
1131 court grants the application, such person shall be referred to the
1132 division. The division may collaborate with the Department of Mental
1133 Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs or
1134 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, to place
1135 such person in a program that provides appropriate community
1136 supervision, treatment and services. The person shall be <u>(1)</u> subject to
1137 the supervision of a probation officer who has a reduced caseload and
1138 specialized training in working with persons with psychiatric

1139 disabilities, and (2) classified for purposes of supervision and
1140 monitoring standards pursuant to section 54-108b.

1141 Sec. 13. Subsection (k) of section 54-56*l* of the general statutes is
1142 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1143 *1, 2026*):

1144 (k) The Court Support Services Division **[**, in consultation**]** may
1145 consult with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
1146 **[**, shall**]** to develop standards and oversee appropriate treatment
1147 programs to meet the requirements of this section and may contract
1148 with service providers to provide such programs.

1149 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 46b-133 of the general statutes is
1150 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1151 *1, 2026*):

1152 (b) Whenever a child is brought before a judge of the Superior Court,
1153 which court shall be the court that has jurisdiction over juvenile matters
1154 where the child resides if the residence of such child can be determined,
1155 such judge shall immediately have the case proceeded upon as a
1156 juvenile matter. Such judge may admit the child to bail or release the
1157 child in the custody of the child's parent or parents, the child's guardian
1158 or some other suitable person to appear before the Superior Court when
1159 ordered. If there is probable cause to believe that the child has
1160 committed the acts alleged, the court may **[**consider if the child should
1161 be assessed for services**]** order a risk and needs assessment to determine
1162 whether the child could benefit from services. Any such risk and needs
1163 assessment shall be subject to the protections of subsection (k) of section
1164 46b-124. Such assessment shall be held not later than two weeks after
1165 the child is arraigned and such child shall have the right to counsel at
1166 such assessment. If detention becomes necessary, such detention shall
1167 be in the manner prescribed by this chapter, provided the child shall be
1168 placed in the least restrictive environment possible in a manner
1169 consistent with public safety.

1170 Sec. 15. Subsection (o) of section 46b-121n of the 2026 supplement to

1171 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1172 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1173 (o) Not later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, the
1174 Department of Correction **[**and the Court Support Services Division of
1175 the Judicial Branch**]** shall report to the committee on compliance with
1176 the provisions of section 46b-126a. Such reports shall present indicia of
1177 compliance in both state facilities and those facilities managed by a
1178 private provider under contract with the state, and shall include data on
1179 all persons under eighteen years of age who have been removed or
1180 excluded from educational settings as a result of alleged behavior
1181 occurring in those educational settings.

1182 Sec. 16. Subsection (g) of section 10-253 of the general statutes is
1183 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
1184 *1, 2027*):

1185 (g) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "juvenile residential center"
1186 means a juvenile residential center operated by, or under contract with,
1187 the Judicial Department.

1188 (2) The local or regional board of education for the school district in
1189 which a juvenile residential center is located shall be responsible for the
1190 provision of general education and special education and related
1191 services to children detained in such center. The provision of general
1192 education and special education and related services shall be in
1193 accordance with all applicable state and federal laws concerning the
1194 provision of educational services. Such board may provide such
1195 educational services directly or may contract with public or private
1196 educational service providers for the provision of such services. Tuition
1197 may be charged to the local or regional board of education under whose
1198 jurisdiction the child would otherwise be attending school for the
1199 provision of general education and special education and related
1200 services. Responsibility for the provision of educational services to the
1201 child shall begin on the date of the child's placement in the juvenile
1202 residential center and financial responsibility for the provision of such

1203 services shall begin upon the receipt by the child of such services.

1204 (3) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction
1205 the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such board can
1206 be identified, the local or regional board of education for the school
1207 district in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be
1208 financially responsible for the tuition charged for the provision of
1209 educational services to the child in such juvenile residential center. The
1210 State Board of Education shall pay, on a current basis, any costs in excess
1211 of such local or regional board of education's prior year's average per
1212 pupil costs. If the local or regional board of education under whose
1213 jurisdiction the child would otherwise be attending school cannot be
1214 identified, the local or regional board of education for the school district
1215 in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be eligible to
1216 receive on a current basis from the State Board of Education any costs in
1217 excess of such local or regional board of education's prior year's average
1218 per pupil costs. Application for the grant to be paid by the state for costs
1219 in excess of the local or regional board of education's basic contribution
1220 shall be made in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (5) of
1221 subsection (e) of section 10-76d.

1222 (4) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction
1223 the child would otherwise be attending school shall be financially
1224 responsible for the provision of educational services to the child placed
1225 in a juvenile residential center as provided in subdivision (3) of this
1226 subsection notwithstanding that the child has been suspended from
1227 school pursuant to section 10-233c, has been expelled from school
1228 pursuant to section 10-233d or has withdrawn, dropped out or
1229 otherwise terminated enrollment from school. Upon notification of such
1230 board of education by the educational services provider for the juvenile
1231 residential center, the child shall be reenrolled in the school district
1232 where the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such
1233 district can be identified, in the school district in which the juvenile
1234 residential center is located, and provided with educational services in
1235 accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

1236 (5) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction
1237 the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such board can
1238 be identified, the local or regional board of education for the school
1239 district in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be
1240 notified **[**in writing by the Judicial Branch of the child's placement at the
1241 juvenile residential center not later than one business day after the
1242 child's placement, notwithstanding any provision of the general
1243 statutes**]** of the child's placement at the juvenile residential center in
1244 writing by the Commissioner of Children and Families in accordance
1245 with section 10-220h. The notification shall include the child's name and
1246 date of birth, the address of the child's parents or guardian, placement
1247 location and contact information, and such other information as is
1248 necessary to provide educational services to the child.

1249 (6) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, a child
1250 who is enrolled in a school district at the time of placement in a juvenile
1251 residential center shall remain enrolled in that same school district for
1252 the duration of his or her detention, unless the child voluntarily
1253 terminates enrollment, and shall have the right to return to such school
1254 district immediately upon discharge from the juvenile residential center
1255 into the community.

1256 (7) When a child is not enrolled in a school at the time of placement
1257 in a juvenile residential center:

1258 (A) The child shall be enrolled in the school district where the child
1259 would otherwise be attending school not later than three business days
1260 after notification is given pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection.

1261 (B) If no such district can be identified, the child shall be enrolled in
1262 the school district in which the juvenile residential center is located not
1263 later than three business days after the determination is made that no
1264 such district can be identified.

1265 (8) Upon learning that a child is to be discharged from a juvenile
1266 residential center, the educational services provider for the juvenile
1267 residential center shall immediately notify the jurisdiction in which the

1268 child will continue his or her education after discharge from the juvenile
1269 residential center.

1270 (9) Prior to the child's discharge from the juvenile residential center,
1271 the local or regional board of education responsible for the provision of
1272 educational services to children in the juvenile residential center shall
1273 conduct an assessment of the school work completed by the child to
1274 determine an assignment of academic credit for the work completed.
1275 Credit assigned shall be the credit of the local or regional board of
1276 education responsible for the provision of the educational services.
1277 Credit assigned for work completed by the child shall be accepted in
1278 transfer by the local or regional board of education for the school district
1279 in which the child continues his or her education after discharge from
1280 the juvenile residential center.

1281 Sec. 17. Section 47-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1282 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1283 (a) A person, as defined in section 42a-1-201, who has been identified
1284 in a filing pursuant to chapters 821 to 822, inclusive, may petition the
1285 Tax and Administrative Appeals Session of the Superior Court to
1286 invalidate such filing, or any amendment thereof, when such filing was
1287 falsely filed or amended. The court shall review such petition and
1288 determine whether cause exists to doubt the validity of such filing or
1289 amendment. Upon a determination that such cause exists, the court
1290 **[**shall**]** may, not later than sixty days after the date of such
1291 determination, hold a hearing to determine whether to invalidate such
1292 filing or amendment or grant any other relief deemed appropriate by
1293 the court. There shall be no fee to petition for a hearing under this
1294 section. The court's finding may be made solely on a review of the
1295 documentation attached to the petition and the responses, if any, of the
1296 person named as a lienor on the land records and without hearing any
1297 oral testimony, if none is offered by the lienor. The person petitioning
1298 the court to invalidate a filing shall send a copy of such petition to all
1299 parties named in such filing.

1300 (b) A person who files a petition under subsection (a) of this section
1301 shall include, as part of such petition, a certified copy of the filing, and
1302 any amendment thereof, that such person seeks to invalidate.

1303 (c) In determining whether cause exists to doubt the validity of a
1304 filing or amendment under subsection (a) of this section, the court may
1305 consider factors that include, but are not limited to, whether (1) the filing
1306 or amendment is related to a valid existing commercial, financial or real
1307 estate transaction, or a potential commercial, financial or real estate
1308 transaction, or a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction; (2) the
1309 same individual is named as both debtor and creditor; (3) an individual
1310 is named as a transmitting utility; and (4) the filing or amendment has
1311 been filed with the intent to defraud, deceive, injure or harass a person,
1312 business or governmental entity.

1313 (d) If the court determines **[**after a hearing**]** that a filing identified in
1314 a petition filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is not valid, the
1315 court shall render a judgment that such filing is void in its entirety and
1316 shall direct the custodian of such filing, when feasible, to note that such
1317 filing is not valid. The court may grant such other relief as it deems
1318 appropriate. The petitioner under subsection (a) of this section shall
1319 provide a copy of the petition and the judgment of the court granting
1320 such petition to the custodian of the filing adjudged invalid by the court.

1321 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The official seal of the
1322 Connecticut Judicial Branch, or imitation thereof, whether as a
1323 reproduction, imprint or facsimile, shall be made and used only under
1324 the direction and with the approval of the Office of the Chief Court
1325 Administrator for purposes specifically authorized by the Constitution
1326 and laws of the state or related directly or indirectly to the official
1327 business of the Judicial Branch, provided the Chief Court Administrator
1328 may in the administrator's judgment approve other reproductions of
1329 said seal for educational purposes as determined by the administrator.

1330 Sec. 19. Section 54-207a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1331 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1332 The Office of the Chief Court Administrator or the Chief Court
1333 Administrator's designee shall prescribe such policies and procedures,
1334 as deemed necessary, to implement the provisions of sections 54-201 to
1335 54-235, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 19a-112e to 19a-
1336 112g, inclusive, and may formulate standards for the uniform
1337 application of the payment of compensation of claims.

1338 Sec. 20. Section 54-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1339 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1340 As used in sections 54-201 to 54-235, inclusive:

1341 (1) "Victim" means a person who is injured or killed as provided in
1342 section 54-209;

1343 (2) "Personal injury" means (A) actual bodily harm or emotional harm
1344 and includes pregnancy and any condition thereof, or (B) injury or death
1345 to a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104, as amended from time
1346 to time, owned or kept by a person with a disability;

1347 (3) "Dependent" means any relative of a deceased victim or a person
1348 designated by a deceased victim in accordance with section 1-56r who
1349 was wholly or partially dependent upon his income at the time of his
1350 death or the child of a deceased victim and shall include the child of
1351 such victim born after his death;

1352 (4) "Relative" means a person's spouse, parent, grandparent,
1353 stepparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, child, including a natural born
1354 child, stepchild and adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, half
1355 brother or half sister or a parent of a person's spouse;

1356 (5) "Crime" means any act which is a felony, as defined in section 53a-
1357 25, or misdemeanor, as defined in section 53a-26, and includes any crime
1358 committed by a juvenile;

1359 (6) "Emotional harm" means a mental or emotional impairment that
1360 is (A) directly attributable to a threat of **[**(A)**]** (i) physical injury, as
1361 defined in subdivision (3) of section 53a-3, or **[**(B)**]** (ii) death to the

1362 affected person, or (B) caused by the intentional or knowing actions of
1363 another person, and such actions would cause a reasonable person to
1364 fear for such person's safety; and

1365 (7) "Disability" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-345.

1366 Sec. 21. Section 46b-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1367 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1368 (a) Whenever the Probate Court, in a guardianship matter under
1369 chapter 802h, or the Superior Court, in a family relations matter, as
1370 defined in section 46b-1, orders a change or transfer of the guardianship
1371 or custody of a child who is the subject of a preexisting support order,
1372 and the court makes no finding with respect to such support order, such
1373 guardianship or custody order shall operate to: (1) Suspend the support
1374 order if guardianship or custody is transferred to the obligor under the
1375 support order; or (2) modify the payee of the support order to be the
1376 person or entity awarded guardianship or custody of the child by the
1377 court, if such person or entity is other than the obligor under the support
1378 order.

1379 (b) Whenever the parties to a preexisting support order later
1380 intermarry, such marriage shall operate to terminate the support order,
1381 and the parties shall be jointly liable for ongoing support pursuant to
1382 section 46b-37.

1383 Sec. 22. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2026, the
1384 Secretary of the State shall update the official compilation of the
1385 regulations of Connecticut state agencies posted on the eRegulations
1386 System in conformity with the provisions of section 4-168 of the general
1387 statutes and section 23 of this act.

1388 Sec. 23. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions
1389 of chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 11-10b-1 to 11-10b-5,
1390 inclusive, of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed.

1391 Sec. 24. Section 52-407kk of the general statutes is repealed and the

1392 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1393 (a) If the parties to an agreement to arbitrate agree on a method for
1394 appointing an arbitrator, that method must be followed, unless the
1395 method fails. If the parties have not agreed on a method, the agreed
1396 method fails or an appointed arbitrator fails or is unable to act and a
1397 successor has not been appointed, the court, on motion of a party to the
1398 arbitration proceeding, shall appoint the arbitrator. An arbitrator so
1399 appointed has all the powers of an arbitrator designated in the
1400 agreement to arbitrate or appointed pursuant to the agreed method.

1401 (b) An individual who has a known, direct and material interest in
1402 the outcome of the arbitration proceeding or a known, existing and
1403 substantial relationship with a party may not serve as an arbitrator
1404 required by an agreement to be neutral.

1405 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
1406 when an agreement to arbitrate includes the method for selecting an
1407 arbitrator for an arbitration proceeding to be conducted in this state, no
1408 person may be appointed or serve as the arbitrator for the arbitration
1409 proceeding unless, at the time the person is appointed as arbitrator, and
1410 thereafter throughout the duration of the arbitration proceeding, such
1411 person is a member in good standing of the bar of this state, unless all
1412 parties to the agreement to arbitrate execute a written waiver of the
1413 requirements of this subsection as relate to the arbitrator's
1414 qualifications. Any party to an arbitration agreement shall have not
1415 more than fourteen days after the date of appointment of the arbitrator
1416 to object to such appointment on grounds that the arbitrator fails to meet
1417 the requirements of this subsection. For any arbitration proceeding
1418 pending in this state on July 1, 2026, in which an evidentiary hearing has
1419 not commenced, any party to the arbitration proceeding may file a
1420 written objection to the continued service of the arbitrator. A
1421 determination on the objection to the continued service of the arbitrator
1422 and whether a successor arbitrator is to be appointed shall be made in
1423 accordance with the provisions of this section.

1424 Sec. 25. Section 52-411 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1425 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1426 (a) If, in a written agreement to arbitrate, a method of appointing an
1427 arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire has been provided, the method
1428 shall be followed.

1429 (b) If no method is provided therein, or if a method is provided and
1430 any party thereto fails to use the method, or if for any other reason there
1431 is a failure in the naming of an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire, or
1432 if any arbitrator or umpire dies or is unable or refuses to serve, upon
1433 application by a party to the arbitration agreement, the superior court
1434 for the judicial district in which one of the parties resides or, in a
1435 controversy concerning land, for the judicial district in which the land
1436 is situated or, when the court is not in session, any judge thereof, shall
1437 appoint an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire, as the case may
1438 require. A person so appointed an arbitrator or umpire shall act under
1439 any arbitration agreement with the same force and effect as if he had
1440 been specifically named or referred to therein. Unless otherwise
1441 provided in the agreement, the arbitration shall be by a single arbitrator.

1442 <u>(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,</u>
1443 <u>when an agreement to arbitrate includes the method for selecting an</u>
1444 <u>arbitrator for an arbitration proceeding to be conducted in this state, no</u>
1445 <u>person may be appointed or serve as the arbitrator for the arbitration</u>
1446 <u>proceeding unless, at the time the person is appointed as arbitrator, and</u>
1447 <u>thereafter throughout the duration of the arbitration proceeding, such</u>
1448 <u>person is a member in good standing of the bar of this state, unless all</u>
1449 <u>parties to the agreement to arbitrate execute a written waiver of the</u>
1450 <u>requirements of this subsection as relate to the arbitrator's</u>
1451 <u>qualifications. Any party to an arbitration agreement shall have not</u>
1452 <u>more than fourteen days after the date of appointment of the arbitrator</u>
1453 <u>to object to such appointment on grounds that the arbitrator fails to meet</u>
1454 <u>the requirements of this subsection. For any arbitration proceeding</u>
1455 <u>pending in this state on July 1, 2026, in which an evidentiary hearing has</u>
1456 <u>not commenced, any party to the arbitration proceeding may file a</u>

1457 written objection to the continued service of the arbitrator. A
1458 determination on the objection to the continued service of the arbitrator
1459 and whether a successor arbitrator is to be appointed shall be made in
1460 accordance with the provisions of this section.

1461 **[**(c)**]** (d) An application under this section and the proceedings
1462 thereon shall conform to the application and proceedings provided for
1463 in section 52-410, except that such changes shall be made in the
1464 complaint as may be necessary to correctly and concisely state the
1465 plaintiff's claim.

1466 Sec. 26. Subsection (a) of section 54-65a of the general statutes is
1467 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1468 *1, 2026*):

1469 (a) (1) Whenever an arrested person is released upon the execution of
1470 a bond with surety in an amount of five hundred dollars or more and
1471 such bond is ordered forfeited because the principal failed to appear in
1472 court as conditioned in such bond, the court shall, at the time of ordering
1473 the bond forfeited: (A) Issue a rearrest warrant or a capias directing a
1474 proper officer to take the defendant into custody, (B) provide written or
1475 electronic notice to the surety on the bond that the principal has failed
1476 to appear in court as conditioned in such bond, except that if the surety
1477 on the bond is an insurer, as defined in section 38a-660, the court shall
1478 provide such notice to such insurer and not to the surety bail bond
1479 agent, as defined in section 38a-660, and (C) order a stay of execution
1480 upon the forfeiture for six months. The court may, in its discretion and
1481 for good cause shown, extend such stay of execution. A stay of execution
1482 shall not prevent the issuance of a rearrest warrant or a capias.

1483 (2) When the principal whose bond has been forfeited is returned to
1484 custody pursuant to the rearrest warrant or a capias within six months
1485 after the date such bond was ordered forfeited or, if a stay of execution
1486 was extended, within the time period inclusive of such extension of the
1487 date such bond was ordered forfeited, the bond shall be automatically
1488 terminated and the surety released and the court shall order new

1489 conditions of release for the defendant in accordance with section
1490 54-64a.

1491 (3) When the principal whose bond has been forfeited returns to court
1492 voluntarily within five business days after the date such bond was
1493 ordered forfeited, the court may, in its discretion, and after finding that
1494 the defendant's failure to appear was not wilful, vacate the forfeiture
1495 order and reinstate the bond.

1496 Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 38a-660h of the general statutes is
1497 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1498 *1, 2026*):

1499 (a) If collateral security or other indemnity was received on a bail
1500 bond by a surety bail bond agent and such bond is terminated, the
1501 insurer, managing general agent or surety bail bond agent shall return
1502 the collateral security or other indemnity, except a promissory note or
1503 an indemnity agreement, not later than twenty-one days after receipt of
1504 **[**a written report**]** <u>written or electronic notice</u> from the court that <u>an</u>
1505 <u>electronic report is available indicating that</u> the bail bond has been
1506 terminated. Such collateral security or other indemnity shall be returned
1507 to the person who provided the collateral security or other indemnity
1508 unless another disposition is provided for by legal assignment to
1509 another person of the right to receive the return of the collateral security
1510 or other indemnity. If, despite diligent inquiry by the insurer or
1511 managing general agent to determine whether the bail bond has been
1512 terminated, the court fails to provide <u>notice of</u> any **[**written**]** <u>electronic</u>
1513 report on termination, the collateral security or other indemnity, except
1514 a promissory note or an indemnity agreement, shall be returned to the
1515 person who provided the collateral security or other indemnity not later
1516 than twenty-one days after the insurer, managing general agent or
1517 surety bail bond agent has become aware that the bail bond has been
1518 terminated.

1519 Sec. 28. Section 51-56a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1520 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1521 (a) Each clerk of the Supreme Court and Superior Court shall account
1522 for and pay or deposit all fees, fines, forfeitures and contributions made
1523 to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and the proceeds of
1524 judgments of such clerk's office in the manner provided by section 4-32.
1525 If any such clerk fails to so account and pay or deposit, such failure shall
1526 be reported by the Treasurer to the Chief Court Administrator who may
1527 thereupon remove the clerk. When any such clerk dies before so
1528 accounting and paying or depositing, the Treasurer shall require the
1529 executor of such clerk's will or administrator of such clerk's estate to so
1530 account. If any such clerk is removed from office, the Treasurer shall
1531 require such clerk to account for any money of the state remaining in
1532 such clerk's hands at the time of such removal and, if such clerk neglects
1533 to so account, the Treasurer shall certify the neglect to the Chief Court
1534 Administrator.

1535 (b) (1) The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the
1536 violations occurred all amounts received in respect to the violation of
1537 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, sections 14-251, 14-252,
1538 14-253a and 14-305 to 14-308, inclusive, or any regulation adopted
1539 thereunder or ordinance enacted in accordance therewith, and (2) in the
1540 case of the municipalities ranked one to eight, inclusive, when all
1541 municipalities are ranked from highest to lowest in population, based
1542 on the most recent federal decennial census, the state shall remit to the
1543 municipality in which the violations occurred fifty per cent of the fine
1544 amounts received in respect to the violation of section 14-250b, or any
1545 ordinance enacted in accordance therewith. Each clerk of the Superior
1546 Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the
1547 Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on
1548 or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each
1549 year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter
1550 under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the
1551 clerk or official, provided prior to the institution of court proceedings, a
1552 city, town or borough shall have the authority to collect and retain all
1553 proceeds from parking violations committed within the jurisdiction of
1554 such city, town or borough.

1555 (c) For the purpose of providing additional funds for municipal and
1556 state police training, each person who pays in any sum as (1) a fine or
1557 forfeiture for any violation of section 14-12, 14-215, 14-219, 14-222, 14-
1558 224, 14-225, 14-227a, 14-227m, 14-227n, 14-266, 14-267a, 14-269 or 14-283,
1559 or (2) a fine or forfeiture for any infraction, shall pay an additional fee
1560 of one dollar for each eight dollars or fraction thereof of the amount such
1561 person is required to pay, except if such payment is made for violation
1562 of such a section which is deemed to be an infraction, such additional
1563 fee shall be only on the first eighty-eight dollars of such fine or
1564 forfeiture. Such additional fee charged shall be deposited in the General
1565 Fund.

1566 (d) Each person who pays in any sum as a fine or forfeiture for any
1567 violation of sections 14-218a, 14-219, 14-222, 14-223, 14-227a, 14-227m,
1568 14-227n, sections 14-230 to 14-240, inclusive, sections 14-241 to 14-249,
1569 inclusive, section 14-279 for the first offense, sections 14-289b, 14-299,
1570 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300j, sections 14-301 to 14-303, inclusive, or any
1571 regulation adopted under said sections or ordinance enacted in
1572 accordance with said sections shall pay an additional fee of twenty-five
1573 dollars. The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the violations
1574 occurred the amounts paid under this subsection. Each clerk of the
1575 Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of
1576 the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, on or
1577 before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year,
1578 shall certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter
1579 under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the
1580 clerk or official.

1581 (e) The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the violation
1582 occurred all fine amounts received in respect to the violation of section
1583 14-279 after crediting twelve per cent of such fine amounts to the Special
1584 Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 and crediting
1585 eight per cent of such fine amounts to the General Fund. Each clerk of
1586 the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other
1587 official of the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court
1588 Administrator, shall, on or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July

1589 and October in each year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for
1590 the previous quarter under this subsection to each municipality served
1591 by the office of the clerk or official.

1592 (f) The state shall remit to a lake authority, established pursuant to
1593 section 7-151a, all amounts received in respect to any fine issued by such
1594 lake authority for any violation of chapter 268. Each clerk of the Superior
1595 Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the
1596 Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on
1597 or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each
1598 year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter
1599 under this subsection to each lake authority served by the office of the
1600 clerk or official.

1601 Sec. 29. Section 6-32g of the general statutes is repealed and the
1602 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1603 After December 1, 2000, the Chief Court Administrator shall require
1604 an applicant for employment as a judicial marshal pursuant to sections
1605 6-32d and 6-32f to submit to a criminal record background investigation,
1606 to be conducted by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
1607 Protection and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The applicant shall
1608 pay all processing fees incurred for such investigation. The Judicial
1609 Branch shall determine such applicant's suitability for employment as a
1610 judicial marshal.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2026*	4b-52(a)
Sec. 2	*October 1, 2026*	4b-1
Sec. 3	*July 1, 2026*	4-58
Sec. 4	*July 1, 2026*	46b-15f(h)
Sec. 5	*July 1, 2026*	46b-38c(c)
Sec. 6	*July 1, 2026*	46b-122(c)
Sec. 7	*July 1, 2026*	46b-129
Sec. 8	*July 1, 2026*	46b-145
Sec. 9	*July 1, 2026*	51-286f

Sec. 10	*July 1, 2026*	52-146v
Sec. 11	*October 1, 2026*	53a-32(a)
Sec. 12	*October 1, 2026*	54-56l(d) and (e)
Sec. 13	*October 1, 2026*	54-56l(k)
Sec. 14	*October 1, 2026*	46b-133(b)
Sec. 15	*October 1, 2026*	46b-121n(o)
Sec. 16	*January 1, 2027*	10-253(g)
Sec. 17	*October 1, 2026*	47-31a
Sec. 18	*July 1, 2026*	New section
Sec. 19	*October 1, 2026*	54-207a
Sec. 20	*October 1, 2026*	54-201
Sec. 21	*October 1, 2026*	46b-224
Sec. 22	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 23	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 24	*July 1, 2026*	52-407kk
Sec. 25	*July 1, 2026*	52-411
Sec. 26	*October 1, 2026*	54-65a(a)
Sec. 27	*October 1, 2026*	38a-660h(a)
Sec. 28	*October 1, 2026*	51-56a
Sec. 29	*from passage*	6-32g

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*