



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5225



Offered by:

SEN. GASTON, 23rd Dist.

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To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 408

File No. 306

Cal. No. 216

"AN ACT CONCERNING LIQUOR PERMITS, FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION INSPECTIONS, THE REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION AND JUICE BARS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 30-39 of the
4 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
5 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6 (b) (1) Any person desiring a liquor permit or a renewal of such a
7 permit shall make an affirmed application therefor to the Department of
8 Consumer Protection, upon forms to be furnished by the department,
9 showing the name and address of the applicant and of the applicant's
10 backer, if any, the location of the club or place of business which is to be
11 operated under such permit and a financial statement setting forth all
12 elements and details of any business transactions connected with the

13 application. Such application shall include a detailed description of the
14 type of live entertainment that is to be provided. A club or place of
15 business shall be exempt from providing such detailed description if the
16 club or place of business (A) was issued a liquor permit prior to October
17 1, 1993, and (B) has not altered the type of entertainment provided. The
18 application shall also indicate any crimes of which the applicant or the
19 applicant's backer may have been convicted. The department shall not
20 review an initial application until the applicant has submitted all
21 documents necessary to establish that state and local building, fire and
22 zoning requirements and local ordinances concerning hours and days
23 of sale will be met, except that local building and zoning requirements
24 and local ordinances concerning hours and days of sale shall not apply
25 to a cafe permit issued under subsection (d) or (h) of section 30-22a. If
26 the applicant does not submit all such documents within the thirty-day
27 period beginning on the date on which the department receives the
28 initial application, or if such documents are not fully executed by the
29 appropriate authorities, such initial application shall be deemed
30 withdrawn and invalid. The State Fire Marshal or the marshal's certified
31 designee shall be responsible for approving compliance with the State
32 Fire Code at Bradley International Airport. Any person desiring a
33 permit provided for in section 30-33b shall file a copy of such person's
34 license with such application if such license was issued by the
35 Department of Consumer Protection. The department may, at its
36 discretion, conduct an investigation to determine (i) whether a permit
37 shall be issued to an applicant or the applicant's backer, or (ii) the
38 suitability of the proposed permit premises. Completion of an
39 inspection pursuant to subsection (f) of section 29-305 shall not be
40 deemed to constitute a precondition to renewal of a permit that is
41 subject to subsection (f) of section 29-305, but the department shall
42 include on all renewal notices to permittees subject to the provisions of
43 subsection (f) of section 29-305 a notice about the requirement for an
44 inspection of the permit premises pursuant to said subsection at least
45 once per calendar year.

46 Sec. 2. (Effective July 1, 2026) (a) Not later than January 1, 2027, the

47 State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Commissioner of
48 Administrative Services and the working group established pursuant to
49 section 3 of this act, shall, within available appropriations, establish a
50 two-year risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program to improve
51 the scheduling, documentation and prioritization of fire inspections of
52 residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families
53 pursuant to section 29-305 of the general statutes. Municipalities
54 participating in such pilot program shall: (1) Implement a schedule of
55 such residential fire inspections using a standardized scoring method
56 that assigns scores for violations and classifies residential buildings
57 based on fire prevention and construction features, (2) maintain timely
58 fire inspections as required pursuant to section 29-305 of the general
59 statutes, while allocating more fire inspection resources to high-risk
60 residential buildings, (3) comply with the data collection and record-
61 keeping requirements of such pilot program, including, but not limited
62 to, using a data system designated by the State Fire Marshal to record
63 fire inspection data required pursuant to such pilot program, and (4)
64 review the current fire inspection revenue structure and staffing
65 allocation.

66 (b) The State Fire Marshal shall select, from among applicants for
67 participation in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program,
68 not less than three participating municipalities which shall include, but
69 need not be limited to, two municipalities with populations of at least
70 one hundred thousand and one municipality with a population of at
71 least thirty-five thousand, but less than one hundred thousand. If any
72 participating municipality withdraws or is unable to meet the
73 requirements of the pilot program, the State Fire Marshal may select a
74 comparable municipality as a replacement. In selecting participating
75 municipalities, the State Fire Marshal shall consult with the appointing
76 authority for local fire marshals within such municipality, pursuant to
77 section 29-297 of the general statutes, to determine the (1) volume and
78 diversity of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than
79 two families in such municipality, (2) availability of local resources, and
80 (3) capability for consistent implementation of such pilot program.

81 (c) For the implementation of the risk-based residential fire
82 inspection pilot program by a participating municipality, the State Fire
83 Marshal shall:

84 (1) Specify a standardized scoring method that assigns scores to
85 violations identified during fire inspections based on the severity of life-
86 safety hazards related to such violations;

87 (2) Establish a grading system that classifies such residential
88 buildings based on fire prevention and construction features and other
89 risk indicators for the purpose of prioritizing the annual fire inspection
90 of such residential buildings;

91 (3) Develop a pre-inspection checklist for owners of residential
92 buildings to encourage voluntary correction of potential hazards prior
93 to a fire inspection;

94 (4) Standardize the documentation of fire inspection findings to
95 support enforcement actions and compliance follow-up, which
96 documentation shall include, but not be limited to, photographs; and

97 (5) Designate one or more data systems, including, but not limited to,
98 the National Emergency Response Information System, that is capable
99 of (A) collecting and exporting data related to, at a minimum, residential
100 building classifications with risk-relevant construction and fire
101 prevention features, dates and types of fire inspections, violations cited
102 with assigned score, corrective action status and fire inspections
103 timelines pursuant to section 29-305 of the general statutes, (B)
104 generating residential building classifications based on data recorded
105 into such system, (C) producing quarterly reports of fire inspection
106 activities, including, but not limited to, responses to complaints and
107 outcomes of public reporting, and (D) establishing a baseline of
108 residential fire inspection activity for each municipality based on a two-
109 year history of data collection or, when such data is unavailable, based
110 on predictive data deemed sufficient to establish a baseline by the State
111 Fire Marshal. As used in this subdivision, "National Emergency

112 Response Information System" means the national data system
113 developed or designated by the United States Fire Administration, or its
114 successor system, for the collection, reporting and analysis of fire and
115 emergency incident data.

116 (d) The risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program shall
117 terminate on January 1, 2029. Not later than February 1, 2027, and
118 annually thereafter until February 1, 2029, the State Fire Marshal shall
119 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
120 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
121 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security a
122 report on such pilot program, whether such pilot program should be
123 made permanent based on the results from such pilot program and
124 whether the recommendations of the working group established
125 pursuant to section 3 of this act were integrated in such pilot program.

126 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group
127 to advise the State Fire Marshal on the development and
128 implementation of a risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program,
129 established pursuant to section 2 of this act, concerning the scheduling,
130 documentation and prioritization of fire inspections of residential
131 buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families pursuant
132 to section 29-305 of the general statutes. The working group shall advise
133 on (1) the design and implementation of such pilot program, (2) any data
134 collection required pursuant to such pilot program and an assessment
135 of the capacity of participating municipalities to report such data, (3) the
136 progression of such pilot program and any data quality issues, and (4)
137 any modifications to the reporting requirements under such pilot
138 program.

139 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

140 (1) The State Fire Marshal, or the State Fire Marshal's designee;

141 (2) Four local fire marshals appointed by the Connecticut Fire
142 Marshals Association, one of whom shall represent a municipality

143 participating in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program;

144 (3) Two members of the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Services
145 Organizations, appointed by said council;

146 (4) Two appointed jointly by the chairpersons and ranking members
147 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
148 cognizance of matters relating to public safety, who shall be members of
149 such joint standing committee, or their designees;

150 (5) A representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities,
151 appointed by said conference; and

152 (6) Two appointed by the State Fire Marshal, each of whom shall be a
153 representative from a municipality participating in the risk-based
154 residential fire inspection pilot program.

155 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
156 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section, except the
157 representative appointed pursuant to subdivision (6) of subsection (b)
158 of this section shall be appointed as soon as practical after the State Fire
159 Marshal selects the participating municipalities in the risk-based
160 residential fire inspection program pursuant to subsection (b) of section
161 2 of this act. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

162 (d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
163 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety shall
164 select the chairpersons of the working group from among the members
165 of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting
166 of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after
167 the effective date of this section.

168 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
169 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety
170 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

171 (f) Not later than December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter until

172 December 1, 2028, the working group shall submit to the State Fire
173 Marshal its evaluation of and recommendations for the implementation
174 of the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program, including, but
175 not limited to, the following:

176 (1) An evaluation of the pilot program's effectiveness in improving
177 statutory inspection compliance, reducing inspection backlog,
178 identifying and correcting high severity life safety hazards, improving
179 firefighter operational safety through better hazard intelligence,
180 reducing repeat violations, supporting consistent enforcement actions,
181 and assessing fiscal and staffing impacts through comparisons of
182 municipalities participating in the pilot program to baseline pre-pilot
183 program fire inspection activity of such municipality and, where
184 practicable, to similarly situated nonparticipating municipalities;

185 (2) Not later than December 1, 2026, (A) designation of the type of
186 data required to establish a baseline of residential fire inspection activity
187 in a municipality based on a two-year history or, when such data is
188 unavailable, based on predictive data, (B) identification of the gaps in
189 the availability of such data for each participating municipality, (C)
190 determination of initial inspection volumes and timelines, (D)
191 development of a plan for data collection and quality assurance during
192 the pilot program, (E) for the requirements specified in subsection (c) of
193 section 2 of this act, development of a (i) standardized scoring method
194 for violations based on the severity of life-safety hazards; (ii) grading
195 system for residential buildings based on fire prevention and
196 construction features; (iii) pre-inspection checklist for owners of
197 residential buildings; and (iv) standardized documentation system for
198 fire inspection findings, and (F) recommendations for any adjustments
199 to the implementation of the pilot program;

200 (3) Not later than December 1, 2027, (A) determination of any
201 adjustment to inspection volumes and timelines, (B) aggregation of
202 violations by severity and changes from initial baseline data for each
203 participating municipality, (C) identification of any trends in voluntary
204 hazard correction undertaken as result of the pre-inspection checklist

205 developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 2 of this act, (D)
206 assessment of the use of the data system designated pursuant to
207 subsection (c) of section 2 of this act and the quality of such data, and
208 (E) an overview of the results of the pilot program as of such date; and

209 (4) Not later than December 1, 2028, recommendations for (A)
210 legislation required to continue or alter the inspection schedule
211 developed during the pilot program for each participating municipality,
212 (B) state-wide implementation, other expansion, modification or
213 termination of the pilot program, and (C) if applicable, statutory,
214 regulatory, staffing, funding or technological changes required for
215 broader implementation of the pilot program.

216 (g) The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits its
217 final report or February 1, 2029, whichever is later.

218 Sec. 4. Section 30-22c of the general statutes is repealed and the
219 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

220 (a) As used in this section:

221 (1) "Juice bar or similar facility" means an area within permit premises
222 in which nonalcoholic beverages are served to minors; and

223 (2) "Permit premises" means the premises operated under (A) a cafe
224 permit issued under subsection (c) of section 30-22a, or (B) a cafe permit
225 for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g.

226 (b) The holder of a cafe permit issued under subsection (c) of section
227 30-22a or a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-
228 22g may operate a juice bar or similar facility at permit premises if the
229 juice bar or similar facility is limited to a room or rooms or separate area
230 within the permit premises wherein there is no sale, consumption,
231 dispensing or presence of alcoholic liquor. The holder of a cafe permit,
232 at all times when a portion of the permit premises is being operated as
233 a juice bar, shall limit the number of patrons in the portion of the permit
234 premises being operated as a juice bar to not more than ten per cent of

235 the total building occupant load established by the Fire Marshal under
236 the Fire Safety Code.

237 (c) Any town may, by ordinance, (1) provide the hours during which
238 a juice bar may operate, or (2) notwithstanding the provisions of
239 subsection (b) of this section, prohibit the operation of juice bars within
240 the town or municipality.

241 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The holder of a cafe permit issued under subsection (c) of
242 section 30-22a or a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under
243 section 30-22g shall provide advance written notice to the chief law
244 enforcement officer of the town in which the permit premises is located
245 of the specific dates and hours of any scheduled event at which such
246 permit premises, or any portion thereof, will be used to operate a juice
247 bar or similar facility. Such notice shall be sent (1) by certified mail, or
248 by electronic mail to the designated electronic mail address for the chief
249 law enforcement officer, and (2) in a manner so that such notice is
250 received by such chief law enforcement officer not less than five days,
251 and not more than thirty days, prior to the date of such scheduled event.
252 The chief law enforcement officer of the town in which such permit
253 premises is located may designate one or more law enforcement officers
254 to attend any such scheduled event at the cost of such permit holder. If,
255 at any time prior to or during such scheduled event, the chief law
256 enforcement officer of the town, or such officer's designee, determines
257 that (A) there is insufficient police capacity to properly and safely
258 monitor the event or enforce any applicable law related to the event or
259 the permit premises, or (B) the event may, or has, become a danger to
260 public safety, such officer or designee may, in such officer's or designee's
261 sole discretion, reject such scheduled event or order such scheduled
262 event to be terminated.

263 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Nothing in this section shall exempt the holder of a cafe
264 permit issued under subsection (c) of section 30-22a or a cafe permit for
265 wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g from compliance with
266 any other provisions of the general statutes or regulations of
267 Connecticut state agencies concerning minors, including, but not

268 limited to, the prohibition against the sale of alcoholic liquor to minors.
 269 The presence of alcoholic liquor or the sale or dispensing to or
 270 consumption of alcoholic liquor by a minor at a juice bar or similar
 271 facility is prohibited.

272 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) (1) A permittee or agent or employee of a permittee who
 273 operates a juice bar or similar facility at a permit premises may serve
 274 alcoholic liquor during the hours of operation of such juice bar or similar
 275 facility only to a person who is twenty-one years of age or older and
 276 who is wearing a conspicuous wristband that has been issued to the
 277 person wearing it by the permittee or agent or employee of the permittee
 278 to indicate that the permittee or agent or employee of the permittee has
 279 verified that such person is twenty-one years of age or older.

280 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, any town or
 281 municipality may, by ordinance, prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquor on
 282 any permit premises while a juice bar is in operation.

283 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Any permittee or agent or employee of a permittee convicted
 284 of a violation of any provision of this section shall (1) (A) for a first
 285 offense, be fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, (B)
 286 for a second offense, be fined not more than five thousand dollars, and
 287 (C) for a third or subsequent offense, be fined not more than ten
 288 thousand dollars, or (2) be imprisoned not more than one year for a first,
 289 second, third or subsequent offense, or (3) be both fined and imprisoned.

290 (h) The Department of Consumer Protection may conduct an
 291 investigation into any purported violation of the provisions of this
 292 section and, if the department finds any violation, may impose any
 293 penalty set forth in section 30-55."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	30-39(b)(1)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 3	from passage	New section

Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	30-22c
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