



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5719



Offered by:

SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.

SEN. KISSEL, 7th Dist.

REP. STAFSTROM, 129th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 475

File No. 653

Cal. No. 416

"AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS."

1 Strike sections 1 and 2 in their entirety and insert the following in lieu
2 thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4b-52 of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
5 *2026*):

6 (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
7 section, no repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the
8 state of one million dollars or less or, in the case of repairs, alterations
9 or additions to a building rented or occupied by (A) the Judicial Branch,
10 three million dollars or less, or (B) a constituent unit of the state system
11 of higher education, three million dollars or less, shall be made to any
12 state building or premises occupied by any state officer, department,
13 institution, board, commission or council of the state government and
14 no contract for any construction, repairs, alteration or addition shall be

15 entered into without the prior approval of the Commissioner of
16 Administrative Services, except repairs, alterations or additions to a
17 building under the supervision and control of the Joint Committee on
18 Legislative Management or the Military Department and repairs,
19 alterations or additions to a building under the supervision of The
20 University of Connecticut. Repairs, alterations or additions which are
21 made pursuant to such approval of the Commissioner of Administrative
22 Services shall conform to all guidelines and procedures established by
23 the Department of Administrative Services for agency-administered
24 projects. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
25 subsection, (A) repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the
26 state of five hundred thousand dollars or less may be made to any state
27 building or premises under the supervision of [the Office of the Chief
28 Court Administrator or] a constituent unit of the state system of higher
29 education, under the terms of section 4b-11, and [any] (B) repairs,
30 alterations or additions involving expense to the state of three million
31 or less may be made to any state building or premises under the
32 supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator under the
33 terms of section 4b-11. Any contract for any such construction, repairs
34 or alteration pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection may be
35 entered into by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a
36 constituent unit of the state system of higher education without the
37 approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services.

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

40 The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall (1) be responsible
41 for the administrative functions of construction and planning of all
42 capital improvements undertaken by the state, except (A) highway and
43 bridge construction, the construction and planning of capital
44 improvements related to mass transit, marine and aviation
45 transportation, (B) the Connecticut Marketing Authority, (C) planning
46 and construction of capital improvements to the State Capitol building
47 or the Legislative Office Building and related facilities by the Joint

48 Committee on Legislative Management, (D) any project as defined in
49 subdivision (16) of section 10a-109c, undertaken by The University of
50 Connecticut, and (E) construction and planning of capital
51 improvements related to the Judicial Department if such construction
52 and planning pursuant to this subdivision do not [constitute a project
53 within the meaning of subdivision (6) of section 4b-55] involve an
54 expenditure of more than three million dollars, including the
55 preparation of preliminary plans, estimates of cost, development of
56 designs, working plans and specifications, award of contracts and
57 supervision and inspection. For the purposes of this subparagraph (E),
58 the term "Judicial Department" does not include the courts of probate,
59 the Division of Criminal Justice and the Public Defender Services
60 Commission, except where such agencies share facilities in state-
61 maintained courts; (2) select consultant firms in accordance with the
62 provisions of sections 4b-56 to 4b-59, inclusive, to assist in the
63 development of plans and specifications when in the commissioner's
64 judgment such assistance is desirable; (3) render technical advice and
65 service to all state agencies in the preparation and correlation of plans
66 for necessary improvement of their physical plants; and (4) cooperate
67 with those charged with fiscal programming and budget formulation in
68 the development of a capital program and a capital budget for the state."

69 Strike section 11 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

70 "Sec. 11. Subsection (f) of section 51-44a of the 2026 supplement to the
71 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
72 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

73 (f) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the commission
74 shall seek qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor for
75 nomination as judges for the Superior Court, Appellate Court and
76 Supreme Court. The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance
77 with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning criteria by which to
78 evaluate the qualifications of candidates, including incumbent judges
79 who seek appointment to a different court. The commission shall
80 investigate and interview the candidates, including incumbent judges

81 seeking appointment to a different court. In the event the commission
82 issues a decision informing a candidate that the candidate will not be
83 considered by the Governor for nomination as a judge or informing an
84 incumbent judge that such judge will not be considered by the Governor
85 for appointment to a different court, such candidate or judge may
86 request from the commission a brief summary that informs the
87 candidate or judge of the reasons supporting such decision. The form
88 and manner of such summary shall be determined by the commission.
89 A list of such qualified candidates shall be compiled by the commission.
90 On or before January first of each year, the commission shall submit the
91 list of incumbent judges and qualified candidates to the Governor, the
92 president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of
93 Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of both houses of the
94 General Assembly and the chairpersons and ranking members of the
95 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
96 matters relating to the judiciary. In accordance with the provisions of
97 subsection (j) of this section, such list shall be confidential and not open
98 to the public or subject to disclosure."

99 Strike section 25 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

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

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

105 (b) If no method is provided therein, or if a method is provided and
106 any party thereto fails to use the method, or if for any other reason there
107 is a failure in the naming of an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire, or
108 if any arbitrator or umpire dies or is unable or refuses to serve, upon
109 application by a party to the arbitration agreement, the superior court
110 for the judicial district in which one of the parties resides or, in a
111 controversy concerning land, for the judicial district in which the land
112 is situated or, when the court is not in session, any judge thereof, shall

113 appoint an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire, as the case may
114 require. A person so appointed an arbitrator or umpire shall act under
115 any arbitration agreement with the same force and effect as if he had
116 been specifically named or referred to therein. Unless otherwise
117 provided in the agreement, the arbitration shall be by a single arbitrator.

118 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
119 when an agreement to arbitrate includes the method for selecting an
120 arbitrator for an arbitration proceeding to be conducted in this state, no
121 person may be appointed or serve as the arbitrator for the arbitration
122 proceeding unless, at the time the person is appointed as arbitrator, and
123 thereafter throughout the duration of the arbitration proceeding, such
124 person is a member in good standing of the bar of this state, unless all
125 parties to the agreement to arbitrate execute a written waiver of the
126 requirements of this subsection as relate to the arbitrator's
127 qualifications. Any party to an arbitration agreement shall have not
128 more than fourteen days (1) after the date of appointment of the
129 arbitrator to object to such appointment on grounds that the arbitrator
130 fails to meet the requirements of this subsection, and (2) to object to the
131 arbitrator's continued role in an arbitration proceeding after receiving
132 actual notice in writing which informs the parties that the arbitrator is
133 no longer a member in good standing of the bar of this state. For any
134 arbitration proceeding pending in this state on July 1, 2026, in which an
135 evidentiary hearing has not commenced, any party to the arbitration
136 proceeding may file a written objection to the continued service of the
137 arbitrator. A determination on the objection to the continued service of
138 the arbitrator and whether a successor arbitrator is to be appointed shall
139 be made in accordance with the provisions of this section.

140 [(c)] (d) An application under this section and the proceedings
141 thereon shall conform to the application and proceedings provided for
142 in section 52-410, except that such changes shall be made in the
143 complaint as may be necessary to [correctly and concisely] state the
144 plaintiff's claim correctly and concisely."

145 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and

146 internal references accordingly:

147 "Sec. 501. Subsection (f) of section 24 of public act 25-91 is repealed
148 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

149 (f) Not later than January 1, [2027] 2028, the task force shall submit a
150 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
151 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
152 relating to the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
153 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that
154 it submits such report or January 1, [2027] 2028, whichever is later.

155 Sec. 502. Subsection (a) of section 51-1f of the 2026 supplement to the
156 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
157 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

158 (a) As used in this section:

159 (1) "Public agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-
160 200.

161 (2) "Personal information" means a: (A) Home address of a primary
162 residence; (B) home telephone number; (C) mobile telephone number;
163 (D) personal electronic mail address; (E) Social Security number; (F)
164 driver's license number; (G) federal tax identification number; (H)
165 license plate number or unique identifier of a vehicle; (I) birth or marital
166 record; or (J) child's name. "Personal information" does not include
167 information that has been publicly displayed that the protected
168 individual has not requested to be removed, or information that is
169 relevant to and displayed as part of a news story, commentary, an
170 editorial or any other speech on a matter of public concern.

171 (3) "Protected individual" means: (A) A justice or judge of a court
172 established under article XX of the State Constitution; (B) a senior judge
173 appointed pursuant to section 51-50i; (C) a state referee appointed
174 pursuant to section 52-434; (D) a family support magistrate appointed
175 pursuant to section 46b-231; (E) a family support referee appointed

176 pursuant to section 46b-236; (F) a federal district judge, a federal court
177 of appeals judge, a federal bankruptcy judge, or a federal magistrate
178 judge, if such judge is a resident of Connecticut; and [(F)] (G) a spouse,
179 a child or a dependent who resides in the same household as an
180 individual described in subparagraphs (A) to [(E)] (F), inclusive, of this
181 subdivision.

182 (4) "Publish" means to post or otherwise make available to the public
183 on the Internet, social media or social networks.

184 Sec. 503. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Upon the release of any
185 person from a correctional facility, the Department of Correction shall
186 disburse to such person the remaining balance in such person's Inmate
187 Trust Fund account. The department may make such disbursement to
188 the formerly incarcerated person in the form of cash, a check or a
189 prepaid device, provided the department may not disburse funds by
190 means of a prepaid device unless the department also provides the
191 formerly incarcerated person with at least one alternative option of
192 receiving the disbursed funds by cash or check.

193 (b) In any situation where the department is unable to make such
194 disbursement upon release of such person because the department was
195 not informed of the person's release date at least two weeks in advance
196 of such date, the department shall request a mailing address from such
197 person prior to, or at the time of, such person's release, and mail such
198 disbursement to such person when a mailing address has been
199 provided. In any such situation, not later than two weeks after such
200 person is released, the department shall mail the disbursement by
201 United States mail to the mailing address provided by the formerly
202 incarcerated person.

203 (c) If the department disburses funds by means of a prepaid device
204 pursuant to this section, neither the department nor the issuer of the
205 prepaid device may impose, or cause to be imposed, any fee payable by
206 the formerly incarcerated person. As used in this section, "prepaid
207 device" means a card, code or other means of access to a consumer's

208 account held by a financial institution or other financial service
209 provider."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	4b-52(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	4b-1
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	51-44a(f)
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	52-411
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	PA 25-91, Sec. 24(f)
Sec. 502	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	51-1f(a)
Sec. 503	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section