



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6173



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

REP. RITTER, 1st Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.

SEN. FONFARA, 1st Dist.

REP. HORN, 64th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 477

File No. 654

Cal. No. 417

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS AND A MUNICIPAL OPTION TO ABATE DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES ON CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND."

1 Strike section 43 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Sec. 43. Section 17b-355 of the general statutes, as amended by
3 section 6 of substitute senate bill 123 of the current session, as amended
4 by Senate Amendment Schedule "A", is repealed and the following is
5 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

6 (a) In determining whether a request submitted pursuant to sections
7 17b-352 to 17b-354, inclusive, as amended by [this act] substitute senate
8 bill 123 of the current session, as amended by Senate Amendment
9 Schedule "A", will be granted, modified or denied, the Commissioner of
10 Social Services shall consider the following: (1) The financial feasibility

11 of the request and its impact on the applicant's rates and financial
12 condition, (2) the contribution of the request to the quality, accessibility
13 and cost-effectiveness of the delivery of long-term care in the region,
14 including consideration of the nursing home's star rating on the five-star
15 quality rating system for nursing homes published by the Centers for
16 Medicare and Medicaid Services, (3) whether there is clear public need
17 for the request, (4) the relationship of any proposed change to the
18 applicant's current utilization statistics and the effect of the proposal on
19 the utilization statistics of other facilities in the applicant's service area,
20 (5) the business interests of all owners, partners, associates,
21 incorporators, directors, sponsors, stockholders and operators and the
22 personal background of such persons, and (6) any other factor which the
23 Department of Social Services deems relevant. In considering whether
24 there is clear public need for any request for the relocation of beds to a
25 replacement facility, or for new beds added to an existing facility or a
26 new facility, the commissioner shall consider whether there is a
27 demonstrated bed need in the towns within a fifteen-mile radius of the
28 town in which the beds are proposed to be located and whether the
29 availability of beds in the applicant's service area will be adversely
30 affected.

31 (b) Any proposal to relocate nursing home beds from an existing
32 facility to a new facility shall not increase the number of Medicaid
33 certified beds and shall result in the closure of at least one currently
34 licensed facility. The commissioner may request that any applicant
35 seeking to replace an existing facility reduce the number of beds in the
36 new facility by a percentage that is consistent with the department's
37 strategic state-wide long-term rebalancing plan for long-term care. If an
38 applicant seeking to replace an existing facility with a new facility owns
39 or operates more than one nursing facility, the commissioner may
40 request that the applicant close two or more facilities before approving
41 the proposal to build a new facility. The commissioner shall also
42 consider whether an application to establish a new or replacement
43 nursing facility proposes a nontraditional, small-house style nursing
44 facility and incorporates goals for nursing facilities referenced in the

45 department's strategic state-wide long-term rebalancing plan for long-
46 term care, including, but not limited to, (1) promoting person-centered
47 care, (2) providing enhanced quality of care, (3) creating community
48 space for all nursing facility residents, and (4) developing stronger
49 connections between the nursing facility residents and the surrounding
50 community.

51 (c) Demonstrated bed need shall be based on the recent occupancy
52 percentage of area nursing facilities with occupancy above ninety-six
53 per cent for a minimum of two consecutive quarters. The department
54 may consider projected bed need into the future at occupancy above
55 ninety-six per cent using the latest strategic state-wide long-term
56 rebalancing plan for long-term care as published by the department. The
57 commissioner may also consider area specific utilization and reductions
58 in utilization rates to account for the increased use of less institutional
59 alternatives.

60 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, as a component of
61 a project involving the relocation of nursing home beds to establish bed
62 configurations to not more than two beds per room, the commissioner
63 may establish bed need based on an occupancy percentage below
64 ninety-six per cent."

65 Strike section 51 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

66 "Sec. 51. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

67 (1) "Individual with limited-English proficiency" means an
68 individual whose primary and preferred language is not English, and
69 who has a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English;

70 (2) "State agency" means any department, board, commission, office
71 or other agency within the executive branch of state government;

72 (3) "State-wide language access implementation plan" or "plan"
73 means the plan developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section;

74 (4) "High-priority public-facing document" means any printed or
75 electronic form, notice or instruction that is necessary to apply for,
76 obtain, maintain or renew a public benefit, public service, vital record
77 or identification document and is specified as such in the state-wide
78 language access implementation plan;

79 (5) "Identification document" means a document that can be used to
80 verify the holder's identity, including, but not limited to, a driver's
81 license;

82 (6) "Vital records" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-36
83 of the general statutes;

84 (7) "Interpretation services" means the provision of spoken language
85 assistance, including, but not limited to, in-person interpretation,
86 telephonic interpretation and video remote interpretation, for purposes
87 of enabling an individual with limited-English proficiency to access
88 services, benefits, information, hearings, meetings, programs or other
89 interactions for government services;

90 (8) "Translation services" means the provision of written materials,
91 including, but not limited to, forms, applications, notices, instructions,
92 Internet web site content and other informational materials in languages
93 other than English; and

94 (9) "Sign language access" means the provision of qualified sign
95 language interpretation and other appropriate communication supports
96 for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or who use sign language
97 in order to access services, benefits, information, hearings, meetings,
98 programs or other interactions for government services.

99 (b) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Secretary of the Office of Policy
100 and Management, in consultation with the Commissioners of
101 Administrative Services, Social Services and Public Health, and any
102 other department head or stakeholder deemed appropriate by the
103 secretary, shall develop a state-wide language access implementation
104 plan for state agencies. Such plan shall be designed to improve access to

105 public services and benefits and increase meaningful access to public
106 programs, hearings, meetings, appeals, workforce development,
107 licensure, identification documents and other governmental
108 opportunities that support family economic engagement and mobility.
109 The secretary shall update such plan not less than every two years
110 thereafter.

111 (c) Such plan shall:

112 (1) Assess the language access needs of individuals with limited-
113 English proficiency in the state, using the most recent American
114 Community Survey published by the United States Census Bureau and
115 any available relevant state agency service data;

116 (2) Identify the twelve most common non-English languages spoken
117 by individuals with limited-English proficiency in the state;

118 (3) Inventory, or require the inventory of, public-facing printed and
119 electronic forms, applications, notices, Internet web sites, public
120 meetings, hearings, appeals, complaint processes, application processes,
121 workforce development programs and other civic or governmental
122 interactions and service delivery points used by state agencies;

123 (4) Identify and prioritize high-priority, public-facing documents and
124 interactions for phased translation and interpretation, including
125 identification of hearings, meetings, complaint processes and workforce
126 development programs for which live interpretation or sign language
127 access is necessary, and designate a limited number of high-priority,
128 public-facing documents and interactions for phase one implementation
129 of the plan;

130 (5) Establish a phased implementation schedule for state agencies,
131 including designation of which state agencies, documents, interactions
132 and service delivery points should be included in the phase one
133 implementation of the plan, in a manner that maximizes administrative
134 efficiencies and minimizes unnecessary costs by using, where
135 practicable, centralized procurement of translation and interpretation

136 services, shared language access services templates and glossaries
137 across state agencies, existing personnel, technology-assisted translation
138 tools with appropriate review by state agency personnel for accuracy,
139 accessibility and public use, and other strategies identified by the
140 secretary;

141 (6) Establish recommended standards for translation services,
142 interpretation services, sign language access, accessibility, plain
143 language notices of available translation services and interpretation
144 services, and agency reporting;

145 (7) Include recommendations for potential expansion of language
146 access requirements, as appropriate, to local and regional boards of
147 education, the constituent units of the state system of public higher
148 education, health care facilities or institutions receiving state funds or
149 federal funds administered by the state, and state contractors; and

150 (8) Identify any legislation, appropriation, administrative action or
151 procurement change necessary to implement such plan and
152 recommendations for expansion.

153 (d) Not later than January 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, the
154 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall submit a report,
155 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
156 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
157 cognizance of matters relating to government administration,
158 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education, higher
159 education, public health and human services. Such report shall include
160 (1) a summary of the plan developed pursuant to this section, or of any
161 updates to such plan, (2) any estimated costs or cost savings associated
162 with using centralized procurement, shared services, existing
163 personnel, technology-assisted translation tools and phased
164 implementation of the plan, (3) any recommendations for potential
165 expansion of language access requirements, as described in subdivision
166 (7) of subsection (c) of this section, and (4) any recommendations for
167 legislation to implement the provisions of this section.

168 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (1) require any state
169 agency to translate any printed or electronic forms or applications
170 maintained by the state agency prior to any deadlines or phases
171 established in the state-wide language access implementation plan, (2)
172 limit the state-wide language access implementation plan to written
173 forms or applications, or (3) alter any separate obligations under state
174 or federal law relating to disabilities."

175 Strike section 56 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

176 "Sec. 56. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10a-174d of the
177 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 470 of
178 substitute senate bill 1 of the current session, as amended by Senate
179 Amendment Schedule "A", is repealed and the following is substituted
180 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

181 (4) "Qualifying student" means any person who (A) participated and
182 maintained program eligibility in the debt-free community college
183 program, established pursuant to section 10a-174, and received an
184 associate's degree at the Connecticut State Community College during
185 the fall semester of 2025 or spring semester of 2026, or any semester
186 thereafter, (B) enrolls as a full-time or part-time student for the fall
187 semester of 2026, or any semester thereafter, at a state university within
188 the Connecticut State University System or Charter Oak State College in
189 a program leading to a bachelor's degree, (C) is classified as an in-state
190 student pursuant to section 10a-29, (D) made satisfactory academic
191 progress while enrolled at the Connecticut State Community College
192 and continues to make satisfactory academic progress while enrolled at
193 such state university or Charter Oak State College, (E) has completed
194 the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and (F) has accepted all
195 available financial aid;"

196 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
197 internal references accordingly:

198 "Sec. 501. Section 29-111 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes

199 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
200 *passage*):

201 (a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
202 consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council,
203 shall establish a project to be known as the social work and law
204 enforcement project to advance the ethical and effective integration of
205 social work services into law enforcement units by preparing social
206 workers, social work students and law enforcement professionals to
207 collaborate in the field of police social work. The project shall be located
208 at Southern Connecticut State University. The objectives of the project
209 shall be to: (1) Educate and train the social work and law enforcement
210 workforce to collaborate by using a model that integrates police and
211 social work, (2) increase community wellness through training,
212 research, education and policy advocacy concerning the integration of
213 police and social work, (3) strengthen the engagement among social
214 workers, law enforcement officers and community members, and (4)
215 promote dialogue concerning diversity, disparities and systemic racism
216 in criminal and juvenile justice settings. For purposes of this section,
217 "law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-
218 294a.

219 (b) Not later than January 1, [2026] 2027, the Commissioner of
220 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall enter into a
221 memorandum of understanding with Southern Connecticut State
222 University for an amount not less than eight hundred fifty thousand
223 dollars for the purpose of establishing, expanding and supporting the
224 social work and law enforcement project. Such memorandum shall
225 include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that any use of
226 funding for the project for a purpose other than providing training or
227 education to a police officer shall require the commissioner's written
228 authorization.

229 Sec. 502. (*Effective from passage*) Section 252 of substitute senate bill 1
230 of the current session, as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A",
231 shall take effect from its passage.

232 Sec. 503. (*Effective from passage*) Up to \$175,000 of the amount
 233 appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168, as amended by substitute
 234 senate bill 1 of the current session, as amended by Senate Amendment
 235 Schedule "A", to the Department of Economic and Community
 236 Development, for Various Grants, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
 237 2026, shall not lapse on June 30, 2026, and shall be carried forward and
 238 made available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for a grant-
 239 in-aid to Rich Dae Foundation."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Sec. 43	<i>from passage</i>	17b-355
Sec. 51	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 56	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10a-174d(a)(4)
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	29-111
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 503	<i>from passage</i>	New section