



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5075



Offered by:

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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4 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  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30 withdrawn and invalid.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) preinspection 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 no 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, but in no event shall a juice bar be permitted to  
239 operate as such after ten o'clock p.m., or (2) notwithstanding the  
240 provisions of subsection (b) of this section, prohibit the operation of  
241 juice bars within the town or municipality.

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

264 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Nothing in this section shall exempt the holder of a cafe  
265 permit issued under subsection (c) of section 30-22a or a cafe permit for  
266 wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g from compliance with  
267 any other provisions of the general statutes or regulations of

268 Connecticut state agencies concerning minors, including, but not  
269 limited to, the prohibition against the sale of alcoholic liquor to minors.  
270 The presence of alcoholic liquor or the sale or dispensing to or  
271 consumption of alcoholic liquor by a minor at a juice bar or similar  
272 facility is prohibited.

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

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

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

292 (2) Any permittee who is convicted of a violation of any provision of  
293 this section shall immediately report such conviction to the Department  
294 of Consumer Protection, which may suspend such permittee's permit on  
295 the basis of the conviction.

296 (h) The Department of Consumer Protection may conduct an  
297 investigation into any purported violation of the provisions of this  
298 section and, if the department finds any violation, may impose any

299 penalty set forth in section 30-55."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	30-39(b)(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	30-22c