



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6189



Offered by:
REP. LEMAR, 96th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5349

File No. 164

Cal. No. 139

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION."

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
4 "alcoholic liquor" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-1 of
5 the general statutes.

6 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 19a-342, 19a-342a and
7 31-40q of the general statutes or any special act, municipal charter,
8 regulation or home rule ordinance, if the holder of a restaurant permit
9 issued under section 30-22 of the general statutes is authorized to
10 operate a hookah establishment, the holder of the restaurant permit may
11 sell alcoholic liquor to be consumed on the premises of the hookah
12 establishment, provided the hookah establishment is (1) adjacent, and
13 attached by common partition, to the restaurant permit premises, or (2)
14 located within the same structure as, and not more than twenty feet

15 from, the restaurant permit premises.

16 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, all sales of
17 alcoholic liquor under this section shall be subject to the requirements
18 established in title 30 of the general statutes for restaurant permits
19 issued under section 30-22 of the general statutes, including, but not
20 limited to, the limitations on hours of operation for a restaurant
21 permittee, as specified in section 30-91 of the general statutes.

22 (d) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
23 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
24 general statutes, to implement the provisions of subsections (b) and (c)
25 of this section.

26 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than January 1,
27 2028, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
28 consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council,
29 shall coordinate with an independent institution of higher education
30 with a campus located in the city of West Haven to establish a state-
31 wide, one-day training program for police officers in the state in order
32 to increase law enforcement retention and readiness. Such training shall
33 include, but need not be limited to, expert instruction, scenario-based
34 exercises, de-escalation skills and practical planning, and be available
35 on an online technology platform. For purposes of this section, "police
36 officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the
37 general statutes.

38 (b) Not later than January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter, the
39 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
40 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
41 general statutes, on the status of the program to the joint standing
42 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
43 relating to public safety and labor.

44 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section:

45 (1) "Cash" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-434 of the

46 general statutes, as amended by this act;

47 (2) "Merchant" means a person engaged in the business of selling
48 goods or services at retail on an in-person basis; and

49 (3) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited
50 liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity.

51 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, a merchant
52 doing business in this state shall determine the total price for a good or
53 service such merchant sells, at retail, on an in-person basis in the
54 following manner:

55 (1) The total price of such good or service shall include all service and
56 merchant fees charged for such good or service, and all taxes imposed
57 on the purchase of such good or service under title 12 of the general
58 statutes, less any discount or deduction made therefrom; and

59 (2) (A) If the total price determined in accordance with the provisions
60 of subdivision (1) of this subsection ends in one cent, two cents, six cents
61 or seven cents, such total price shall be rounded down to the nearest
62 amount divisible by five cents for an individual seeking to purchase
63 such good or service by cash; or

64 (B) If the total price determined in accordance with the provisions of
65 subdivision (1) of this subsection ends in three cents, four cents, eight
66 cents or nine cents, such total price shall be rounded up to the nearest
67 amount divisible by five cents for an individual seeking to purchase
68 such good or service by cash.

69 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this subsection shall not apply
70 to any transaction in which:

71 (1) The total price determined in accordance with the provisions of
72 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section is four cents or less; or

73 (2) Payment is made by any demand or negotiable instrument,
74 electronic funds transfer, money order, credit card, debit card, electronic

75 payment or similar instrument.

76 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 21a-434 of the 2026 supplement to the
77 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
78 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

79 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) or (d) of this section, a person
80 selling or offering for sale goods or services at retail in this state shall
81 not: (1) Refuse to accept cash as a form of payment for such goods or
82 services, (2) post signs stating that cash payment is not accepted, or (3)
83 except as provided in section 3 of this act, charge a customer paying cash
84 a higher price than such customer would pay using any other form of
85 payment.

86 Sec. 5. Subsection (f) of section 9-612 of the general statutes is repealed
87 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

88 (f) (1) As used in this subsection and subsections (g) and (h) of this
89 section:

90 (A) "Quasi-public agency" has the same meaning as provided in
91 section 1-120.

92 (B) "State agency" means any office, department, board, council,
93 commission, institution or other agency in the executive or legislative
94 branch of state government.

95 (C) "State contract" means an agreement or contract with the state or
96 any state agency or any quasi-public agency, let through a procurement
97 process or otherwise, having a value of fifty thousand dollars or more,
98 or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a
99 value of one hundred thousand dollars or more in a calendar year, for
100 (i) the rendition of services, (ii) the furnishing of any goods, material,
101 supplies, equipment or any items of any kind, (iii) the construction,
102 alteration or repair of any public building or public work, (iv) the
103 acquisition, sale or lease of any land or building, (v) a licensing
104 arrangement, or (vi) a grant, loan or loan guarantee. "State contract"

105 does not include any agreement or contract with the state, any state
106 agency or any quasi-public agency that is exclusively federally funded,
107 an education loan, a loan to an individual for other than commercial
108 purposes or any agreement or contract between the state or any state
109 agency and the United States Department of the Navy or the United
110 States Department of Defense.

111 (D) "State contractor" means a person, business entity or nonprofit
112 organization that enters into a state contract. Such person, business
113 entity or nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a state contractor
114 until December thirty-first of the year in which such contract terminates.
115 "State contractor" does not include a municipality, [or] any other
116 political subdivision of the state or any indigenous tribe of the state
117 recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any entities
118 or associations duly created by the municipality, [or] political
119 subdivision or indigenous tribe exclusively amongst themselves to
120 further any purpose authorized by statute, [or] charter or tribal law, or
121 an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government
122 or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service
123 and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or
124 quasi-public agency employee.

125 (E) "Prospective state contractor" means a person, business entity or
126 nonprofit organization that (i) submits a response to a state contract
127 solicitation by the state, a state agency or a quasi-public agency, or a
128 proposal in response to a request for proposals by the state, a state
129 agency or a quasi-public agency, until the contract has been entered into,
130 or (ii) holds a valid prequalification certificate issued by the
131 Commissioner of Administrative Services under section 4a-100.
132 "Prospective state contractor" does not include a municipality, [or] any
133 other political subdivision of the state or any indigenous tribe of the
134 state recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any
135 entities or associations duly created by the municipality, [or] political
136 subdivision or indigenous tribe exclusively amongst themselves to
137 further any purpose authorized by statute, [or] charter or tribal law, or

138 an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government
139 or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service
140 and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or
141 quasi-public agency employee.

142 (F) "Principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor"
143 means (i) any individual who is a member of the board of directors of,
144 or has an ownership interest of five per cent or more in, a state contractor
145 or prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, except for an
146 individual who is a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit
147 organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a state contractor or
148 prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, as president,
149 treasurer or executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief
150 executive officer of a state contractor or prospective state contractor,
151 which is not a business entity, or if a state contractor or prospective state
152 contractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses
153 comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any
154 state contractor or prospective state contractor who has managerial or
155 discretionary responsibilities with respect to a state contract, (v) the
156 spouse or a dependent child who is eighteen years of age or older of an
157 individual described in this subparagraph, or (vi) a political committee
158 established or controlled by an individual described in this
159 subparagraph or the business entity or nonprofit organization that is the
160 state contractor or prospective state contractor.

161 (G) "Dependent child" means a child residing in an individual's
162 household who may legally be claimed as a dependent on the federal
163 income tax return of such individual.

164 (H) "Managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a
165 state contract" means having direct, extensive and substantive
166 responsibilities with respect to the negotiation of the state contract and
167 not peripheral, clerical or ministerial responsibilities.

168 (I) "Rendition of services" means the provision of any service to a state
169 agency or quasi-public agency in exchange for a fee, remuneration or

170 compensation of any kind from the state or through an arrangement
171 with the state.

172 (J) "State contract solicitation" means a request by a state agency or
173 quasi-public agency, in whatever form issued, including, but not limited
174 to, an invitation to bid, request for proposals, request for information or
175 request for quotes, inviting bids, quotes or other types of submittals,
176 through a competitive procurement process or another process
177 authorized by law waiving competitive procurement.

178 (K) "Subcontractor" means any person, business entity or nonprofit
179 organization that contracts to perform part or all of the obligations of a
180 state contractor's state contract. Such person, business entity or
181 nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a subcontractor until
182 December thirty-first of the year in which the subcontract terminates.
183 "Subcontractor" does not include (i) a municipality, [or] any other
184 political subdivision of the state or any indigenous tribe of the state
185 recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any entities
186 or associations duly created by the municipality, [or] political
187 subdivision or indigenous tribe exclusively amongst themselves to
188 further any purpose authorized by statute, [or] charter or tribal law, or
189 (ii) an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state
190 government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or
191 unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's
192 capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee.

193 (L) "Principal of a subcontractor" means (i) any individual who is a
194 member of the board of directors of, or has an ownership interest of five
195 per cent or more in, a subcontractor, which is a business entity, except
196 for an individual who is a member of the board of directors of a
197 nonprofit organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a
198 subcontractor, which is a business entity, as president, treasurer or
199 executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief executive
200 officer of a subcontractor, which is not a business entity, or if a
201 subcontractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses
202 comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any

203 subcontractor who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with
204 respect to a subcontract with a state contractor, (v) the spouse or a
205 dependent child who is eighteen years of age or older of an individual
206 described in this subparagraph, or (vi) a political committee established
207 or controlled by an individual described in this subparagraph or the
208 business entity or nonprofit organization that is the subcontractor.

209 (2) (A) No state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of
210 a state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor, with
211 regard to a state contract or a state contract solicitation with or from a
212 state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a
213 holder, or principal of a holder, of a valid prequalification certificate,
214 shall make a contribution to, or, on and after January 1, 2011, knowingly
215 solicit contributions from the state contractor's or prospective state
216 contractor's employees or from a subcontractor or principals of the
217 subcontractor on behalf of (i) an exploratory committee or candidate
218 committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the
219 office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State
220 Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, (ii) a political
221 committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for
222 the benefit of such candidates, or (iii) a party committee;

223 (B) No state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of a
224 state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor, with
225 regard to a state contract or a state contract solicitation with or from the
226 General Assembly or a holder, or principal of a holder, of a valid
227 prequalification certificate, shall make a contribution to, or, on and after
228 January 1, 2011, knowingly solicit contributions from the state
229 contractor's or prospective state contractor's employees or from a
230 subcontractor or principals of the subcontractor on behalf of (i) an
231 exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a
232 candidate for nomination or election to the office of state senator or state
233 representative, (ii) a political committee authorized to make
234 contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates, or
235 (iii) a party committee;

236 (C) If a state contractor or principal of a state contractor makes or
237 solicits a contribution as prohibited under subparagraph (A) or (B) of
238 this subdivision, as determined by the State Elections Enforcement
239 Commission, the contracting state agency or quasi-public agency may,
240 in the case of a state contract executed on or after February 8, 2007, void
241 the existing contract with such contractor, and no state agency or quasi-
242 public agency shall award the state contractor a state contract or an
243 extension or an amendment to a state contract for one year after the
244 election for which such contribution is made or solicited unless the
245 commission determines that mitigating circumstances exist concerning
246 such violation. No violation of the prohibitions contained in
247 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision shall be deemed to have
248 occurred if, and only if, the improper contribution is returned to the
249 principal by the later of thirty days after receipt of such contribution by
250 the recipient committee treasurer or the filing date that corresponds
251 with the reporting period in which such contribution was made;

252 (D) If a prospective state contractor or principal of a prospective state
253 contractor makes or solicits a contribution as prohibited under
254 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, as determined by the State
255 Elections Enforcement Commission, no state agency or quasi-public
256 agency shall award the prospective state contractor the contract
257 described in the state contract solicitation or any other state contract for
258 one year after the election for which such contribution is made or
259 solicited unless the commission determines that mitigating
260 circumstances exist concerning such violation. The Commissioner of
261 Administrative Services shall notify applicants of the provisions of this
262 subparagraph and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision during
263 the prequalification application process;

264 (E) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall make
265 available to each state agency and quasi-public agency a written notice
266 advising state contractors and prospective state contractors of the
267 contribution and solicitation prohibitions contained in subparagraphs
268 (A) and (B) of this subdivision. Such notice shall: (i) Direct each state

269 contractor and prospective state contractor to inform each individual
270 described in subparagraph (F) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, with
271 regard to such state contractor or prospective state contractor, about the
272 provisions of subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, whichever is
273 applicable, and this subparagraph; (ii) inform each state contractor and
274 prospective state contractor of the civil and criminal penalties that could
275 be imposed for violations of such prohibitions if any such contribution
276 is made or solicited; (iii) inform each state contractor and prospective
277 state contractor that, in the case of a state contractor, if any such
278 contribution is made or solicited, the contract may be voided; (iv) inform
279 each state contractor and prospective state contractor that, in the case of
280 a prospective state contractor, if any such contribution is made or
281 solicited, the contract described in the state contract solicitation shall not
282 be awarded, unless the commission determines that mitigating
283 circumstances exist concerning such violation; and (v) inform each state
284 contractor and prospective state contractor that the state will not award
285 any other state contract to anyone found in violation of such
286 prohibitions for a period of one year after the election for which such
287 contribution is made or solicited, unless the commission determines that
288 mitigating circumstances exist concerning such violation. Each state
289 agency and quasi-public agency shall include in the bid specifications
290 or request for proposals for a state contract, a copy of or Internet link to
291 such notice. No state agency or quasi-public agency shall execute a state
292 contract unless such contract contains a representation that the chief
293 executive officer or authorized signatory of the contract has received
294 such notice; and

295 (F) (i) Any principal of the state contractor or prospective state
296 contractor submitting a bid or proposal for a state contract shall certify
297 that neither the contractor or prospective state contractor, nor any of its
298 principals, have made any contributions to, or solicited any
299 contributions on behalf of, any party committee, exploratory committee,
300 candidate for state-wide office or for the General Assembly, or political
301 committee authorized to make contributions to or expenditures to or for,
302 the benefit of such candidates, in the previous four years, that were

303 determined by the State Elections Enforcement Commission to be in
304 violation of subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, without
305 mitigating circumstances having been found to exist concerning such
306 violation. Each such certification shall be sworn as true to the best
307 knowledge and belief of the person signing the certification, subject to
308 the penalties of false statement. If there is any change in the information
309 contained in the most recently filed certification, such person shall
310 submit an updated certification not later than thirty days after the
311 effective date of any such change or upon the submittal of any new bid
312 or proposal for a state contract, whichever is earlier.

313 (ii) Each state agency and quasi-public agency shall include in the bid
314 specifications or request for proposals for a state contract a notice of the
315 certification requirements of this subparagraph. No state agency or
316 quasi-public agency shall execute a state contract unless the state agency
317 or quasi-public agency obtains the written certification described in this
318 subparagraph.

319 (iii) Any principal of the state contractor or prospective state
320 contractor submitting a bid or proposal for a state contract shall disclose
321 on the certification all contributions made by any of its principals to any
322 party committee, exploratory committee, candidate for state-wide office
323 or for the General Assembly, or political committee authorized to make
324 contributions to or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates
325 for a period of four years prior to the signing of the contract or date of
326 the response to the bid, whichever is longer, and certify that all such
327 contributions have been disclosed.

328 (3) (A) On and after December 31, 2006, neither the Governor,
329 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of
330 the State or State Treasurer, any candidate for any such office nor any
331 agent of any such official or candidate shall knowingly, wilfully or
332 intentionally solicit contributions on behalf of an exploratory committee
333 or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or
334 election to any public office, a political committee or a party committee,
335 from a person who he or she knows is prohibited from making

336 contributions, including a principal of a state contractor or prospective
 337 state contractor with regard to a state contract solicitation with or from
 338 a state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a
 339 holder of a valid prequalification certificate.

340 (B) On and after December 31, 2006, neither a member of the General
 341 Assembly, any candidate for any such office nor any agent of any such
 342 official or candidate shall knowingly, wilfully or intentionally solicit
 343 contributions on behalf of an exploratory committee or candidate
 344 committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to any
 345 public office, a political committee or a party committee, from a person
 346 who he or she knows is prohibited from making contributions,
 347 including a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor
 348 with regard to a state contract solicitation with or from the General
 349 Assembly or a holder of a valid prequalification certificate.

350 (4) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the campaign
 351 of a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor or to a
 352 principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor who is an
 353 elected public official.

354 (5) Each state contractor and prospective state contractor shall make
 355 reasonable efforts to comply with the provisions of this subsection. If
 356 the State Elections Enforcement Commission determines that a state
 357 contractor or prospective state contractor has failed to make reasonable
 358 efforts to comply with this subsection, the commission may impose civil
 359 penalties against such state contractor or prospective state contractor in
 360 accordance with subsection (a) of section 9-7b."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 3	January 1, 2027	New section
Sec. 4	January 1, 2027	21a-434(b)
Sec. 5	October 1, 2026	9-612(f)