



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6218



Offered by:  
REP. LEMAR, 96<sup>th</sup> 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. Subsection (k) of section 30-22a of the 2026 supplement to  
4 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
5 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

6 (k) For purposes of compliance with this section, "cafe" includes a  
7 tobacco bar or hookah establishment that: (1) During the calendar year  
8 ending December 31, 2002, generated at least ten per cent of the tobacco  
9 bar's or hookah establishment's total annual gross income from on-site  
10 sales of tobacco products and rentals of on-site humidors; or (2)  
11 commenced operations during the period beginning January 1, 2003,  
12 and ending December 31, 2022, and (A) generates at least sixty per cent  
13 of the tobacco bar's or hookah establishment's total annual gross sales  
14 from on-site sales of tobacco products, as defined in subparagraph (E)

15 of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 19a-342 and subparagraph  
16 (F) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 19a-342a, as determined  
17 in an annual audit conducted by an independent certified public  
18 accountant, (B) is located in a municipality that has a population of at  
19 least [eighty] forty thousand and does not contain another tobacco bar  
20 or hookah establishment, (C) does not allow cigarettes or cigarette  
21 tobacco on the premises, (D) contains a walk-in or stand-up humidor as  
22 a built-in feature on the premises, (E) is located in a building (i) in which  
23 no other owner-occupant, lessee or tenant has a right to utilize the same  
24 space as the tobacco bar or hookah establishment, or (ii) that uses the  
25 tobacco bar's or hookah establishment's own heating, ventilation or air  
26 conditioning system to prevent commingling of air, (F) is located in  
27 premises equipped with a ventilation system that (i) provides local  
28 mechanical exhaust with no recirculation, (ii) circulates at least sixty  
29 cubic feet of outdoor air per person per minute to provide adequate  
30 indoor air quality, and (iii) satisfies the requirements established in  
31 ANSI/ASHRAE 62-2001, "ventilation for acceptable indoor air quality",  
32 as amended from time to time, and (G) provides health coverage to the  
33 tobacco bar's or hookah establishment's employees and their  
34 dependents in accordance with other applicable law, including, but not  
35 limited to, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148,  
36 as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, P.L.  
37 111-152, as both may be amended from time to time, and regulations  
38 adopted thereunder.

39 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
40 2028, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in  
41 consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council,  
42 shall coordinate with an independent institution of higher education  
43 with a campus located in the city of West Haven to establish a state-  
44 wide, one-day training program for police officers in the state in order  
45 to increase law enforcement retention and readiness. Such training shall  
46 include, but need not be limited to, expert instruction, scenario-based  
47 exercises, de-escalation skills and practical planning, and be available  
48 on an online technology platform. For purposes of this section, "police

49 officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the  
50 general statutes.

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

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

58 (1) "Cash" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-434 of the  
59 general statutes, as amended by this act;

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

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

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

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

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

77 (B) If the total price determined in accordance with the provisions of

78 subdivision (1) of this subsection ends in three cents, four cents, eight  
79 cents or nine cents, such total price shall be rounded up to the nearest  
80 amount divisible by five cents for an individual seeking to purchase  
81 such good or service by cash.

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

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

86 (2) Payment is made by any demand or negotiable instrument,  
87 electronic funds transfer, money order, credit card, debit card, electronic  
88 payment or similar instrument.

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

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

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

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

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

105 (B) "State agency" means any office, department, board, council,  
106 commission, institution or other agency in the executive or legislative

107 branch of state government.

108 (C) "State contract" means an agreement or contract with the state or  
109 any state agency or any quasi-public agency, let through a procurement  
110 process or otherwise, having a value of fifty thousand dollars or more,  
111 or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a  
112 value of one hundred thousand dollars or more in a calendar year, for  
113 (i) the rendition of services, (ii) the furnishing of any goods, material,  
114 supplies, equipment or any items of any kind, (iii) the construction,  
115 alteration or repair of any public building or public work, (iv) the  
116 acquisition, sale or lease of any land or building, (v) a licensing  
117 arrangement, or (vi) a grant, loan or loan guarantee. "State contract"  
118 does not include any agreement or contract with the state, any state  
119 agency or any quasi-public agency that is exclusively federally funded,  
120 an education loan, a loan to an individual for other than commercial  
121 purposes or any agreement or contract between the state or any state  
122 agency and the United States Department of the Navy or the United  
123 States Department of Defense.

124 (D) "State contractor" means a person, business entity or nonprofit  
125 organization that enters into a state contract. Such person, business  
126 entity or nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a state contractor  
127 until December thirty-first of the year in which such contract terminates.  
128 "State contractor" does not include a municipality, [or] any other  
129 political subdivision of the state or any indigenous tribe of the state  
130 recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any entities  
131 or associations duly created by the municipality, [or] political  
132 subdivision or indigenous tribe exclusively amongst themselves to  
133 further any purpose authorized by statute, [or] charter or tribal law, or  
134 an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government  
135 or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service  
136 and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or  
137 quasi-public agency employee.

138 (E) "Prospective state contractor" means a person, business entity or  
139 nonprofit organization that (i) submits a response to a state contract

140 solicitation by the state, a state agency or a quasi-public agency, or a  
141 proposal in response to a request for proposals by the state, a state  
142 agency or a quasi-public agency, until the contract has been entered into,  
143 or (ii) holds a valid prequalification certificate issued by the  
144 Commissioner of Administrative Services under section 4a-100.  
145 "Prospective state contractor" does not include a municipality, [or] any  
146 other political subdivision of the state or any indigenous tribe of the  
147 state recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any  
148 entities or associations duly created by the municipality, [or] political  
149 subdivision or indigenous tribe exclusively amongst themselves to  
150 further any purpose authorized by statute, [or] charter or tribal law, or  
151 an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government  
152 or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service  
153 and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or  
154 quasi-public agency employee.

155 (F) "Principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor"  
156 means (i) any individual who is a member of the board of directors of,  
157 or has an ownership interest of five per cent or more in, a state contractor  
158 or prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, except for an  
159 individual who is a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit  
160 organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a state contractor or  
161 prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, as president,  
162 treasurer or executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief  
163 executive officer of a state contractor or prospective state contractor,  
164 which is not a business entity, or if a state contractor or prospective state  
165 contractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses  
166 comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any  
167 state contractor or prospective state contractor who has managerial or  
168 discretionary responsibilities with respect to a state contract, (v) the  
169 spouse or a dependent child who is eighteen years of age or older of an  
170 individual described in this subparagraph, or (vi) a political committee  
171 established or controlled by an individual described in this  
172 subparagraph or the business entity or nonprofit organization that is the  
173 state contractor or prospective state contractor.

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

177 (H) "Managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a  
178 state contract" means having direct, extensive and substantive  
179 responsibilities with respect to the negotiation of the state contract and  
180 not peripheral, clerical or ministerial responsibilities.

181 (I) "Rendition of services" means the provision of any service to a state  
182 agency or quasi-public agency in exchange for a fee, remuneration or  
183 compensation of any kind from the state or through an arrangement  
184 with the state.

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

191 (K) "Subcontractor" means any person, business entity or nonprofit  
192 organization that contracts to perform part or all of the obligations of a  
193 state contractor's state contract. Such person, business entity or  
194 nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a subcontractor until  
195 December thirty-first of the year in which the subcontract terminates.  
196 "Subcontractor" does not include (i) a municipality, [or] any other  
197 political subdivision of the state or any indigenous tribe of the state  
198 recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any entities  
199 or associations duly created by the municipality, [or] political  
200 subdivision or indigenous tribe exclusively amongst themselves to  
201 further any purpose authorized by statute, [or] charter or tribal law, or  
202 (ii) an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state  
203 government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or  
204 unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's  
205 capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee.

206 (L) "Principal of a subcontractor" means (i) any individual who is a  
207 member of the board of directors of, or has an ownership interest of five  
208 per cent or more in, a subcontractor, which is a business entity, except  
209 for an individual who is a member of the board of directors of a  
210 nonprofit organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a  
211 subcontractor, which is a business entity, as president, treasurer or  
212 executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief executive  
213 officer of a subcontractor, which is not a business entity, or if a  
214 subcontractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses  
215 comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any  
216 subcontractor who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with  
217 respect to a subcontract with a state contractor, (v) the spouse or a  
218 dependent child who is eighteen years of age or older of an individual  
219 described in this subparagraph, or (vi) a political committee established  
220 or controlled by an individual described in this subparagraph or the  
221 business entity or nonprofit organization that is the subcontractor.

222 (2) (A) No state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of  
223 a state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor, with  
224 regard to a state contract or a state contract solicitation with or from a  
225 state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a  
226 holder, or principal of a holder, of a valid prequalification certificate,  
227 shall make a contribution to, or, on and after January 1, 2011, knowingly  
228 solicit contributions from the state contractor's or prospective state  
229 contractor's employees or from a subcontractor or principals of the  
230 subcontractor on behalf of (i) an exploratory committee or candidate  
231 committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the  
232 office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State  
233 Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, (ii) a political  
234 committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for  
235 the benefit of such candidates, or (iii) a party committee;

236 (B) No state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of a  
237 state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor, with  
238 regard to a state contract or a state contract solicitation with or from the

239 General Assembly or a holder, or principal of a holder, of a valid  
240 prequalification certificate, shall make a contribution to, or, on and after  
241 January 1, 2011, knowingly solicit contributions from the state  
242 contractor's or prospective state contractor's employees or from a  
243 subcontractor or principals of the subcontractor on behalf of (i) an  
244 exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a  
245 candidate for nomination or election to the office of state senator or state  
246 representative, (ii) a political committee authorized to make  
247 contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates, or  
248 (iii) a party committee;

249 (C) If a state contractor or principal of a state contractor makes or  
250 solicits a contribution as prohibited under subparagraph (A) or (B) of  
251 this subdivision, as determined by the State Elections Enforcement  
252 Commission, the contracting state agency or quasi-public agency may,  
253 in the case of a state contract executed on or after February 8, 2007, void  
254 the existing contract with such contractor, and no state agency or quasi-  
255 public agency shall award the state contractor a state contract or an  
256 extension or an amendment to a state contract for one year after the  
257 election for which such contribution is made or solicited unless the  
258 commission determines that mitigating circumstances exist concerning  
259 such violation. No violation of the prohibitions contained in  
260 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision shall be deemed to have  
261 occurred if, and only if, the improper contribution is returned to the  
262 principal by the later of thirty days after receipt of such contribution by  
263 the recipient committee treasurer or the filing date that corresponds  
264 with the reporting period in which such contribution was made;

265 (D) If a prospective state contractor or principal of a prospective state  
266 contractor makes or solicits a contribution as prohibited under  
267 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, as determined by the State  
268 Elections Enforcement Commission, no state agency or quasi-public  
269 agency shall award the prospective state contractor the contract  
270 described in the state contract solicitation or any other state contract for  
271 one year after the election for which such contribution is made or

272 solicited unless the commission determines that mitigating  
273 circumstances exist concerning such violation. The Commissioner of  
274 Administrative Services shall notify applicants of the provisions of this  
275 subparagraph and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision during  
276 the prequalification application process;

277 (E) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall make  
278 available to each state agency and quasi-public agency a written notice  
279 advising state contractors and prospective state contractors of the  
280 contribution and solicitation prohibitions contained in subparagraphs  
281 (A) and (B) of this subdivision. Such notice shall: (i) Direct each state  
282 contractor and prospective state contractor to inform each individual  
283 described in subparagraph (F) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, with  
284 regard to such state contractor or prospective state contractor, about the  
285 provisions of subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, whichever is  
286 applicable, and this subparagraph; (ii) inform each state contractor and  
287 prospective state contractor of the civil and criminal penalties that could  
288 be imposed for violations of such prohibitions if any such contribution  
289 is made or solicited; (iii) inform each state contractor and prospective  
290 state contractor that, in the case of a state contractor, if any such  
291 contribution is made or solicited, the contract may be voided; (iv) inform  
292 each state contractor and prospective state contractor that, in the case of  
293 a prospective state contractor, if any such contribution is made or  
294 solicited, the contract described in the state contract solicitation shall not  
295 be awarded, unless the commission determines that mitigating  
296 circumstances exist concerning such violation; and (v) inform each state  
297 contractor and prospective state contractor that the state will not award  
298 any other state contract to anyone found in violation of such  
299 prohibitions for a period of one year after the election for which such  
300 contribution is made or solicited, unless the commission determines that  
301 mitigating circumstances exist concerning such violation. Each state  
302 agency and quasi-public agency shall include in the bid specifications  
303 or request for proposals for a state contract, a copy of or Internet link to  
304 such notice. No state agency or quasi-public agency shall execute a state  
305 contract unless such contract contains a representation that the chief

306 executive officer or authorized signatory of the contract has received  
307 such notice; and

308 (F) (i) Any principal of the state contractor or prospective state  
309 contractor submitting a bid or proposal for a state contract shall certify  
310 that neither the contractor or prospective state contractor, nor any of its  
311 principals, have made any contributions to, or solicited any  
312 contributions on behalf of, any party committee, exploratory committee,  
313 candidate for state-wide office or for the General Assembly, or political  
314 committee authorized to make contributions to or expenditures to or for,  
315 the benefit of such candidates, in the previous four years, that were  
316 determined by the State Elections Enforcement Commission to be in  
317 violation of subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, without  
318 mitigating circumstances having been found to exist concerning such  
319 violation. Each such certification shall be sworn as true to the best  
320 knowledge and belief of the person signing the certification, subject to  
321 the penalties of false statement. If there is any change in the information  
322 contained in the most recently filed certification, such person shall  
323 submit an updated certification not later than thirty days after the  
324 effective date of any such change or upon the submittal of any new bid  
325 or proposal for a state contract, whichever is earlier.

326 (ii) Each state agency and quasi-public agency shall include in the bid  
327 specifications or request for proposals for a state contract a notice of the  
328 certification requirements of this subparagraph. No state agency or  
329 quasi-public agency shall execute a state contract unless the state agency  
330 or quasi-public agency obtains the written certification described in this  
331 subparagraph.

332 (iii) Any principal of the state contractor or prospective state  
333 contractor submitting a bid or proposal for a state contract shall disclose  
334 on the certification all contributions made by any of its principals to any  
335 party committee, exploratory committee, candidate for state-wide office  
336 or for the General Assembly, or political committee authorized to make  
337 contributions to or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates  
338 for a period of four years prior to the signing of the contract or date of

339 the response to the bid, whichever is longer, and certify that all such  
340 contributions have been disclosed.

341 (3) (A) On and after December 31, 2006, neither the Governor,  
342 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of  
343 the State or State Treasurer, any candidate for any such office nor any  
344 agent of any such official or candidate shall knowingly, wilfully or  
345 intentionally solicit contributions on behalf of an exploratory committee  
346 or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or  
347 election to any public office, a political committee or a party committee,  
348 from a person who he or she knows is prohibited from making  
349 contributions, including a principal of a state contractor or prospective  
350 state contractor with regard to a state contract solicitation with or from  
351 a state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a  
352 holder of a valid prequalification certificate.

353 (B) On and after December 31, 2006, neither a member of the General  
354 Assembly, any candidate for any such office nor any agent of any such  
355 official or candidate shall knowingly, wilfully or intentionally solicit  
356 contributions on behalf of an exploratory committee or candidate  
357 committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to any  
358 public office, a political committee or a party committee, from a person  
359 who he or she knows is prohibited from making contributions,  
360 including a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor  
361 with regard to a state contract solicitation with or from the General  
362 Assembly or a holder of a valid prequalification certificate.

363 (4) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the campaign  
364 of a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor or to a  
365 principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor who is an  
366 elected public official.

367 (5) Each state contractor and prospective state contractor shall make  
368 reasonable efforts to comply with the provisions of this subsection. If  
369 the State Elections Enforcement Commission determines that a state  
370 contractor or prospective state contractor has failed to make reasonable

371 efforts to comply with this subsection, the commission may impose civil  
372 penalties against such state contractor or prospective state contractor in  
373 accordance with subsection (a) of section 9-7b.

374 Sec. 6. Section 30-45 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is  
375 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
376 *passage*):

377 [The] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the  
378 Department of Consumer Protection shall refuse [permits] any permit  
379 for the sale of alcoholic liquor to: [the following persons:] (1) Any state  
380 marshal, judicial marshal, judge of any court, prosecuting officer or  
381 member of any police force; (2) [any minor; (3)] any constable who (A)  
382 performs criminal law enforcement duties and is considered a peace  
383 officer by town ordinance pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a)  
384 of section 54-1f, or (B) is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a  
385 to 7-294e, inclusive, and performs criminal law enforcement duties  
386 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 54-1f; [and (4)] (3)  
387 any special constable appointed pursuant to section 7-92; [. This] and (4)  
388 any minor as the permittee or as a member, principal or partner of the  
389 backer, provided nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to  
390 require the department to refuse any such permit to a trust with a named  
391 beneficiary who is a minor.

392 (b) The provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection  
393 (a) of this section shall not apply to: [any] (1) Any out-of-state shipper's  
394 permit issued under section 30-18, 30-18a or 30-19; [,] (2) any cafe permit  
395 issued under section 30-22a, as amended by this act; [,] (3) any cafe  
396 permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g; [,] (4) any  
397 boat operating under any in-state transporter permit issued under  
398 section 30-19f; or (5) any airline permit issued under section 30-28a. [As  
399 used in this section, "minor" means a minor, as defined in section 1-1d  
400 or as defined in section 30-1, whichever age is older.]"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	30-22a(k)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	21a-434(b)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-612(f)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	30-45