



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6235



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. (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, provided such hookah establishment  
11 commenced operations prior to the effective date of this section, the  
12 holder of the restaurant permit may sell alcoholic liquor to be consumed  
13 on the premises of the hookah establishment, provided the hookah  
14 establishment is (1) adjacent, and attached by common partition, to the

15 restaurant permit premises, or (2) located within the same structure as,  
16 and not more than twenty feet from, the restaurant permit premises.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

74 (2) Payment is made by any demand or negotiable instrument,

75 electronic funds transfer, money order, credit card, debit card, electronic  
76 payment or similar instrument.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

138 further any purpose authorized by statute, [or] charter or tribal law, or  
139 an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government  
140 or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service  
141 and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or  
142 quasi-public agency employee.

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

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

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

169 (I) "Rendition of services" means the provision of any service to a state

170 agency or quasi-public agency in exchange for a fee, remuneration or  
171 compensation of any kind from the state or through an arrangement  
172 with the state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

236 (iii) a party committee;

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

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

265 (E) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall make  
266 available to each state agency and quasi-public agency a written notice  
267 advising state contractors and prospective state contractors of the  
268 contribution and solicitation prohibitions contained in subparagraphs

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

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

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

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

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

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

336 from a person who he or she knows is prohibited from making  
337 contributions, including a principal of a state contractor or prospective  
338 state contractor with regard to a state contract solicitation with or from  
339 a state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a  
340 holder of a valid prequalification certificate.

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

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

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

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

365 [The] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the  
366 Department of Consumer Protection shall refuse [permits] any permit

367 for the sale of alcoholic liquor to: [the following persons:] (1) Any state  
 368 marshal, judicial marshal, judge of any court, prosecuting officer or  
 369 member of any police force; (2) [any minor; (3)] any constable who (A)  
 370 performs criminal law enforcement duties and is considered a peace  
 371 officer by town ordinance pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a)  
 372 of section 54-1f, or (B) is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a  
 373 to 7-294e, inclusive, and performs criminal law enforcement duties  
 374 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 54-1f; [and (4)] (3)  
 375 any special constable appointed pursuant to section 7-92; [. This] and (4)  
 376 any minor as the permittee or as a member, principal or partner of the  
 377 backer, provided nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to  
 378 require the department to refuse any such permit to a trust with a named  
 379 beneficiary who is a minor.

380 (b) The provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection  
 381 (a) of this section shall not apply to: [any] (1) Any out-of-state shipper's  
 382 permit issued under section 30-18, 30-18a or 30-19; [,] (2) any cafe permit  
 383 issued under section 30-22a, as amended by this act; [,] (3) any cafe  
 384 permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g; [,] (4) any  
 385 boat operating under any in-state transporter permit issued under  
 386 section 30-19f; or (5) any airline permit issued under section 30-28a. [As  
 387 used in this section, "minor" means a minor, as defined in section 1-1d  
 388 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	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)
Sec. 6	from passage	30-45