



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6242



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, 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.]

389 Sec. 7. Subsection (k) of section 30-22a of the 2026 supplement to the
390 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
391 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

392 (k) For purposes of compliance with this section, "cafe" includes a
393 tobacco bar that: (1) During the calendar year ending December 31, 2002,
394 generated at least ten per cent of the tobacco bar's total annual gross
395 income from on-site sales of tobacco products and rentals of on-site
396 humidors; or (2) commenced operations during the period beginning
397 January 1, 2003, and ending December 31, 2022, and (A) generates at
398 least sixty per cent of the tobacco bar's total annual gross sales from on-
399 site sales of tobacco products, as defined in subparagraph (E) of

400 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 19a-342 and subparagraph
 401 (F) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 19a-342a, as determined
 402 in an annual audit conducted by an independent certified public
 403 accountant, (B) is located in a municipality that has a population of at
 404 least [eighty] forty thousand and does not contain another tobacco bar,
 405 (C) does not allow cigarettes or cigarette tobacco on the premises, (D)
 406 contains a walk-in or stand-up humidor as a built-in feature on the
 407 premises, (E) is located in a building (i) in which no other owner-
 408 occupant, lessee or tenant has a right to utilize the same space as the
 409 tobacco bar, or (ii) that uses the tobacco bar's own heating, ventilation
 410 or air conditioning system to prevent commingling of air, (F) is located
 411 in premises equipped with a ventilation system that (i) provides local
 412 mechanical exhaust with no recirculation, (ii) circulates at least sixty
 413 cubic feet of outdoor air per person per minute to provide adequate
 414 indoor air quality, and (iii) satisfies the requirements established in
 415 ANSI/ASHRAE 62-2001, "ventilation for acceptable indoor air quality",
 416 as amended from time to time, and (G) provides health coverage to the
 417 tobacco bar's employees and their dependents in accordance with other
 418 applicable law, including, but not limited to, the Patient Protection and
 419 Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and
 420 Education Reconciliation Act, P.L. 111-152, as both may be amended
 421 from time to time, and regulations adopted thereunder."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
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
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	30-22a(k)