



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6258



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 by the
10 local health director and has local zoning approval to operate a hookah
11 establishment, provided such hookah establishment commenced
12 operations prior to the effective date of this section, the holder of the
13 restaurant permit may sell alcoholic liquor to be consumed on the
14 premises of the hookah establishment, provided the hookah

15 establishment is (1) adjacent, and attached by common partition, to the
16 restaurant permit premises, or (2) located within the same structure as,
17 and not more than twenty feet from, the restaurant permit premises.

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

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

28 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than January 1,
29 2028, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
30 consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council,
31 shall coordinate with an independent institution of higher education
32 with a campus located in the city of West Haven to establish a state-
33 wide, one-day training program for police officers in the state in order
34 to increase law enforcement retention and readiness. Such training shall
35 include, but need not be limited to, expert instruction, scenario-based
36 exercises, de-escalation skills and practical planning, and be available
37 on an online technology platform. Nothing in this section shall be
38 construed to require a police officer to attend such training at an
39 independent institution of higher education in the city of West Haven.
40 For purposes of this section, "police officer" has the same meaning as
41 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

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

47 relating to public safety and labor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

90 Sec. 5. Section 30-45 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is
91 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
92 *passage*):

93 [The] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the
94 Department of Consumer Protection shall refuse [permits] any permit
95 for the sale of alcoholic liquor to: [the following persons:] (1) Any state
96 marshal, judicial marshal, judge of any court, prosecuting officer or
97 member of any police force; (2) [any minor; (3)] any constable who (A)
98 performs criminal law enforcement duties and is considered a peace
99 officer by town ordinance pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a)
100 of section 54-1f, or (B) is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a
101 to 7-294e, inclusive, and performs criminal law enforcement duties
102 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 54-1f; [and (4)] (3)
103 any special constable appointed pursuant to section 7-92; [This] and (4)
104 any minor as the permittee or as a member, principal or partner of the
105 backer, provided nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to

106 require the department to refuse any such permit to a trust with a named
107 beneficiary who is a minor.

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

117 Sec. 6. Subsection (k) of section 30-22a of the 2026 supplement to the
118 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
119 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

120 (k) For purposes of compliance with this section, "cafe" includes a
121 tobacco bar that: (1) During the calendar year ending December 31, 2002,
122 generated at least ten per cent of the tobacco bar's total annual gross
123 income from on-site sales of tobacco products and rentals of on-site
124 humidors; or (2) commenced operations during the period beginning
125 January 1, 2003, and ending December 31, 2022, and (A) generates at
126 least sixty per cent of the tobacco bar's total annual gross sales from on-
127 site sales of tobacco products, as defined in subparagraph (E) of
128 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 19a-342 and subparagraph
129 (F) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 19a-342a, as determined
130 in an annual audit conducted by an independent certified public
131 accountant, (B) is located in a municipality that has a population of at
132 least [eighty] forty thousand and does not contain another tobacco bar,
133 (C) does not allow cigarettes or cigarette tobacco on the premises, (D)
134 contains a walk-in or stand-up humidor as a built-in feature on the
135 premises, (E) is located in a building (i) in which no other owner-
136 occupant, lessee or tenant has a right to utilize the same space as the
137 tobacco bar, or (ii) that uses the tobacco bar's own heating, ventilation
138 or air conditioning system to prevent commingling of air, (F) is located

139 in premises equipped with a ventilation system that (i) provides local
140 mechanical exhaust with no recirculation, (ii) circulates at least sixty
141 cubic feet of outdoor air per person per minute to provide adequate
142 indoor air quality, and (iii) satisfies the requirements established in
143 ANSI/ASHRAE 62-2001, "ventilation for acceptable indoor air quality",
144 as amended from time to time, and (G) provides health coverage to the
145 tobacco bar's employees and their dependents in accordance with other
146 applicable law, including, but not limited to, the Patient Protection and
147 Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and
148 Education Reconciliation Act, P.L. 111-152, as both may be amended
149 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>from passage</i>	30-45
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	30-22a(k)