

Special Report



2024 Acts Affecting Business and Jobs

By: Lee Hansen, Chief Legislative Analyst July 1, 2024 | 2024-R-0104

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Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting businesses and jobs enacted during the 2024 regular legislative session and June Special Session (JSS). It does not summarize acts that affect only (1) specific types of businesses (e.g., garages or construction companies) or (2) business sectors covered in other Acts Affecting reports, such as those concerning agriculture, banking, health professions, housing and real estate, and insurance. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports are, or will soon be, available on <u>OLR's website</u>.

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) or special act (SA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden. Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on <u>OLR's website</u>.

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library, House Clerk's Office, or <u>General Assembly's website</u>.

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Business and Community Assistance

CIF 2030

A new law limits the allowed uses of the Community Investment Fund 2030 (CIF) by eliminating eligibility for grants proposed by municipalities, community development corporations, or nonprofit corporations to provide (1) a revolving loan program, microloans, or gap financing to small businesses located in an eligible municipality or (2) start-up funds to establish a small business there. As under prior law, eligibility remains for projects to promote economic or community development in the municipality, such as brownfield remediation, affordable housing, and improvements to water and sewer infrastructure, among other things (PA 24-149, § 2, effective upon passage).

Community Economic Development Fund

This session, the legislature passed a law to allow the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF), beginning October 1, 2024, to conduct business outside Connecticut under certain conditions, including a requirement for 70% of CEDF's total assets at any time to be used for instate business. Prior law required that at least 70% of the financial assistance CEDF provides be used for activities in targeted investment communities. The new law expands the fund's allowable uses to also include providing assistance to low- and moderate-income individuals for activities in public investment communities and qualified census tracts. The new law also restructures the membership of CEDF's board of directors to, among other things, generally include a higher ratio of members representing the communities in which CEDF invests (<u>PA 24-36</u>, effective July 1, 2024).

Concentrated Poverty Pilot Program

This session, the legislature created a pilot program to reduce the levels of concentrated poverty in the state. Under this new law, a new office within the state's Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) must develop a 10-year plan for a participating "concentrated poverty census tract" (i.e., a tract in which at least 30% of the households have incomes below the federal poverty level) together with specified state agencies and other local officials and community members. Among other things, the plan must include a list of possible projects determined to be the most appropriate and effective to eliminate concentrated poverty in the tract. The new law (1) gives these projects priority for specified state grants, including CIF 2030 grants, and (2) adds incentives to the JobsCT tax rebate program, as described below (PA 24-151, §§ 118-123, effective upon passage).

JobsCT Tax Rebate Program

A new law makes several changes to the JobsCT tax rebate program. Among other things, it:

- 1. Establishes a two-year lookback period for calculating a business's number of new full-time equivalent employees (FTEs), rather than a lookback to January 1, 2020, as prior law required;
- 2. adds new options for determining the wage requirements a business must meet to receive a rebate;
- 3. allows the DECD commissioner to substitute another requirement or metric similar in intent to a requirement or metric that he determines the applicant cannot reasonably meet; and
- 4. changes how rebates are calculated for businesses employing at least one new FTE who is a person with intellectual disability (<u>PA 24-149</u>, § 1, effective upon passage).

JobsCT Tax Rebates for Hiring Concentrated Poverty Census Tract Residents

As part of the new concentrated poverty pilot program described above, the legislature added incentives to the JobsCT tax rebate program for hiring individuals living in concentrated poverty census tracts. Specifically, the new law decreases, from 25 to 15, the number of FTEs that a business must create and maintain to be eligible for the rebate program if at least three of these FTEs live in a concentrated poverty census tract. It also allows the business to earn an additional rebate amount for each FTE who lives in one of these tracts equal to 50% of the state income tax for single filers that these employees would pay on their wages. To qualify, the new FTE must have lived in the concentrated poverty census tract for at least six months of the calendar year on which the rebate is based. The new law also allows these additional rebates to exceed the program's rebate cap of \$5,000 per new FTE (PA 24-151, §§ 118-123, effective upon passage).

Manufacturing Assistance Act Earmark

Under a new law, previously authorized Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA) bonds may be used to fund up to \$20 million in investments in federally designated opportunity zones through an impact investment firm, including funding from the MAA's Economic Assistance Revolving Fund with the governor's approval. By law, the DECD commissioner can provide financial assistance under the MAA program (e.g., grants, credit extensions, loans, and loan guarantees) from this fund (<u>PA 24-151</u>, § 30, effective upon passage).

Martin Luther King, Jr. Corridors

This session, the legislature increased, from three to seven, the number of Martin Luther King, Jr. Corridors the banking commissioner must designate. By law, the designation's purpose is to promote secured and unsecured lending in the state. In practice, the designation has been used to help facilitate area-specific economic development planning initiatives in the corridors (PA 24-23, effective October 1, 2024).

Business Law and Practice

Business Entities' Filings With the Secretary of the State (SOTS)

A new law makes various changes in laws that govern certain business entities operating in the state. Among other things, it:

- 1. expands the information the businesses must include in their filings with SOTS to include valid email addresses and their North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code (i.e., a six-digit, hierarchical coding system that classifies economic activity into 20 industry sectors) (§§ 1-7 & 10-21);
- 2. eliminates the need (a) to include the latest date of dissolution in a limited partnership's certification and (b) for certain filed annual reports to include the general partner's name and business address (§§ 5-9);
- 3. requires foreign limited liability companies to file an authenticated certificate of existence with SOTS when filing or amending their foreign registration certificate (§§ 12 & 53);
- 4. requires certain business entities to file an amended annual report with SOTS if certain information changes, and establishes a \$25 fee for doing so (§§ 17-21);
- 5. allows SOTS to require the filing of documents and data over the Internet with its Business Services Division unless the filer establishes that it is impractical to do so (§§ 22 & 23); and
- makes email the mode of communication that SOTS must use to effect certain actions (e.g., a corporation's dissolution) (§§ 24-33) (<u>PA 24-111</u>, effective January 1, 2025, for the sections referenced above).

Business Entity Transactions

The legislature enacted several changes to the Connecticut Entity Transaction Act (CETA), which concerns cross-entity transactions (e.g., mergers, consolidations, conversions, domestications), including, among other things, eliminating bans on certain corporations, associations, cooperatives, and entities from participating in transactions covered by CETA. Some of the entities the act allows to participate in these transactions include cooperatives, nonprofit or not-for-profit corporations,

nonstock corporations, and business trusts or statutory trust entities (<u>PA 24-70</u>, §§ 4-14, effective October 1, 2024).

Civil Process for Business Organizations

This session, the legislature passed a new law that expands the types of business entities subject to the state's civil process law to include sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies, associations, firms, and other forms of businesses or legal entities. Prior law only covered domestic and foreign corporations. The new law also creates an exception from the general rule of where civil process should be returned when the plaintiff is a domestic business organization by giving the organization an option based on where its office or place of business is located (<u>PA 24-108</u>, §§ 37-39, effective October 1, 2024).

Connecticut Business Registry

A new law makes changes to the Connecticut Business Registry regarding authenticating and verifying data, fraud prevention, requirements for registered agents, and penalties for committing prohibited actions. Among other things, it:

- allows SOTS to (a) verify the data submitted to the registry; (b) prevent data submissions that cannot be authenticated and reject these filings; (c) administratively dissolve, forfeit, revoke, or cancel the registered business entity if she finds that any data submitted cannot be verified; and (d) take certain actions to prevent fraudulent submissions (e.g., authenticating the identity of the person submitting the filing);
- 2. establishes certain requirements for any registered agent who must be appointed by law for a business entity that forms or must register with SOTS (e.g., an agent who is a natural person must be an adult); and
- 3. specifically prohibits certain actions pertaining to any data, document, or record submitted to SOTS (e.g., including certain individuals' names on a filed document without their written consent) and makes an intentional violation perjury, which is a class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both (PA 24-111, §§ 50-52, effective upon passage for the data validation and fraud prevention provisions; January 1, 2025, for the provisions on registered agents' requirements; and October 1, 2024, for the prohibited actions and penalty provisions).

Enforcement of Business Entities' Compliance With the Law

This session the legislature passed a new law that provides for the enforcement of business entities' compliance with certain business laws. Among other things, it:

- 1. establishes a three-year statute of limitations for the attorney general to bring enforcement action against a business entity that operated without a certificate of authority (§§ 40-42, 45 & 47);
- 2. gives SOTS express authority to (a) enforce the laws governing LLCs, partnerships, LLPs, and statutory trusts and (b) issue interrogatories to determine compliance (§§ 43, 46 & 48); and
- 3. sets (a) requirements for an entity's answers to these interrogatories; (b) penalties for untimely, untruthful, and incomplete answers; and (c) privacy protection for the interrogatories and the answers (§§ 44 & 49) (PA 24-111, effective upon passage for the sections referenced above).

Short-Term Rental Properties

This session, the legislature explicitly authorized municipalities, by vote of their legislative bodies, to adopt an ordinance regulating the operation and use of short-term rental properties and requiring their licensure. It also allowed municipalities to hire consultants to help them develop these ordinances (PA 24-143, § 7, effective October 1, 2024).

Trade Names

A new law expands the state's trade name law. In Connecticut, "trade name" is the term generally given to an individual doing business under an assumed name. Among other things, the new law:

- 1. standardizes the application form, sets the fees for towns to charge (\$20 each), and establishes a renewal and cancellation process;
- limits a trade name's validity to five years at a time and allows those issued before January 1, 2025, to renew until December 31, 2029;
- 3. requires SOTS to create an electronic system to process trade name certificate applications; and
- 4. expands the trade name exemption to cover additional business entities that transact business under the name stated in its formation or registration document (PA 24-111, §§ 34-39 & 54-56, effective October 1, 2024).

Consumer Protection

Attorney General and Consumer Protection

A new law expands the attorney general's pre-trial investigative authority to enforce the federal Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") by, among other things, authorizing him to issue subpoenas for documentary material, testimony, or responses to written interrogatories. It requires the attorney general to coordinate subpoenas with the banking commissioner and sets out several procedures for this process. It also allows him to apply to the Superior Court to enforce a subpoena, including requesting that the court impose a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 (PA 24-75, effective October 1, 2024).

Coerced Debt

New legislation prohibits anyone from knowingly making another individual liable for "coerced debt" (i.e., generally, certain credit card debt incurred by a domestic violence victim). Principally, the act also imposes specific obligations and responsibilities on coerced debt "claimants" (e.g., consumer collection agencies). Specifically, if a victim gives a claimant certain information and documentation that a debt is coerced debt, the claimant must pause all collection activities on the debt for at least 60 days, review the victim's submission and other available information, and then continue or end its collection based on the review. Among other things, if a claimant ends collection activities against a victim, and had given negative information about the victim to a consumer credit reporting agency, then the claimant must notify the agency to delete the information (PA 24-77, effective January 1, 2025).

Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA)

A new law allows the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for CUTPA violations, after an administrative hearing. It also updates several procedures to allow DCP to receive certain items electronically and gives the department more options for sending certain investigative and enforcement documents (<u>PA 24-142</u>, § 26, effective upon passage).

Electronic Price Scanning and "Get One Free" Laws

A new law extends certain electronic price scanning and "get one free" laws to apply to all types of business entities, rather than just associations, corporations, firms, or partnerships. Under these laws, businesses that use universal product coding must mark each consumer commodity that has a universal product code with its retail price. In addition, consumers are generally entitled to receive an item for free, up to a \$20 value, if the (1) electronically scanned price is higher than the posted price or (2) price at the point of sale is higher than the advertised or posted price (PA 24-142, §§ 15 & 16, effective upon passage).

Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Seizures and Embargoes

This session, the legislature allowed the DCP commissioner to extend an embargo period for food, drugs, devices, or cosmetics and to institute a civil action in Superior Court to embargo them. The new law also requires the commissioner to embargo or destroy certain kinds of these articles and generally prohibits anyone from altering or opening an embargoed article. Finally, it increases the maximum penalty for anyone who removes the tag or marking on an article (<u>PA 24-142</u>, §§ 17 & 18, effective upon passage).

Gaming Regulation

This session, the legislature made various changes to the state's gaming laws. Principally, these changes (1) impose additional advertising restrictions and requirements on gaming entity licensees; (2) allow the DCP commissioner to give provisional authorizations to occupational, key employee, live game employee, and pari-mutuel occupational license applicants; (3) require licensed lottery gaming system vendors to report system disruptions to DCP; and (4) expand the jurisdiction of certain DCP special police officers to include investigating and making arrests for any offense arising from Internet gaming (PA 24-142, §§ 75-90, most effective upon passage).

Hearing for Certain Payment Type Violations

Existing law prohibits anyone from (1) imposing an additional charge or fee on any transaction for the privilege of using a particular payment type; (2) conditioning the acceptance of a credit or charge card payment on a minimum transaction amount, without disclosure; or (3) reducing a commission paid to an agent because the transaction was paid by card. A new law specifies that the DCP commissioner must provide a notice and hold an administrative hearing before imposing an additional civil penalty for these violations ($PA \ 24-142$, § 28, effective upon passage).

Return or Exchange Policies

Legislation passed this session establishes new requirements for businesses to post and disclose their refund and exchange policies and requires these policies to include specified disclosures. It requires businesses that do not disclose their policies to give refunds or allow exchanges under certain conditions (PA 24-142, § 27, effective upon passage).

Emerging Technology

Virtual Currency Regulation

Building on <u>PA 23-82</u>, the legislature passed a law this session further regulating virtual currency. Principally, the act (1) explicitly adds nonfungible tokens ("NFTs") to the non-exhaustive list of digital assets the banking commissioner may regulate; (2) caps the total amount of service fees and commission charges for virtual currency kiosks at 15% per transaction; (3) modifies and bifurcates the current maximum daily kiosk transaction limit, based on whether the person is a new or existing customer; (4) imposes several safeguard duties on kiosk owners and operators, including that they identify and speak by telephone with a customer over age 60 before he or she completes his or her first virtual currency transaction; and (5) limits the availability of kiosk refunds to fraudulent transactions (<u>PA 24-146</u>, effective October 1, 2024).

Employee Benefit Programs

Paid Family and Medical Leave Appeals

By law, anyone aggrieved by the Paid Family Medical Leave Authority's denial of program benefits or by the imposition of penalties for certain program-related fraud may appeal to the Department of Labor (DOL). Any party aggrieved by DOL's subsequent decision may then appeal to the Superior Court. A new law specifies certain procedural steps and other criteria that must be followed in these appeals to the court. Among other things, it (1) generally limits what the court considers in the appeal to certain factors (e.g., whether DOL incorrectly applied the law to the facts it found) and (2) specifies what actions the court may take in deciding the appeal (PA 24-102, effective July 1, 2024).

Paid Family and Medical Leave Changes

A new law makes various changes in the state's paid family and medical leave insurance (PFMLI) law. Among other things, the new law:

- 1. codifies requirements for employers to register with and submit reports to the PFMLI Authority, which administers the program;
- 2. sets a process for the authority to recover benefit overpayments and penalties;
- 3. allows claimants to receive PFMLI benefits concurrently with benefits from the state's Victim Compensation Program within certain limitations; and
- 4. broadens the state's family violence leave law to also allow employees who are sexual assault victims to take leave from work (and qualify for PFMLI benefits) if they need to miss work for certain related reasons (PA 24-5, effective October 1, 2024).

Paid Sick Days

Since 2012, the state's paid sick leave law has generally required certain employers with at least 50 employees to give up to 40 hours of paid sick leave annually to their "service workers" in certain

specified occupations (e.g., food service workers, health care workers, and numerous others). This year, the legislature expanded the law in numerous ways, to, among other things:

- cover nearly all private sector employees and employers with at least 25 employees in 2025, those with at least 11 employees in 2026, and then those with at least one employee in 2027;
- 2. broaden the range of family members for whom an employee may use the leave;
- 3. increase the rate at which employees accrue leave from one hour of leave for every 40 hours worked, to one hour of leave for every 30 hours worked;
- 4. broaden the reasons employees may use the leave to include events like closures due to public health emergencies and quarantines; and
- 5. prohibit employers from requiring their employees to provide documentation to support their reasons for taking leave (<u>PA 24-8</u>, effective January 1, 2025).

A different new law exempts violations of the paid sick leave law from the additional \$300 civil penalty for violating the state's wage and employment regulation laws, leaving them subject only to the penalties set in the paid sick leave law (i.e., generally, up to \$100 per violation but \$500 for certain prohibited retaliatory personnel actions, in addition to specified other relief that DOL may order) (PA 24-147, § 7, effective January 1, 2025).

Tri-Share Child Care Matching Program

A new law requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), within available appropriations, to create a Tri-Share Child Care Matching Program for New London County in which participating employers, employees, and the state equally share child care costs. The program must run for at least two years and be administered by a regional or statewide organization selected by OEC. To participate, employers must have a physical facility in New London County that is its employees' principal workplace and employees must, among other things, live in Connecticut and not be receiving other public assistance for child care costs (<u>PA 24-91</u>, § 3, effective July 1, 2024).

Employers

Penalties for Violating Laws on "Pay Stubs" and Visible Time Card Clocks

A new law increases, from \$300 to \$600, the civil penalty for violating the laws requiring employers to (1) give employees written or electronic "pay stubs" with their earnings and deductions and (2) have an easily visible, synchronized clock if they use a time card system, recording clock, or other device to record their employees' work time (<u>PA 24-147</u>, § 7, effective January 1, 2025).

Unemployment Report Zip Codes

Existing law generally requires employers to file quarterly employee wage reports with DOL for unemployment tax purposes, and starting in the third calendar quarter in 2026, employers may also include in these reports an employee's occupation, hours worked, and a zip code. A new law requires this zip code to be for the employee's primary worksite, rather than the employer's mailing address (PA 24-147, § 2, effective upon passage).

Environment and Health

Beverage Container Redemption

A new law prohibits, under the state's beverage container redemption law ("bottle bill"), offering an empty beverage container to a dealer, redemption center, reverse vending machine, distributor, or deposit initiator, to obtain its refund value or handling fee if the offeror knows, or should know, that it was already redeemed or originally purchased out-of-state. It correspondingly requires dealers, redemption, centers, and reverse vending machine operators to post a sign informing users about the prohibition. A violation of the prohibition or signage posting requirement is subject to the same fines that apply to other bottle bill violations (<u>PA 24-2</u>, effective upon passage).

Online Prevention Education for Electronic Nicotine Delivery System Dealer Registration

A new law requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to administer an online prevention education program for authorized owners and designees of businesses registered to sell electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products ("e-cigarettes"). The law prohibits DCP from issuing new or renewed e-cigarette dealer registrations unless applicants certify that the authorized owner or named designee of that business has completed the online prevention training program. DMHAS must begin administering the program by October 1, 2024 (PA 24-54, §§ 1 & 2, effective upon passage).

PFAS Regulation

The legislature passed a law regulating the sale and use of certain products containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a class of man-made chemicals resistant to heat, water, and oil. They are persistent in the environment and the human body; they bioaccumulate and do not break down.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the act requires disclosures to purchasers if the following products contain intentionally added PFAS: outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions and turnout gear used by firefighters and emergency medical service personnel. Beginning July 1, 2026, the act requires

manufacturers to label the following 12 product categories if they contain intentionally added PFAS: apparel, carpets or rugs, cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, dental floss, fabric treatments, children's products, menstruation products, ski wax, textile furnishings, and upholstered furniture. Beginning January 1, 2028, the act bans manufacturing, selling, or offering or distributing for sale, all 14 of these products if they contain intentionally added PFAS (PA 24-59, effective October 1, 2024).

Targeted Development

Biomedical Research Trust Fund

This session, the legislature eliminated the Biomedical Research Trust Fund and required the state comptroller to transfer its remaining balance to the General Fund by June 30, 2025. Under prior law, the public health commissioner could make grants from this fund to Connecticut-based (1) nonprofit colleges and universities and (2) hospitals doing biomedical research in heart disease, cancer, and other tobacco-related diseases; Alzheimer's disease; stroke; and diabetes (the Department of Public Health has not done so since 2015) (PA 24-81, §§ 95-97, effective July 1, 2025, except that the funds transfer is effective upon passage).

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

This year, the legislature passed a law establishing the Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission. Among other things, the commission must advance bilateral trade, promote business and academic exchanges, and initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest between Connecticut and Ireland. Under the law, the commission consists of 23 members who are involved in organizations promoting Irish affairs or interested in trade relations between Connecticut and Ireland, including representatives of Irish American communities in Connecticut. The commission must hold its first meeting by November 1, 2024 (<u>PA 24-60</u>, effective upon passage).

Economic Development and Tourism in the Greater Mystic Area

The legislature this session established a working group to develop an economic and tourism plan for the greater Mystic area in the towns of Groton, New London, and Stonington. Among other things, the group is tasked with developing initiatives to promote tourism, examining transportation options to ease traffic and support business development, and proposing ways to develop the workforce. The group must consider the potential impact of future flooding events on tourism areas and identify federal funding opportunities for tourism, transportation, and climate resilience infrastructure (<u>SA 24-2</u>, effective upon passage).

Offshore Wind Projects and State Commercial Fishing Licensees

A new law requires developers bidding on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) offshore wind solicitations to commit to using best efforts to employ state commercial fishing licensees when all other factors are equal. The requirement applies (1) to solicitations on and after July 1, 2024, under an existing authorization for DEEP to solicit proposals for up to 2,000 megawatts from offshore wind (and related transmission) providers and (2) when bidders employ or contract with fisherman for support services (e.g., scouting for fishing gear or serving as a safety vessel in a construction zone) for selected projects (PA 24-38, § 2, effective upon passage).

XL Center

Existing law allows the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), by December 31, 2025, to enter into an agreement with the contractor that is managing and operating the XL Center on July 1, 2023, to continue doing so. A new law exempts from the sales and use taxes tangible personal property or services needed for the XL Center's operations that are sold to the contractor while it is operating the center. The new law also increases, from \$80 million to \$125 million, the cap on funding that CRDA, the state, or both together, may contribute toward the cost of any XL Center renovation or reconstruction occurring after January 1, 2023. By law, the contractor must contribute at least \$20 million (PA 24-81, §§ 47 & 48, effective July 1, 2024).

Tax Credits and Incentives

Additional Deduction for Certain Combined Groups Affected by Combined Reporting

For a 30-year period beginning with the 2026 income year, a new law allows certain combined groups to take a corporation business tax deduction equal to 1/30th of the amount necessary to offset the increase in the valuation allowance against net operating losses (NOLs) and tax credits in Connecticut that resulted from the state's shift to combined reporting (implemented in the 2016 income year). A "valuation allowance" is the portion of a deferred tax asset for which it is likely that a tax benefit will not be realized, as determined under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). To qualify for the deduction, the group must, among other things, (1) be a publicly traded company as of January 1, 2026; (2) have experienced an aggregate decrease in the amount of NOLs or tax credits that they may realize in Connecticut due to the shift to combined reporting; and (3) be claiming the FAS 109 corporate income tax deduction. Companies wishing to claim this deduction must file a statement with the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) by July 1, 2025 (<u>PA 24-151</u>, § 137, effective January 1, 2025).

Invest CT Tax Credit

A new law allows applicants for the Invest CT tax credit, from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2026, to ask the DECD commissioner to consider a business without principal operations in Connecticut as an eligible business for investments under the program. The commissioner may approve the request if he determines that it would significantly advance the program's objectives. An applicant must apply to the commissioner as he prescribes and meet other program requirements (PA 24-33, effective October 1, 2024).

Working Group to Examine Tax Expenditures

A new law creates a nine-member working group to examine the state's statutory tax expenditures to simplify the state tax code and identify those that are redundant, obsolete, duplicative, or inconsistent in language or policy. By law, "tax expenditures" are tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, or credits that result in less revenue to the state or municipalities than they would otherwise receive. The working group must report its findings and recommendations for simplifying the state tax code to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee by January 1, 2025 (PA 24-151, § 126, effective upon passage).

Taxes and Fees

Assessment Appeals Brought to Superior Court

Existing law allows taxpayers aggrieved by a board of assessment appeals' decision to appeal to Superior Court. If the appeal concerns the valuation of real property assessed at \$1 million or more, applicants must file a property appraisal with the court within 120 days after filing the appeal. Under a new law, for any application made on or after July 1, 2022, but before July 1, 2024, that was dismissed because the applicant submitted the appraisal to the municipality's assessor rather than the court, the applicant may bring another application to the court if he or she (1) gave notice to the court of submitting the appraisal to the assessor and (2) applies before September 1, 2024 (PA 24-151, § 114, effective July 1, 2024).

Fixed Property Tax Assessments

An existing property tax incentive allows municipalities to freeze a property's assessed (i.e., taxable) value if it is being developed for certain specified purposes (e.g., office, retail, manufacturing, or certain multifamily residential purposes). This incentive allows the property's owner to develop the property without paying taxes on the improvements during the freeze. This year, the legislature changed the law to allow municipalities to provide a freeze for up to 30 years and for personal property as well as real property. Under prior law, the freeze could last for up to 10 years and applied only to real property (<u>PA 24-143</u>, § 6, as amended, effective October 1, 2024).

Interest on Certain Tax Underpayments

Taxpayers will no longer owe interest on underpayments of corporation business, pass-through entity, and personal income taxes if the underpayment was due to an amended return filing required by Internal Revenue Service guidance on the federal employee retention credit. A new law exempts them from these interest payments and requires DRS to treat any interest already paid on these underpayments as an overpayment and refund it to taxpayers without interest (<u>SB 501, JSS</u>, § 30, effective upon passage).

Motor Vehicle Property Tax Assessments

Beginning October 1, 2024, existing law (1) requires assessors to value motor vehicles using their MSRPs, subject to depreciation (rather than using a guide the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) annually selects); (2) requires the motor vehicle department to give municipalities a supplemental list of vehicles it registered on a monthly, rather than annual, basis; and (3) modifies the timeline for supplemental bills. This year, the legislature (1) specified how assessors must value commercial vehicle modifications and attachments; (2) adjusted the depreciation schedule assessors must use to value motor vehicles; (3) eliminated a requirement that OPM define a class of motor vehicles to be treated as personal property for taxing purposes; and (4) eliminated certain statutory deadlines for supplemental bills (SB 501, JSS, §§ 1-12, most provisions effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years beginning October 1, 2024).

Net Operating Loss Carryforward

This session, the legislature extended from 20 to 30 income years the period when corporations may carry forward a NOL deduction for corporation business tax purposes. The extended carry forward period applies to NOLs incurred in income years starting on or after January 1, 2025 (PA 24-151, § 112, effective upon passage).

Property Tax Revaluation Phase-Ins

The law allows municipalities to phase-in post-revaluation assessment increases in property values over a period of up to five years to give taxpayers time to adjust to these increases. This session, the legislature reduced, from 25% to 20%, the minimum revaluation phase-in factor, which in turn allows municipalities to phase-in up to 80%, rather than 75%, of the assessment increase over a maximum of five assessment years (PA 24-132, § 5, effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after October 1, 2024).

Waiving Interest on Delinquent Property Taxes

A new law requires, rather than allows, municipal tax collectors to waive interest on delinquent property taxes when the collector and assessor jointly find that the delinquency was because of a mistake by one of them, not the taxpayer's action or failure. It also requires the municipality's legislative body to approve these waivers (<u>PA 24-90</u>, effective October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years starting on or after that date).

Workforce Development

Global Entrepreneur in Residence Program

The legislature passed a law this session requiring DECD, in consultation with UConn, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the Office of Workforce Strategy, and the governor's office to recommend to the Commerce Committee how to design and establish a three-year Global Entrepreneur in Resident pilot program to attract and retain resident specialists in Connecticut. Under the law, a "resident specialist" is someone who (1) is employed part-time by a private employer in a specialty occupation, (2) is not a United States citizen, and (3) wants to move to or remain in Connecticut as a nonimmigrant while employed by a private employer. The pilot program may also facilitate partnerships between higher education institutions and private employers that employ resident specialists and help resident specialists file visa applications (<u>PA 24-103</u>, effective upon passage).

Governor's Workforce Council

A new law adds a certified teacher to the Governor's Workforce Council's membership. The teacher must be appointed by the governor and employed by a local or regional board of education. By law, the council consists of stakeholders, legislators, and government agency representatives that advise the governor on workforce development matters (<u>PA 24-41</u>, § 39, effective July 1, 2024).

Human Services Career Pipeline Program

By law, the Chief Workforce Officer (CWO) must establish a Human Services Career Pipeline program to ensure there are enough trained providers in the state to serve people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities. A new law removes the July 1, 2024, deadline to establish the program and instead requires CWO to report on its plan for the program by this date. The plan must include CWO's recommendations and funding estimates to implement the program (PA 24-81, § 36, effective upon passage).

Workforce Housing Development Projects

By law, beginning June 1, 2024, investments in certain workforce housing development projects are eligible for tax credits under the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's Housing Tax Credit Contribution program. A new law modifies the set-aside requirements for these projects by (1) increasing, from 40% to 50%, the share of units that must be rented to a designated workforce population (e.g., teachers and police officers) and (2) correspondingly decreasing, from 50% to 40%, the share of units that market rate (PA 24-86, effective June 1, 2024).

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