



SUMMARY OF 2026 PUBLIC ACTS

Connecticut General Assembly

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NOTICE TO USERS

This publication, *Summary of 2026 Public Acts*, summarizes all public acts passed during the Connecticut General Assembly's 2026 Regular Session. Special acts are not summarized. This publication is word searchable and contains hyperlinks for ease of navigation.

Use of This Publication

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Organization of the Publication

The summaries are organized in chapters based on the committee that sponsored the bill. Bills sent directly to the floor without committee action (emergency certification) are placed in a separate chapter. Within each chapter, summaries are arranged in order by public act number.

2026 VETOED ACTS

1. [PA 26-1](#), An Act Concerning the Reallocation of Certain State Funds and Various Provisions Relating to Education, Public Safety, General Government, Elections, Intermediate Care Facilities and Warehouse Distribution Centers (Emergency Certification) (Line Item Veto: §§ 5(a), 6, 7 & 11-13)

TABLE ON PENALTIES

Crimes

The law authorizes courts to impose fines, imprisonment, or both when sentencing a convicted criminal. For most crimes, the court may also impose a probation term. For eligible offenders, the court may order participation in various programs, such as accelerated rehabilitation or the pretrial impaired driving intervention program, and dismiss the charges upon the offender's successful completion of the program.

When sentencing an offender to prison, the judge must specify a period of incarceration. The prison terms in the table below represent the statutorily prescribed range within which a judge must set the sentence. A judge may suspend all or part of a sentence unless the statute specifies it is a mandatory minimum sentence. The judge also sets the exact amount of a fine, generally up to the limits listed below. Repeated or persistent offenses may result in a higher maximum penalty than specified here.

Crime Classification and Penalties

Classification of Crime	Prison Term	Fine (up to)
Class A felony (murder with special circumstances)	Life, without release	\$20,000
Class A felony (murder)	25 to 60 years	20,000
Class A felony (aggravated sexual assault of a minor)	25 to 50 years	20,000
Class A felony	10 to 25 years	20,000
Class B felony (1st degree manslaughter with a firearm)	5 to 40 years	15,000
Class B felony	1 to 20 years	15,000
Class C felony	1 to 10 years	10,000
Class D felony	up to 5 years	5,000
Class E felony	up to 3 years	3,500
Class A misdemeanor	up to 364 days*	2,000
Class B misdemeanor	up to 6 months	1,000
Class C misdemeanor	up to 3 months	500
Class D misdemeanor	up to 30 days	250

*Effective October 1, 2021, CGS § 53a-36a reduced the maximum sentence for misdemeanors from one year to 364 days.

Violations

CGS § 53a-43 authorizes the Superior Court to fix fines for violations up to a maximum of \$500 unless the amount of the fine is specified in the statute establishing the violation. CGS § 54-195 requires the court to impose a fine of up to \$100 on anyone convicted of violating any statute without a specified penalty.

A violation is not a crime. Most statutory violations are subject to Infractions Bureau procedures, which allow the accused to pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance. As with an infraction, the bureau will enter a *nolo contendere* (no contest) plea on behalf of anyone who pays a fine in this way. The plea is inadmissible in any criminal or civil court proceeding against the accused.

Infractions

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus a \$20 or \$35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the amount of the fine. There may be other added charges depending on the type of infraction. For example, certain motor vehicle infractions trigger a Transportation Fund surcharge of 50% of the fine. With the various additional charges, the total amount due can be over \$300 but often is less than \$100.

An infraction is not a crime, and violators can pay the fine to the Centralized Infractions Bureau by mail or online without making a court appearance.

PA 26-1—SB 298

Emergency Certification

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REALLOCATION OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, GENERAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES AND WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS

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[§ 8 — UCONN HEALTH NEUROMODULATION CENTER](#)

Limits treatments at UConn Health's neuromodulation center to disabled veterans, and specifically allows for research at the center

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Exempts school construction projects from certain requirements

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Creates the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education, which may be placed on student diplomas to indicate high proficiency in civics education and engagement; requires SDE to develop criteria for awarding the seal

[§§ 22 & 23 — MULTILINGUAL LEARNER DATA](#)

Expands the statewide PSIS to include data on the (1) academic progress of students in bilingual education programs and (2) evaluation of these programs

[§ 24 — ISLAMIC AND ARAB STUDIES CURRICULUM](#)

Requires SBE to make curriculum materials on Islamic and Arab studies available to school boards and encourage them to provide this instruction

[§ 25 — WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM IN SCHOOLS](#)

Creates a 15-member working group to address antisemitism in public schools by assisting boards of education and other education stakeholders

[§§ 26 & 27 — KINDERGARTEN WAIVERS](#)

Makes the kindergarten waiver process optional for school districts starting July 1, 2026, and eliminates the optional waiver process starting July 1, 2027

§§ 28-30 — RACIAL IMBALANCE LAW

Extends the pause on enforcement of the state's law on racial imbalance at public schools until July 1, 2030

§§ 31-33 — INFORMATION ON PRIOR AND CURRENT YEAR ORIGINAL AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES IN SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESS

Requires information on prior and current fiscal year line items to be included in the itemized estimates prepared during the local and regional school budget processes

§ 34 — SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Sets a deadline for when certain information must start being incorporated into SRO MOUs and requires these MOUs to be updated at least every three years

§ 35 — REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD RESERVE FUNDS

Explicitly allows regional boards of education to deposit funds previously appropriated to and currently in a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures into a reserve fund for educational expenditures

§ 36 — VISION SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS

Explicitly allows school boards to offer vision screenings in preschool and second grade

§ 37 — OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM ADDITION

Adds Madison to the Open Choice program as a receiving and sending district

§ 38 — ATTENDANCE AT TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR NEGOTIATIONS

Requires at least one school board member to be present during teacher and administrator negotiations but prohibits school board members who are also teachers' union or administrators' union members from attending

§ 39 — HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS

Allows nurses to reject health assessment forms that are not the form required by SBE and requires asthma action plans to be included in these forms if a student has asthma

§ 40 — OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SECOND GRADE

Limits the use of out-of-school suspension for students in grades preschool through second to instances constituting serious physical harm

§ 41 — ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FOR TWICE-EXPELLED STUDENTS

Requires school boards to offer an alternative education opportunity for students ages 16 to 18 who are expelled for the first or second time

§ 42 — NOTIFICATION OF RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION

Requires school boards to notify parents of a student placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day it happens

§ 43 — STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER FUNDING

Specifies the education commissioner must allocate funds to SERC as provided in SDE's annual budget

§§ 44-47 — CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS

Establishes new protocols for school crisis response drills that prohibit active assailant simulations; requires the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention to develop guidance for crisis responses and crisis debriefing by April 1, 2026; establishes certain requirements including advanced notice and specific drill day procedures

§ 48 — MUNICIPAL PENSIONS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Generally (1) prohibits municipal pension systems from decreasing a retiree's pension benefit because the retiree receives permanent partial disability benefits and (2) requires them to count an employee's temporary total disability and temporary partial disability benefits as wages when calculating his or her pension benefit

§ 49 — COMPTROLLER STUDY OF POLICE AND FIREFIGHTER PENSION SYSTEMS

Requires the comptroller to study how a municipality that does not have a defined benefit pension plan for its police officers and firefighters can successfully transition them into CMERS or a comparable plan

§§ 50-57 — WAREHOUSE WORKERS

Limits the extent to which employers at certain warehouse distribution centers can require their employees to meet production quotas; sets quota-related notice requirements, prohibitions, and record keeping requirements; allows aggrieved employees to bring a civil action in Superior Court

§§ 58 & 59 — CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Retains Superior Court judge status and reappointment eligibility for any state Supreme Court associate judge appointed chief court administrator and resigned from the state Supreme Court; allows the judges to continue working on cases heard or considered before their resignation; allows them and state Supreme Court associate judges who reached age 70, in a case they heard or considered, to work on any motion filed after the case's decision release; makes them eligible for designation to serve on state Appellate Court matters if they become a state referee

§ 60 — CHANGES TO POLICE TRAINING CURRICULUM ON INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Replaces police officer training curricula on interacting with people who (1) have mental or physical disabilities or (2) are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind

§ 61 — STATE PROPERTIES REVIEW BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Increases the State Properties Review Board's membership from six to eight

§ 62 — TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATION SUBSCRIBER FEE TOWARDS FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF ACCOUNT

Advances by six months the (1) start date of the monthly five-cent telephone service fee to fund the firefighters cancer relief account and (2) deadline for service providers to notify subscribers about the fee

§ 63 — REMOVAL OF SINGLE EXIT STAIRWAY ALLOWANCE IN STATE BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE

Removes from law the requirement that the next adopted versions of the State Building Code and Fire Safety Code allow additional residences to be served by a single exit stairway

§ 64 — ICF-IID RATES

Increases ICF-IID reimbursement rates for FYs 26 through 28

§§ 65 & 66 — CERTIFICATE OF NEED EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LICENSED BEDS

Exempts from CON requirements an increase in licensed beds at a state-owned or -operated hospital if the beds are added prior to July 1, 2026, for inpatient behavioral health services

§ 67 — CHILD SUPPORT ORDER ENFORCEMENT

Allows DSS or SES to notify certain parties about a child support obligor's overdue support when DSS receives a request from another state for help enforcing an order that is not registered in this state but meets certain federal requirements

§ 68 — CHILD SUPPORT ORDER MODIFICATIONS

Removes a prohibition on decreasing an existing support order based solely on income loss due to incarceration for an offense against the custodial party or the child

§§ 69-71 & 73 — EARLY VOTING BALLOT PROCEDURES

Changes early voting ballot procedures related to checking tabulators, receiving ballots, and casting votes into tabulators

§§ 69, 71 & 72 — EARLY VOTING AND SAME-DAY ELECTION REGISTRATION LOCATIONS

Modifies the requirements for certifying early voting and SDR locations; requires the town's legislative body, instead of its registrars, to select any additional early voting locations; prohibits certain political activities of election and primary officials when carrying out their duties

§§ 69, 71, 72, 75 & 76 — MODERATORS

Makes several changes regarding moderators, including (1) expanding registrar reporting requirements on moderators, (2) implementing moderator requirements for SDR locations like those for early voting locations, and (3) expanding the prohibition for individuals convicted or who have pled to certain crimes from being a moderator

§ 74 — PARTY ENROLLMENT PRIVILEGES FOR UNAFFILIATED ELECTORS

Requires certain party enrollment applications to be filed within 18 days, rather than 5 days, before a primary in order for the voter to participate in that primary

§ 77 — AMENDING AND REPORTING ELECTION RETURNS

Requires officials in all municipalities, instead of only those in municipalities with multiple voting districts, to meet to correct errors in election night returns and submit amended returns if necessary

§ 78 — NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION-RELATED CASES

Requires specified entities to notify SOTS about certain election-related actions and violations

§§ 79-82 — ENDORSEMENT AND NOMINATION PETITION CORRECTION PROCESS

Creates a process for candidates to correct endorsement certificates and certificates of candidacies for nomination; authorizes SOTS to make corrections and keep a record of them

§§ 83-87 — BALLOT FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE

Adjusts the requirements for filing ballots with SOTS for review and approval

§ 88 — TECHNICAL CHANGE

Makes technical changes to an absentee voting statute

§ 89 — DECLARATORY JUDGMENTS FOR AGGRIEVED ELECTORS

Authorizes SOTS to initiate declaratory judgment actions on behalf of aggrieved electors within 90 days before an election or primary

§ 90 — LOG OF REJECTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Requires moderators to keep and transmit to SOTS a log of absentee ballots that are rejected because the voter failed to (1) sign the required statement or (2) in certain cases, have provided sufficient identification required by federal law

§§ 91-93 — RECANVASS PROCEDURES

Requires recanvassing all voting districts when a discrepancy occurs, not just the district with the discrepancy; modifies the procedures for communicating with the moderator during a recanvass

§ 94 — EXEMPTING BALLOTS FROM FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT DISCLOSURE

Generally exempts ballots from disclosure under FOIA

§ 95 — REFERENDUM QUESTIONS UNDER HOME RULE ORDINANCES

Expands the definition of referendum to include questions submitted to voters under a home rule ordinance

§§ 96 & 97 — DISCLOSURE OF VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Limits the disclosure and use of voter registration information and subjects violators of the use restrictions to fines; explicitly authorizes SOTS to adopt regulations on the use of voter registration information

§ 98 — REPEALED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Repeals a requirement that school boards annually report to the Commission for Educational Technology certain information on their use of internet websites, online services, or mobile applications

SUMMARY: A section-by-section analysis follows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§§ 1-5 — FY 26 APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS

Adjusts FY 26 appropriations for four state agencies

The act adjusts FY 26 appropriations in several agencies, as shown in the table below.

FY 26 Appropriation Adjustments

§	Agency	Purpose	Amount (\$)
1	Department of Social Services (DSS)	Temporary Family Assistance	-3,400,000
2	Department of Labor	Personal Services, to (1) offset declining federal funds that support unemployment compensation program personnel costs and (2) support the integration of technology solutions in the program to improve service for applicants	1,700,000
3	State Department of Education (SDE)	Adult Education	1,700,000 (unspent funds carry forward to FY 27)
5	SDE	Other Expenses	-174,000 (transferred to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for the same purpose)
5	DECD	Other Expenses, for a grant to New London VFW (the act requires DECD to enter into a memorandum of understanding to accomplish this purpose)	174,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 6, 7, 9 & 11 — RESERVED AMOUNTS FROM FY 26 AND FY 27 APPROPRIATIONS

Reserves funds from certain agency FY 26 appropriations for various purposes; reserves certain DSS funds for FYs 26 & 27 to support school-based mental health programming in Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield

FY 26 Appropriations (§§ 6, 7 & 11)

The act reserves funds from certain agency FY 26 appropriations for specified purposes, as shown in the table below.

Reserved Amounts From FY 26 Appropriations

§	FY 26 Appropriation	Amount Reserved (\$)	Purpose
6	Judicial Department, Other Expenses	70,000	Grant to the Village Initiative Project
7	Office of Policy and Management, Other Expenses	2,500,000	Outdoor recreation in Hartford
11	DECD, Other Expenses	330,000	Grant to Our Piece of the Pie

School-Based Mental Health Programming (§ 9)

The act reserves \$1.5 million in FY 26 and \$1 million in FY 27 from DSS's Other Expenses appropriation and requires that the funds be used for grants to school districts in Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield to support or create high acuity, school-based mental health programming. (PA 26-168, § 17, requires that the grants be made in support of these districts, rather than to the districts themselves.)

Under the act, programming supported by these funds must be offered by a "qualified provider" and include (1) clinical care to prevent outplacement of students with intensive behavioral health challenges or to return the students to their home district, (2) in-person therapeutic services in a designated school space by mental health clinicians that have at least a master's degree in a related program, and (3) therapeutic support capabilities (such as regular clinical supervision and specific interventions meant to reduce chronic absenteeism). Under the act, a "qualified provider" is one designated as an outpatient psychiatric clinic for children by DCF and contracted to bill Medicaid or commercial insurance in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 8 — UCONN HEALTH NEUROMODULATION CENTER

Limits treatments at UConn Health's neuromodulation center to disabled veterans, and specifically allows for research at the center

Last year's budget implementer required UConn Health to establish a Center of Excellence for Neuromodulation Treatments and allowed UConn Health to collaborate with an in-state hospital to provide neuromodulation treatments at this center. The act limits the provision of treatments to disabled veterans (in line with UConn Health's plans for the center, which is not yet open). It also specifically allows for neuromodulation research at this center.

By law, "neuromodulation" is the alteration of nerve activity through targeted delivery of a stimulus, including electrical stimulation or chemical agents, to specific neurological sites in the body. In practice, neuromodulation can be used in various treatments, such as for stroke recovery, Parkinson's Disease, and chronic pain.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 10 & 14-19 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, AND MODIFICATIONS

Exempts school construction projects from certain requirements

The act exempts school construction projects in three towns and one regional school district from certain statutory and regulatory requirements allowing them to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants for otherwise ineligible costs or receive higher reimbursement percentages for the grants. (These exemptions are commonly referred to

as “notwithstandings.”) Generally, other than the specific notwithstanding provisions mentioned below, the projects must meet all other eligibility requirements.

The table below describes the notwithstandings under the act.

Notwithstandings for School Construction Projects

<i>Act §</i>	<i>Town or District</i>	<i>School and Project</i>	<i>Exemption, Waiver or Other Change</i>
10	Windham	Windham High School, renovation	Modifies a 2021 notwithstanding by removing the requirements that Windham be an educational reform district on June 30, 2021, and that construction begin by June 30, 2022, for the renovation project to receive a 95% reimbursement rate
14	Fairfield	Allows the town to receive up to \$600,000 in reimbursements for certain ineligible costs and audit deficiencies for the Mill Hill Elementary School extension and alteration project	Narrows the scope of the notwithstanding by eliminating the audit deficiencies provision; changes the project number from 093-0367 to 051-0149 EA
17	Cheshire	Unspecified energy or infrastructure improvement projects at any elementary, middle, or high school including photovoltaic; building management systems; energy conservation; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; and roof replacements	Allows otherwise ineligible costs associated with existing or future energy or infrastructure improvement projects to be eligible for a reimbursement grant when financed through a tax-exempt lease purchase agreement
18	Region 13 (Durham and Middlefield)	Middlefield Memorial School, project unspecified	Modifies a 2025 notwithstanding for the project (with a previously approved maximum cost of \$76.13 million) by applying the 15 percentage point reimbursement rate bonus to the entire project rather than just the early childhood care and education program space Additionally makes the project eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs relating to the Phase 1 swing space (temporary space) used for students while construction makes Middlefield Memorial School unavailable, if the ineligible costs do not exceed \$2 million
19	Hartford	Alteration projects: Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School, Parkville Community School, McDonough Middle School	Waives the two-year deadline to begin construction after legislative approval if Hartford begins construction by June 30, 2028

Act §	Town or District	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver or Other Change
		Renovation projects: Montessori Magnet at Batchelder, S.A.N.D. Elementary School, Maria C. Colon Sanchez Elementary School	

The act also makes technical corrections to two previously authorized notwithstanding (§§ 15 & 16).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 12 — TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Specifies that funds reserved in PA 25-168 for a teacher residency program in FYs 26 & 27 must go to a program operated by the Capitol Region Education Council

PA 25-168, § 1, reserves \$750,000 in each of FYs 26 and 27 from SDE's Other Expenses appropriation and requires the agency to make the funds available to a teacher residency program. This act specifies that the program that receives the funds must be operated by the Capitol Region Education Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 13 — SDE CARRYFORWARD

Carries forward, to FY 27, a portion of SDE's FY 26 appropriation that was reserved for a grant to Free Agent Now

The act carries forward the \$200,000 that was reserved from SDE's FY 26 Other Expenses appropriation for a grant to Free Agent Now and makes it available for the same purpose in FY 27.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 20 & 21 — CONNECTICUT STATE SEAL OF CIVICS EDUCATION

Creates the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education, which may be placed on student diplomas to indicate high proficiency in civics education and engagement; requires SDE to develop criteria for awarding the seal

The act creates the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement and allows school governing boards to place the seal on eligible high school graduates' diplomas to signify that they achieved high proficiency in civics education and engagement.

It requires SDE to establish criteria for awarding the seal, which must at least require the student to:

1. successfully complete a history or social science course for at least two school years, including one U.S. government or civics course;
2. participate in at least one civic engagement project (such as community service, student government, internship with an elected official, or civic organization involvement); and
3. demonstrate proficiency in civics knowledge through a standardized assessment, work portfolio (including civics-related essays, projects, or presentations), or other mastery-based assessment or process.

Under the act, the seal may be awarded by local and regional boards of education and by governing boards of any other diploma-awarding school. If a board of education chooses to award this seal to eligible students, it must also indicate on each recipient student's transcript that he or she was awarded the seal. School boards may award this seal starting with classes graduating in 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 22 & 23 — MULTILINGUAL LEARNER DATA

Expands the statewide PSIS to include data on the (1) academic progress of students in bilingual education programs and (2) evaluation of these programs

The act expands the statewide public school information system (PSIS) to include data on the (1) academic progress of students in bilingual education programs and (2) evaluation of these programs. By law, PSIS contains data related to each K-12 student and teacher in Connecticut public schools. It has both public information (such as school population and graduation rates) and confidential information (for example, individual student and teacher information such as student mastery examination scores and teacher certifications). School districts use the student data to evaluate their educational performance and growth.

Specifically, the act requires this student data to include mastery examination results for students in bilingual education programs in order to monitor their academic progress. Existing law already required SDE to collect and disaggregate this data and report it annually to the Education Committee.

The act expands SDE's existing bill of rights for parents and guardians of multilingual learner students to include their right to access publicly available data on bilingual students and programs, which the act requires to be added in the PSIS. By law, each school board that provides bilingual education or English as a second language (ESL) must give parents and guardians a copy of the bill of rights, which also includes 15 other declarations related to bilingual education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 24 — ISLAMIC AND ARAB STUDIES CURRICULUM

Requires SBE to make curriculum materials on Islamic and Arab studies available to school boards and encourage them to provide this instruction

The act requires the State Board of Education (SBE), within available appropriations and using available resource materials, to (1) make curriculum materials on Islamic and Arab studies available to local and regional boards of education and (2) encourage them to provide instruction in this area. Boards may use these materials to develop an instructional program for the public schools under their jurisdiction.

The law already requires SBE to make curriculum materials available for various other programs, such as (1) African-American and Black studies, Puerto Rican and Latino studies, Native American studies, and Asian American and Pacific Islander studies; (2) personal financial management; (3) the Holocaust and genocide awareness; and (4) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic external defibrillators.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 25 — WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM IN SCHOOLS

Creates a 15-member working group to address antisemitism in public schools by assisting boards of education and other education stakeholders

The act establishes a 15-member working group to address antisemitism in public schools. The group must develop guidance and resources to address antisemitism issues that affect students, families, educators, and school personnel. The guidance and resources may include:

1. suggested amendments to school district policies to ensure that all students, educators, and school personnel feel safe inside and outside of the school setting;
2. recommended antisemitism-related training for educators and administrators; and
3. guidance for creating or providing curriculum materials and resources about antisemitism, Jewish heritage, and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness.

The act requires the curriculum materials and resources to be appropriate for school districts to use in meeting the existing requirement that Holocaust and genocide education and awareness be part of every school district's social studies curriculum.

Working Group Membership

The 15-member working group includes the following individuals or their designees: the (1) Connecticut Association of Boards of Education executive director, (2) Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents executive director,

(3) Connecticut Education Association president, and (4) SDE commissioner. Additionally, there are 10 members appointed by the legislative leaders and one appointed by the governor. The table below shows the appointing authority and required qualifications for each of these appointed working group members.

Working Group Appointed Members

Appointing Authority	Number of Appointments	Qualifications
House speaker	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A school administrator with expertise and knowledge in curriculum development and implementation • Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut representative
Senate president pro tempore	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person with knowledge and national and local expertise and experience in developing innovative and collaborative resources to address antisemitism in schools • Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut representative
House majority leader	1	Teacher with professional knowledge and experience addressing and combatting antisemitism in a public school in the state
Senate majority leader	1	Person with experience in teaching and school administration and with expertise in addressing and combatting antisemitism and teaching Jewish heritage
House minority leader	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current or former faculty member of a college or university with expertise in curriculum development and knowledge and proven experience in addressing antisemitism and teaching Jewish heritage • Person with professional experience addressing antisemitism in the state
Senate minority leader	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader at college or university in the state with knowledge and expertise in program development addressing antisemitism curriculum • Person with professional experience addressing antisemitism in the state
Governor	1	Representative from a national organization with expertise in the study of global antisemitism and an interdisciplinary study of antisemitism.

All initial working group appointments must be made by April 2, 2026, and any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority.

The House Speaker and the Senate president pro tempore must each select a co-chairperson from among the members. The co-chairs must jointly schedule the first meeting of the working group by May 2, 2026.

The administrative staff of the Education Committee serves as the working group's administrative staff.

By January 1, 2027, the working group must submit the guidance and resources it develops, and any recommendations for legislation, to the Education Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 26 & 27 — KINDERGARTEN WAIVERS

Makes the kindergarten waiver process optional for school districts starting July 1, 2026, and eliminates the optional waiver process starting July 1, 2027

By law, a child generally must be at least age five by September 1 of the school year to enroll in public school kindergarten. But prior law established a mandatory waiver process that allows children under age five to be admitted if the (1) child's parent or guardian makes a written request to the school principal and (2) principal and an appropriate certified school staff member do an assessment that shows the child is developmentally ready.

Starting July 1, 2026, the act makes this waiver process optional for school districts by allowing children under age five to enroll in kindergarten only if the school board adopts an early admissions policy. Any admissions policy must require the same written request and evaluation as was required under prior law. Starting July 1, 2027, the act eliminates this waiver process entirely (both mandatory and optional).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, for the provision making the process optional and July 1, 2027, for the provision eliminating the waiver process entirely.

§§ 28-30 — RACIAL IMBALANCE LAW

Extends the pause on enforcement of the state's law on racial imbalance at public schools until July 1, 2030

The racial imbalance law requires SBE, when it finds a racial imbalance at a public school, to give the school's board of education written notification. In response, the notified school board must prepare a plan to correct the imbalance and submit it to SBE for approval.

PA 24-93, §§ 3-5, paused enforcement of this law for one year by prohibiting SBE from notifying a school board about a racial imbalance at one of its schools until July 1, 2025. The act extends this prohibition until July 1, 2030. It similarly extends provisions (1) suspending the requirement for a notified board to prepare and file a correction plan and (2) prohibiting SBE from taking any action on any plan received on or after July 1, 2024.

By law a "racial imbalance" is a proportion of minority students enrolled in all grades in a public school that substantially exceeds, or substantially falls short of, the proportion of minority students in the same grades in all the district's public schools. For example, if one grammar school in a district has a minority student enrollment that is disproportionately higher than the other grammar schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 31-33 — INFORMATION ON PRIOR AND CURRENT YEAR ORIGINAL AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES IN SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESS

Requires information on prior and current fiscal year line items to be included in the itemized estimates prepared during the local and regional school budget processes

Local Boards of Education (§§ 31 & 32)

By law, local boards of education must prepare an itemized estimate of school expenses in the upcoming fiscal year and submit it to the board of finance or other authority making appropriations to the school district at least two months before the meeting at which appropriations will be made. The itemized estimate is one where broad budget categories (for example, salaries, utilities, grounds maintenance) are divided into line items (CGS § 10-222).

The act requires superintendents to annually give local school board members the following information:

1. the amount appropriated to each line item at the start of the fiscal year ("original amount") and the amount of the line item at the end of the fiscal year ("actual amount") for the two most recently completed fiscal years and
2. the original amount for each line item and the current amount for the fiscal year currently in progress.

Under the act, the superintendent must provide this information during the preparation of the itemized estimate for FY 28 and each fiscal year after this.

The act also requires the local board of education to include the above information on original, actual, and current amounts in the itemized estimate of school operating expenses.

Regional School Districts (§ 33)

The act requires the proposed budget that a regional school board presents at a public district meeting to include the same information on budget line items required for the local school budgets, described above. It also requires the same information to be included in the budget presented at the annual meeting on the first Monday in May.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except that the provision on information superintendents must give the board (§ 31) is effective January 1, 2027.

§ 34 — SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Sets a deadline for when certain information must start being incorporated into SRO MOUs and requires these MOUs to be updated at least every three years

By law, each school board that assigns a school resource officer (SRO) to its schools must have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a local law enforcement agency. The MOU must address the SRO's role and responsibility in the school.

Existing law requires (1) school boards to maintain the MOU in a central location in the district and post it on the district's website and the website for each school where the SRO is assigned and (2) the MOUs to include information on the officer's daily interactions with students and staff and a student discipline graduated response model. The act sets a January 1, 2027, deadline for school boards to comply with these requirements.

The act also requires these MOUs to be updated at least every three years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 35 — REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD RESERVE FUNDS

Explicitly allows regional boards of education to deposit funds previously appropriated to and currently in a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures into a reserve fund for educational expenditures

PA 24-45 allows regional boards of education to create reserve funds for educational expenditures. Prior law had instead allowed boards to create reserve funds for capital and nonrecurring expenditures. Starting with FY 26, the act explicitly allows regional boards of education to deposit funds previously appropriated to and currently in a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures into a reserve fund for educational expenditures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 36 — VISION SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS

Explicitly allows school boards to offer vision screenings in preschool and second grade

The act allows school boards to offer vision screenings to students in preschool and second grade. By law, vision screenings must be provided to all students in kindergarten, first grade, and third through fifth grade.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 37 — OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM ADDITION

Adds Madison to the Open Choice program as a receiving and sending district

The act adds the town of Madison to the Open Choice program as a receiving and sending district with New Haven beginning the 2026-27 school year. This addition allows students from Madison to attend school in the New Haven system and vice versa.

The Open Choice Program is a voluntary, interdistrict attendance program that allows students from large urban districts to attend suburban schools and vice versa, on a space-available basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 38 — ATTENDANCE AT TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR NEGOTIATIONS

Requires at least one school board member to be present during teacher and administrator negotiations but prohibits school board members who are also teachers' union or administrators' union members from attending

The act requires at least one school board member to be present during teacher and administrator contract negotiations, but no school board member who is also a member of the teachers' or administrators' union may be present during the negotiations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 39 — HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS

Allows nurses to reject health assessment forms that are not the form required by SBE and requires asthma action plans to be included in these forms if a student has asthma

By law, student health assessments and screenings must be recorded on specific forms provided by SBE and included in the student's cumulative health record.

The act explicitly allows school nurses to reject assessments or screenings submitted in a format other than the SBE-required form and require resubmission on the SBE form.

Additionally, the act requires that an asthma action plan be included in health assessment forms for students diagnosed with asthma.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 40 — OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SECOND GRADE

Limits the use of out-of-school suspension for students in grades preschool through second to instances constituting serious physical harm

The act limits the circumstances under which school administration may give out-of-school suspension to students in grades kindergarten through second.

Under prior law, schools could impose out-of-school suspension on students in these grades if an administrator found, at a student's informal disciplinary hearing, that the suspension is appropriate due to evidence that the student's conduct on school grounds is behavior that causes physical harm. Under the act, the administrator may do this only if he or she finds the physical harm was serious.

By law, and unchanged by the act, school boards may not authorize out-of-school suspension for preschoolers (CGS § 10-233l(c)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 41 — ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FOR TWICE-EXPELLED STUDENTS

Requires school boards to offer an alternative education opportunity for students ages 16 to 18 who are expelled for the first or second time

The act requires school boards to offer an alternative education opportunity to students ages 16 to 18 who are expelled for the first or second time and wish to continue their education. Prior law required school boards to do so only for students in this age range who are expelled for the first time. By law, unchanged by the act, a student may be offered the alternative education opportunity only if he or she complies with conditions the school board sets, and an expulsion before age 16 counts when school boards determine whether an alternative education opportunity is required for students ages 16 to 18.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 42 — NOTIFICATION OF RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION

Requires school boards to notify parents of a student placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day it happens

The act requires school boards to notify the parents or guardian of a student placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day it happens, rather than within 24 hours after it happened as prior law required. Under existing law, and unchanged by the act, the school board must make a reasonable effort to notify them immediately after the restraint or seclusion begins.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 43 — STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER FUNDING

Specifies the education commissioner must allocate funds to SERC as provided in SDE's annual budget

The act specifies that when the education commissioner allocates funds to the State Education Resource Center (SERC) as required by law, she must allocate the amount stated in SDE's annual budget. By law, SDE gives funds to SERC for the center to provide professional development training, technical assistance and evaluation activities, policy analysis, and other assistance to school boards, charter schools, SDE, and the Technical Education and Career System.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 44-47 — CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS

Establishes new protocols for school crisis response drills that prohibit active assailant simulations; requires the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention to develop guidance for crisis responses and crisis debriefing by April 1, 2026; establishes certain requirements including advanced notice and specific drill day procedures

Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, the act establishes new protocols for school crisis response drills that, among other things, prohibit active assailant simulations, are designed to support the physical and psychological safety of students and school personnel, and give students, school personnel, and parents and guardians one week advance notice before a drill is held. By law, and unchanged by the act, each public school must conduct a quarterly crisis response drill.

The act requires the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention ("crisis prevention center") at Western Connecticut State University, in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), to develop (1) standard terminology and definitions and (2) guidance for crisis responses and crisis debriefing by April 1, 2027.

The act also requires each board of education to make the parts of each school's security and safety plan that are not prohibited from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) available, upon request, to members of the school community.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

New Crisis Response Drill Protocols (§§ 45 & 46)

Starting with the 2027-28 school year, the act requires each school district to take certain steps before holding a crisis response drill and to follow the act's requirements when holding the drills.

Requirements and Steps Before Conducting a Drill. The act requires each school's school security and safety committee to collaborate with its school climate committee to plan crisis response drills that prioritize the physical and psychological safety of students and school personnel. By law, a school's security and safety committee must develop and administer the school's security and safety plan, and the school climate committee has duties related to the school's anti-bullying climate improvement plan and related activities.

The act requires school boards to use the definitions, terminology, and guidance developed under the act (see § 44 below) when planning, conducting, and evaluating their crisis response drills. It also requires them to ensure that these drills (1) are trauma-informed, (2) use an approach that considers prior traumatic experiences, (3) are designed to prevent emotional harm to students and school personnel and support their psychological safety, and (4) have mental health professionals' participation integrated throughout the drill.

Before holding a drill, the act requires that school personnel:

1. educate students and train staff to build knowledge and skills to reduce the potential for confusion or emotional distress, including reviewing the drill's purpose and procedures before the first drill of the year;
2. notify students, staff, and parents and guardians one week in advance before the drill; and

3. communicate, in a clear way, the nature and purpose of the drills to the parents and guardians of students at the school.

The act also prohibits student drills from including an active assailant simulation or simulated violence with highly sensorial elements (such as fake assailants, firearms, gunfire sounds, blood, or injuries). A drill may include an active assailant simulation or simulated violence if it is held outside of the regular school day and exclusively for school personnel, first responders, and other school volunteers.

Drill Day Requirements. At the start of a crisis response drill, the act requires school staff to inform students and other school personnel that they are participating in a drill to avoid confusion when an actual emergency occurs. Also, the school must accommodate students with cognitive, physical, or sensory disabilities, to the extent practicable, during the drill to ensure their safety and participation.

Evaluation. The act requires school staff to evaluate each crisis response drill using the evaluation template developed according to the act.

Drill Definitions, Terminology, and Guidance (§ 44)

The act requires DESPP and the center, by April 1, 2027, to develop:

1. a school crisis response drill definition,
2. standardized terminology for conducting and reviewing crisis response drills,
3. guidance on standardized (a) crisis responses and (b) debriefing protocols following a crisis, and
4. an evaluation template that allows school districts to use drill participant feedback to (a) assess drill efficacy and (b) adjust future drills to improve preparedness while preventing emotional harm and supporting psychological safety.

Additionally, the act requires the crisis prevention center, in collaboration with DESPP, to study the impact of crisis response drills on the school community.

The act requires the crisis prevention center to submit the guidance on standardized responses and a report on the crisis response drills impact study to the Education Committee by July 1, 2028.

School Security and Safety Plan Available to School Community (§ 47)

By law, each local and regional board of education must annually submit the school security and safety plan for each school under its jurisdiction to DESPP. The act also requires each board to make any part of the plan that is not prohibited from disclosure under FOIA (CGS §§ 1-200 to -243) available to school community members upon request.

While FOIA generally requires government documents and records to be made available to the public, there are exceptions. Existing exceptions include when there are reasonable grounds to believe disclosure of records could result in a safety risk, including emergency plans and emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation plans (CGS § 1-210(b)(19)).

§ 48 — MUNICIPAL PENSIONS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Generally (1) prohibits municipal pension systems from decreasing a retiree's pension benefit because the retiree receives permanent partial disability benefits and (2) requires them to count an employee's temporary total disability and temporary partial disability benefits as wages when calculating his or her pension benefit

The act makes changes to how certain workers' compensation (WC) benefits may be used when calculating a retiree's pension benefit in certain municipal pension systems. More specifically, it prohibits municipal or special taxing district pension systems from diminishing or eliminating a retiree's pension rights or benefits because the retiree received permanent partial disability benefits on or after July 1, 2026, under the WC laws for partial incapacity benefits.

It also requires these pension systems to include an employee's WC temporary total disability and temporary partial disability benefits as wages when calculating his or her pension benefit. However, the sum of the WC benefits and any other wages or compensation used to calculate the pension benefit cannot exceed 100% of the employee's wages from the municipality or district in effect immediately before the injury for which he or she received the WC benefits. The act also specifies that this provision does not apply to the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS).

Under the act, both of the provisions above (1) apply regardless of any state law or special act and (2) do not impair or alter the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement in effect before July 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 49 — COMPTROLLER STUDY OF POLICE AND FIREFIGHTER PENSION SYSTEMS

Requires the comptroller to study how a municipality that does not have a defined benefit pension plan for its police officers and firefighters can successfully transition them into CMERS or a comparable plan

The act requires the comptroller to study the considerations needed for a municipality that does not currently have a defined pension plan (presumably, a defined benefit pension plan) for its police officers and firefighters to successfully transition them into CMERS or another defined pension plan with benefits comparable or superior to those offered by CMERS. The comptroller must report the study's results to the Labor and Public Employees Committee by January 1, 2028.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 50-57 — WAREHOUSE WORKERS

Limits the extent to which employers at certain warehouse distribution centers can require their employees to meet production quotas; sets quota-related notice requirements, prohibitions, and record keeping requirements; allows aggrieved employees to bring a civil action in Superior Court

The act limits the extent to which employers at certain warehouse distribution centers can require their employees to meet production quotas. It generally applies to employers that employ at least (1) 250 employees at a single warehouse distribution center in the state or (2) 1,000 employees at multiple warehouse distribution centers in the state.

Among other things, the act:

1. requires the covered employers to give their employees a written description of the quotas they must meet and any adverse employment actions they may face for failing to do so;
2. prohibits the employers from using quotas that (a) prevent compliance with the state law on meal periods, (b) interfere with the employee using bathroom facilities, or (c) set certain types of performance standards; and
3. sets recordkeeping requirements for employers and requires them to give copies of their quota records to current or former employees who believe that meeting a quota caused a violation of certain provisions in the act.

The act allows an employee aggrieved by a violation to bring a civil action in Superior Court, which may assess civil penalties. It also prohibits employers from discharging or retaliating against employees solely because they requested their quota records or filed a civil action, and it creates a rebuttable presumption that a violation occurred if this happens within 90 days after the request or filing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Covered Employers and Employees

The employers covered by the act are any domestic or foreign legal or commercial entities that over the previous 12 months employed or exercised control over the wages, hours, or working conditions of at least (1) 250 employees at a single warehouse distribution center in the state or (2) 1,000 employees, in total, at multiple warehouse distribution centers in the state. The employer's exercise of control over the employees may be direct or indirect, or through an agent or another entity, including through the services of a third-party employer, temporary services or staffing agency, independent contractor, or any similar entity.

Under the act, a "warehouse distribution center" is a warehouse or warehouse complex owned or leased by an establishment as defined by the following North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, however the establishment is numbered: (1) 493110 for General Warehousing and Storage; (2) 423 for Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods; (3) 424 for Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods; (4) 454110 for Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses; (5) 492110 for Couriers and Express Delivery Services; (6) 452311 for Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters; (7) 452319 for All Other General Merchandise Stores; and (8) 444110 for Home Centers (see *Background — NAICS Codes*).

"Employees" under the act are anyone employed at a warehouse distribution center who is not exempt from the federal Fair Labor Standards Act's minimum wage and overtime requirements, except drivers or couriers traveling to or from a warehouse distribution center.

Quotas

Under the act, a "quota" is a work performance standard where:

1. an employee is assigned or required to (a) perform at a specified productivity speed, (b) perform a certain number of tasks, or (c) handle or produce a certain amount of material within a defined period;

2. an employee's actions are categorized and measured between time performing and not performing tasks within a defined period;
3. time increments within a defined period when an employee is or is not doing a particular activity are measured, recorded, or tallied; or
4. an employee's performance is ranked in relation to other employees' performance.

Quota Disclosure

The act requires covered employers to give employees a written description of each quota they are subject to, including any potential adverse employment action that could result from failing to meet it. The employers must do this for their existing employees by August 1, 2026, and upon hiring for employees hired after that date.

Whenever an employer's change to an employee's existing quota results in a new quota for the employee, the act requires the employer to (1) notify the employee about the change verbally or in writing as soon as practicable, but before the quota takes effect, and (2) give the employee a written description of the new quota within two business days after it changes.

Under the act, all of these required written descriptions must be given directly to the employee or sent to the employee by email.

Prohibited Quotas

The act prohibits quotas from:

1. preventing compliance with the state law on required meal periods (which generally require employees who must work for at least 7.5 consecutive hours to have a 30-minute meal period);
2. interfering with an employee's use of bathroom facilities, including reasonable time to travel to and from them;
3. setting a performance standard that measures an employee's total output over a time increment shorter than the employee's work day; or
4. setting a performance standard based solely on ranking an employee's performance in relation to other employees' performance.

Adverse Action Ban

The act prohibits employers from taking any adverse action against an employee for failing to satisfy a quota that (1) violates the act's prohibited quotas provisions or (2) was not disclosed as the act requires.

Employer Records

The act requires employers to establish, maintain, and preserve contemporaneous, true, and accurate records for (1) each employee's personal work speed data, (2) the aggregate work speed data for similar employees at the same warehouse distribution center, and (3) the written quota descriptions given to each employee as required by the act. The employer must maintain and preserve these records for three years. However, the act specifies that these requirements do not apply if the employer does not assign or require quotas, or collect, store, analyze, or interpret work speed data.

Under the act, "work speed data" is information an employer collects, stores, analyzes, or interprets about an employee's quota performance, including quantities of tasks performed, quantities of items or materials handled or produced, rates or speeds of tasks performed, employee performance measurements or metrics in relation to a quota, or time categorized as performing or not performing tasks. It does not include qualitative performance data, personnel records, wage statements, or data an employer collects, stores, analyzes, or interprets that does not relate to performing a quota, except for content that includes work speed data.

Employee Access to Work Speed Data

If employees believe that satisfying a quota caused or will cause a violation of the act's provisions on prohibited quotas, the act allows them to request (1) a written description of each quota they are subject to, (2) copies of their personal work speed data records for the past 90 days, and (3) copies of the aggregate work speed data for similar employees at the same warehouse distribution center for the past 90 days. The act similarly allows former employees to request this same information for the 90 days before they separated from employment with the employer. However, the act limits a former employee to one of these requests.

The act requires employers, as a soon as practicable, but no later than 10 calendar days after receiving the request, to give the employee a written copy of the requested records in English and the language the employee identifies as his or her primary language. The records must be given to a current employee directly or through email. If a former employee requested the records, they must be given in person at a mutually convenient time or through a mutually convenient delivery method.

Anti-Retaliation

The act prohibits employers from discharging or retaliating, discriminating, or taking any adverse action against an employee or former employee for requesting their quota and work speed data or filing a civil action as allowed by the act (see below).

The act creates a rebuttable presumption that the employer's adverse action violates this prohibition if it occurred within 90 days after the employee or former employee (1) requested their quota and work speed data for the first time in the calendar year or (2) filed the civil action. The presumption may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence that the (1) adverse action was taken for other permissible reasons and (2) employee's request or filing was not a motivating factor for the employer's action.

Civil Actions

The act allows any employee or former employee aggrieved by a violation of the act's provisions, or the attorney general on behalf of a group of employees or former employees, to bring a civil action in Superior Court for damages, civil penalties, and injunctive relief. If the plaintiff prevails in the case, the court may also award attorney's fees and costs. The act sets the civil penalties against an employer at \$1,000 for its first violation, \$2,000 for its second, and \$3,000 for a third or subsequent violation.

Background — NAICS Codes

The NAICS is the standard used by federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

Generally, under the 2022 NAICS:

1. General Warehousing and Storage (493110) covers establishments primarily engaged in operating merchandise warehousing and storage facilities;
2. Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods (423) covers establishments that sell capital or durable goods (those with a normal life expectancy of at least three years) to other businesses;
3. Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods (424) covers establishments that sell nondurable goods to other businesses;
4. Couriers and Express Delivery Services (492110) covers establishments that primarily provide air, surface, or combined mode courier and express delivery services of parcels, but not operating under a universal service obligation; and
5. Home Centers (444110) covers establishments generally known as home centers that primarily retail a general line of new home repair and improvement materials and supplies, like lumber, plumbing goods, electrical goods, tools, housewares, hardware, and lawn and garden supplies, with no one merchandise line predominating.

Generally, under the 2017 NAICS:

1. Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses (454110) covers establishments that primarily retail all types of merchandise using non-store means, like catalogs, toll free telephone numbers, or electronic media;
2. Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters (452311) covers establishments known as warehouse clubs, superstores, or supercenters, that primarily retail a general line of groceries, including a significant amount and variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meats, and other perishables, in combination with a general line of new merchandise, like apparel, furniture, and appliances; and
3. All Other General Merchandise Stores (452319) covers establishments that primarily retail new goods in general merchandise stores (except department stores, warehouse clubs, superstores, and supercenters).

§§ 58 & 59 — CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Retains Superior Court judge status and reappointment eligibility for any state Supreme Court associate judge appointed chief court administrator and resigned from the state Supreme Court; allows the judges to continue working on cases heard or considered before their resignation; allows them and state Supreme Court associate judges who reached age 70, in a case they heard or considered, to work on any motion filed after the case's decision release; makes them eligible for designation to serve on state Appellate Court matters if they become a state referee

By law, the state Supreme Court has a chief justice and six associate judges. When being appointed to the state Supreme Court, they are also appointed Superior Court judges. The law makes the chief justice the head of the Judicial Department and he or she must appoint a chief court administrator to oversee it.

Under the act, a state Supreme Court associate judge who is appointed to be the chief court administrator and chooses to stop serving as an associate judge (1) keeps his or her Superior Court judge status and (2) is eligible for reappointment as a Superior Court judge until reaching age 70 (the mandatory retirement age for judges).

The act allows an associate judge who becomes the chief court administrator and resigns from the state Supreme Court to continue deliberating and participating in cases he or she heard until the decisions are officially released, which the law already allows associate judges who reach age 70 to do. It also specifically allows these judges to continue considering cases under these circumstances.

The act correspondingly allows a chief court administrator who resigns from the state Supreme Court to consider or deliberate a motion for reconsideration after the case decision is officially released, as is allowed under existing law for associate judges who reach age 70. Under prior law, judges could only do so if the motion was filed within 10 days after the release. The act eliminates this time cap and further allows the judges, both associate judges who reached age 70 or a chief court administrator who resigns from the state Supreme Court, to consider or deliberate any other motion submitted after the decision's official release, in a case the judge heard or considered.

Lastly, existing law allows the state Supreme Court chief justice to designate certain former associate judges (and former state Supreme Court chief justices or state Appellate Court judges) as being eligible for state Appellate Court assignments. This applies to those who stopped serving due to retirement and who became state referees. The act also makes judges who stop serving on the state Supreme Court as associate judges due to their appointment as the chief court administrator and who become a state referee eligible for the designation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 60 — CHANGES TO POLICE TRAINING CURRICULUM ON INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Replaces police officer training curricula on interacting with people who (1) have mental or physical disabilities or (2) are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind

Under existing law, each police basic or review training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), the State Police, or a municipal police department must include POST-developed curricula for police officers on interacting with people who (1) have mental or physical disabilities or (2) are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, including crisis intervention strategies for police officers to use when interacting with people with mental illness in crisis. The act sunsets these curricula on June 30, 2027, and instead requires these training programs to use new curricula after that date, which the act requires POST to develop by March 1, 2027.

Under the act, one new curriculum must be for police officers' interactions with people who have mental illness or mental or physical disabilities, and the second new curriculum must be for their interactions with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. As was the case with the existing curricula, in developing the curricula under the act, POST must first consult with individuals with these characteristics and advocates on their behalf. For the first curriculum, this consultation includes (1) people with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment, or nonverbal learning disorder; (2) advocacy organizations that are concerned for them; and (3) higher education institutions and health care professionals. The first curriculum must also at least include the following topics:

1. the nature of mental illness and mental or physical disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment, and nonverbal learning disorder;
2. how to identify people with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities; and
3. strategies and techniques for handling incidents that involve people with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities, including crisis intervention strategies and de-escalation techniques.

Existing law, unchanged by the act, also requires police basic and review training programs to include training on handling incidents involving juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment, or nonverbal learning disorder (CGS § 7-294h).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 61 — STATE PROPERTIES REVIEW BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Increases the State Properties Review Board's membership from six to eight

The act increases the State Properties Review Board's membership from six to eight. By law, the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore jointly appoint three members and the House and Senate minority leaders jointly appoint another three. Starting July 1, 2026, each pair must jointly appoint one additional member.

Correspondingly, the act increases the number of members from the same political party that may serve on the board from three to four. As under existing law, the new members serve a four-year term. If a vacancy occurs, the pair responsible for the original appointment selects a replacement to fill the remainder of the term.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 62 — TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATION SUBSCRIBER FEE TOWARDS FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF ACCOUNT

Advances by six months the (1) start date of the monthly five-cent telephone service fee to fund the firefighters cancer relief account and (2) deadline for service providers to notify subscribers about the fee

By law, each telephone and telecommunications company providing local telephone service and each provider of (1) commercial mobile radio services and (2) voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) services (generally, phone calls over broadband Internet) must charge each subscriber a five cents per month fee, per service line, for deposit into the firefighters cancer relief account. It also requires them to give subscribers written notice of the fee before the first charge occurs.

The act advances by six months the (1) first fee charge (from January 1, 2027, to July 1, 2026) and (2) deadline for notifying subscribers (from November 1, 2026, to May 1, 2026).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Related Act

PA 26-68, § 209, further amends the law by, among other things, changing how the providers remit the fees and shifting the responsibility for depositing them into the firefighters cancer relief account from the state treasurer's office to the Department of Revenue Services.

§ 63 — REMOVAL OF SINGLE EXIT STAIRWAY ALLOWANCE IN STATE BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE

Removes from law the requirement that the next adopted versions of the State Building Code and Fire Safety Code allow additional residences to be served by a single exit stairway

The act removes from law the requirement that the next adopted versions of the State Building Code and Fire Safety Code include amendments allowing more residences to be served safely by a single exit stairway. Under prior law, these amendments had to:

1. be consistent with safe occupancy and egress;
2. consider the experience of Seattle, New York City, and Honolulu in implementing similar provisions;
3. apply to municipalities in which the fire service is sufficient to maintain safe occupancy and egress under the additional occupancies, if appropriate;
4. promote the inclusion of units with three or more bedrooms in building designs to promote construction of family-sized units, especially on smaller lots; and
5. allow additional stories above grade plane to be served by a single exit stairway in buildings with automatic sprinkler systems, under conditions to ensure safe occupancy and egress, which include additional levels of fire and smoke separation and any needed features to allow firefighters to ascend a stair as occupants descend.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 64 — ICF-IID RATES

Increases ICF-IID reimbursement rates for FYs 26 through 28

Existing law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to calculate FY 26 reimbursement rates for intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual disabilities (ICF-IID) based on 2024 cost reports, with certain adjustments. The act requires DSS to set FY 26 rates at 3.4% higher than the facility's calculated rate, rather than 1.4% higher.

The act also increases ICF-IID reimbursement rates in future years, as shown in the table below.

Scheduled Rates for ICF-IIDs

Time Period	Prior Law	Act
FY 27	2.8% higher than FY 26 rates	5.8% higher than FY 26 rates
FY 28	3% higher than FY 27 rates	6.3% higher than FY 27 rates
January 1, 2028	3% higher than rates effective December 31, 2027	6.3% higher than rates effective December 31, 2027

By law and under the act, a facility is ineligible for the above rate increases if it would have received a lower rate effective during these time periods due to interim rate status or an agreement with DSS. In these cases, the facility must receive the lower rate. (Generally, DSS may authorize an interim rate to a facility in specified situations, such as an ownership change, financial distress, or a significant change in licensed bed capacity.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 65 & 66 — CERTIFICATE OF NEED EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LICENSED BEDS

Exempts from CON requirements an increase in licensed beds at a state-owned or -operated hospital if the beds are added prior to July 1, 2026, for inpatient behavioral health services

Generally, existing law requires certain health care facilities to apply for and receive a certificate of need (CON) from the Office of Health Strategy's (OHS) Health Systems Planning Unit when proposing to (1) establish a new facility or provide new services, (2) change ownership, (3) purchase or acquire certain equipment, or (4) terminate certain services. The act exempts from CON requirements an increase in licensed beds at a state-owned or -operated hospital (for example, Albert J. Solnit Children's Center) if the additional beds are (1) added prior to July 1, 2026, and (2) dedicated to inpatient behavioral health services. Under the act, if any of these additional licensed beds are converted to another inpatient service, a CON is required. The act also makes a related conforming change.

(PA 26-68 transfers responsibility for administering the CON program from OHS to the Department of Public Health.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 67 — CHILD SUPPORT ORDER ENFORCEMENT

Allows DSS or SES to notify certain parties about a child support obligor's overdue support when DSS receives a request from another state for help enforcing an order that is not registered in this state but meets certain federal requirements

Existing law allows DSS or the Superior Court's Support Enforcement Services (SES) to help enforce another state's child support order when the request is registered in this state. The act allows DSS and SES to similarly enforce another state's child support order when DSS, acting as the IV-D agency (see *Background — IV-D Support Agency*), receives a request from another state for help enforcing an order that has not been registered in the state, but meets certain federal requirements on high-volume, automated enforcement in interstate cases. Under federal law, these requests must (1) include information the receiving state may compare with information in its databases and (2) constitute a certification by the requesting state of the amount of support owed and that the requesting state has complied with all applicable procedural due process requirements for the case.

Under existing law and the act, when DSS receives a request from another state, DSS or SES may notify state or local agencies, financial institutions, and certain other parties. These parties must withhold delivery or distribution of assets, funds, property, or benefits until further notice. This applies to cases where the obligor owes at least \$500 in overdue child

support.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — IV-D Support Agency

Title IV-D of the Social Security Act contains the federal rules governing state child support enforcement programs. An IV-D support case is one in which the (1) child for whom support is sought has received assistance under the state's cash assistance (Temporary Family Assistance in Connecticut), Medicaid (HUSKY A in Connecticut), or certain other state programs or (2) custodial parent asks the state's designated IV-D agency, which is DSS's Office of Child Support Enforcement, for help to collect child support.

§ 68 — CHILD SUPPORT ORDER MODIFICATIONS

Removes a prohibition on decreasing an existing support order based solely on income loss due to incarceration for an offense against the custodial party or the child

In cases where a child support obligor is institutionalized or incarcerated, existing law generally requires the Superior Court or family support magistrate to establish an initial order for support or modify an existing order for support based on the obligor's present income. The act removes a provision that prohibited decreasing an existing support order based solely on income loss due to incarceration for an offense against the custodial party or the child. It makes conforming changes to affidavit and notice requirements.

Federal regulations (1) require states to base child support orders on the noncustodial parent's earnings, income, and other evidence of ability to pay and (2) prohibit states from treating incarceration as voluntary unemployment in order to set or change child support orders.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 69-71 & 73 — EARLY VOTING BALLOT PROCEDURES

Changes early voting ballot procedures related to checking tabulators, receiving ballots, and casting votes into tabulators

The act makes several changes to the early voting process such as (1) establishing procedures for checking tabulators used to process early voting ballots, (2) modifying procedures for voters to receive an early voting ballot, and (3) requiring early voting ballots to be cast into a tabulator instead of being sealed into envelopes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Tabulator Logistics

Under the act, on the first day of the early voting period, before the polls open, early voting moderators must unlock the voting tabulators being used and confirm the vote counter is set at zero. Then, at the close of the polls for each early voting day, the moderator must record the number of ballots inserted into the tabulator, lock the tabulator against voting, and store it in accordance with the applicable early voting certification or order of corrective action from the Secretary of the State (SOTS; see below).

Before opening the polls for each subsequent early voting day, the act requires a moderator to unlock the tabulator for use and confirm the vote counter is set to the same number recorded when polls closed on the prior day. As under existing law, upon the close of the polls on election day, a moderator must cause the vote totals for all candidates and questions to be produced.

Prior law also generally required registrars to test tabulators for use in an election before election day to ensure they are ready. The act instead requires these tests to begin before the early voting period starts to ensure that tabulators used at early voting and same-day election registration (SDR) locations are also tested and prepared, in addition to tabulators used on election day. The act also requires registrars to deliver all necessary furniture to early voting and SDR locations, as already required for election day polling places (PA 26-42, § 62, eliminates these requirements for SDR locations which, in practice, do not have dedicated tabulators (as ballots cast there are counted at a central location)).

Early Voting Eligibility

To vote early under existing law, an elector must (1) appear in person at an early voting location within the designated times and (2) comply with election day identification requirements by either showing adequate identification or signing an affidavit attesting to his or her identity. The act eliminates a duplicative requirement that the elector also swear an oath that he or she has not previously voted in the election (the oath is still required when the ballot is given to the voter).

Receiving a Ballot

As under existing law, if an elector has established his or her eligibility, the registrars must check the statewide centralized voter registration system (CVRS) to see if the elector has already voted. If the registrars of voters believe that the elector may have already voted in the election, they must review the matter. If they cannot resolve it, the elector may request and cast a challenged ballot (see *Background — Challenged Ballots*), and the registrars must report the incident to the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), which must investigate.

If a voter is determined not to have previously voted, the elector must be given an early voting ballot, and the registrar must record the issuance. The act additionally requires the registrar to tell the elector their voting district and the correct ballot they should receive.

The act also requires the (1) voter, before marking the ballot, to complete a printed affirmation in a log book provided by the registrars, rather than on the back of the early voting envelope (see below), and (2) SOTS to set the logbook's form and make a sample available on her website. As under existing law, the voter must also declare under oath that they have not previously voted. The act specifies that the voter's name must be printed on the affirmation (in addition to being signed) and makes other technical and conforming changes to it. (The act similarly requires that voter's print their name on SDR ballots, in addition to signing them.)

Casting and Transporting Ballots

Under prior law, when a person voted with an early voting ballot, he or she had to mark the ballot, place it into a ballot envelope, and deposit it in a secured early voting ballot receptacle. After the polls closed on each day of the early voting period, registrars had to transport the receptacle to the town clerk. The act instead requires the marked ballot to be inserted into a voting tabulator and accordingly eliminates the requirement that voters be given an early voting ballot envelope. Under the act, when polls close each day, the registrars must publicly open the tabulator, secure and seal the early voting ballots in a secure receptacle, and transport the receptacle to the town clerk.

Background — Challenged Ballots

Under existing law, a voter's right to cast a ballot may be challenged if a challenger knows, suspects, or reasonably believes that a person is not qualified or entitled to vote (CGS § 9-232 et seq.). A moderator must review these challenges and, if a moderator's decision is unfavorable to the challenged voter, the voter may apply for a challenged ballot. As part of the application, the voter must complete an affidavit attesting to the voter's qualifications and entitlement to vote at the election. The town clerk must preserve the ballots for at least 180 days after an election. In the case of a contested election, the court may order that challenged ballots be delivered to the board of admissions. The board, if ordered, must review all challenged ballots and determine which ones may be counted in the election and added to the vote totals.

§§ 69, 71 & 72 — EARLY VOTING AND SAME-DAY ELECTION REGISTRATION LOCATIONS

Modifies the requirements for certifying early voting and SDR locations; requires the town's legislative body, instead of its registrars, to select any additional early voting locations; prohibits certain political activities of election and primary officials when carrying out their duties

Existing law requires that each municipality have at least one early voting and SDR location. Under the law, registrars of voters are responsible for designating this location for their municipality, which must be able to access CVRS and be certified to SOTS (see below). Under the act, if the registrars cannot agree on an early voting location, the municipality's legislative body (or the board of selectmen if the municipality's body is a town meeting) must designate the location, subject to the same requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Early Voting and SDR Location Certification

Deadline. To designate an early voting or SDR location, registrars must submit a written certification to SOTS with certain information about the location. Prior law required submitting an (1) early voting location certification 60 days before an election or primary and (2) SDR location certification 45 days before an election. The act instead generally requires that they be annually submitted by February 15. The SDR certification must be included in the early voting certification. However, the act maintains prior law's deadlines for all 2026 elections and primaries.

Content. As part of the early voting certifications, registrars must include certain information, such as the name, street address, and contact information associated with the location, the number of officials serving at the location, a description of the location's design, and a plan for the efficient conduct of early voting. The act also requires it to include the SDR implementation plan (see below).

Prior law also required SDR certifications to include similar, but not identical content as the early voting certification, including a plan for the effective completion and processing of SDR registrations. The act eliminates the requirement for an SDR certification to list the name and address of each election official appointed for a location and instead requires the certification to note the number of officials and their roles, as for early voting certifications.

Approval. The act specifies that the secretary must generally approve or disapprove these certifications annually by March 1 (instead of 45 days before an election contest for early voting or 29 days before an election contest for SDR certifications). However, the act maintains prior law's deadlines for all 2026 elections and primaries.

Existing law, unchanged by the act, outlines procedures if the secretary disapproves the annual location certification.

Amendment. The act creates a process for registrars to amend their early voting or SDR written certification after it is submitted. Under the act, they must submit an updated written certification as the secretary determines, and clearly indicate the changes from the earlier certification. The update must be submitted as soon as practicable, but no later than seven days after the change.

The secretary must approve or disapprove the amended certification as soon as practicable, but no later than seven days after the submission. If the secretary disapproves the certification, she must, as for original certifications, give the municipality a written reason for the disapproval and any order for corrective action she deems necessary (for example, appointing additional officials or altering any submitted design or plan).

Additional Early Voting Locations

Under existing law, municipalities of 20,000 or more may authorize early voting locations under certain procedures in addition to the location required by law. The act requires the municipality's legislative body, or board of selectmen if the legislative body is a town meeting, to designate any additional early voting locations instead of its registrars.

Early Voting and SDR Officials

The act also prohibits election and primary officials, while serving in that role during an early voting or SDR period, from performing services for any party or candidate or appearing at any political party headquarters until the early voting or SDR location closes that day.

§§ 69, 71, 72, 75 & 76 — MODERATORS

Makes several changes regarding moderators, including (1) expanding registrar reporting requirements on moderators, (2) implementing moderator requirements for SDR locations like those for early voting locations, and (3) expanding the prohibition for individuals convicted or who have pled to certain crimes from being a moderator

Moderator Reports

Existing law requires registrars to prepare a written report with the names and addresses of all moderators designated to serve at election day polling locations. Previously, this report had to be submitted to SOTS at any time before each election and primary. The act instead requires that this report be made at least 14 days before an early voting period begins. The act also requires registrars to include the moderator's cell phone number, if available, and the names, addresses, and cell phone numbers of early voting and SDR moderators.

SDR Moderators

Prior law authorized registrars of voters to delegate any of their responsibilities or duties to election officials appointed to serve at SDR locations, subject to the registrars' supervision and training. The act generally maintains these requirements, but also implements similar moderator requirements for SDR locations as required for early voting locations.

Specifically, registrars must appoint, as previously required in the SDR certification, a moderator and other election officials who will serve at the SDR location. Moderators must perform any duty required by, and may exercise any power authorized under, the state's election laws to complete and process SDR registrations.

The act specifies that the municipality's registrars of voters may agree to appoint one of themselves to serve as the moderator instead. If they choose to do so, they must submit a certification of their agreement to SOTS as well as a written coverage plan for the registrar's regular duties, to ensure the registrar abstains from any that conflict with his or her role as moderator while serving in that role.

Persons Prohibited From Serving as a Moderator

The act restricts registrars of voters from designating or appointing a person as a moderator if the person has been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, any criminal offense under the state's election laws, or felonies involving fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement, or bribery. Under existing law, moderators generally must be certified by SOTS before serving at an election or primary and may not be certified if they have been convicted or pled guilty or no contest to these crimes.

By law, registrars of voters are responsible for designating a moderator for each polling place, including early voting and central counting locations. If a moderator is unable to serve, a certified alternate moderator may assume the role of moderator. However, if a town or voting district lacks a moderator, the registrars of voters must appoint a new moderator. The new moderator should, if possible, become certified. If all instructional and certification sessions have already been conducted at the time of the moderator's appointment, he or she must receive instruction from the registrars.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 74 — PARTY ENROLLMENT PRIVILEGES FOR UNAFFILIATED ELECTORS

Requires certain party enrollment applications to be filed within 18 days, rather than 5 days, before a primary in order for the voter to participate in that primary

By law, unaffiliated voters who are eligible to vote, in most cases, are immediately entitled to the privileges of party enrollment (such as voting in a party's primary) if they file an application in person with the registrars by noon on the business day before a primary.

However, under prior law, if the voter submitted the application by other means (such as by mail) and it was filed within five days before the primary, the privileges generally attached after the primary, except in some instances for members of the armed forces or certain residents temporarily overseas. The act expands this period to 18 days before a primary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 77 — AMENDING AND REPORTING ELECTION RETURNS

Requires officials in all municipalities, instead of only those in municipalities with multiple voting districts, to meet to correct errors in election night returns and submit amended returns if necessary

For towns with multiple voting districts, the law requires (1) head moderators, town clerks, and registrars to meet by 9:00 a.m. on the third day after a regular election to identify any errors in the election night returns and (2) head moderators to file an amended return, if necessary, by 1:00 p.m. on that day with SOTS, the town clerk, and registrars. The act requires all towns to do so, instead of just those with multiple voting districts, generally conforming to practice.

Similarly, the act requires all town clerks (instead of only clerks in multi-voting district towns) to submit a consolidated listing of the official voting returns to SOTS within 21 days after state elections. The returns must list the total number of (1) votes cast for each candidate, (2) names on the registry list, and (3) names checked off as having voted.

As under existing law, a clerk in a multi-voting district town must certify to the secretary that he or she examined these returns for discrepancies between the total number of votes cast for a candidate and the sum of the votes cast for that candidate in all voting districts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 78 — NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION-RELATED CASES

Requires specified entities to notify SOTS about certain election-related actions and violations

The act requires a party that files certain election-related court actions to notify the secretary if it alleges a violation of certain laws on the right to vote or a pattern, practice, or policy of discrimination against any protected class (a class based on race, color, or language minority group, as referenced in the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA)). This applies to actions alleging violations of the state's Voting Rights Act, the federal VRA, state or federal civil rights laws, or the U.S. Constitution's 14th or 15th Amendments. Specifically, the party must notify the secretary about the hearing on the case.

The act also requires a municipality's corporation counsel to give SOTS all details about the matter if it has been the subject of any court order or government enforcement action due to violations as described above within one month from the act's passage, an order's issuance, or an action's commencement, whichever is latest.

Under the act, a "government enforcement action" is any denial of administrative or judicial preclearance by the state or federal government, pending litigation filed by a state or federal entity, final judgment or adjudication, consent decree, or other similar formal action.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 79-82 — ENDORSEMENT AND NOMINATION PETITION CORRECTION PROCESS

Creates a process for candidates to correct endorsement certificates and certificates of candidacies for nomination; authorizes SOTS to make corrections and keep a record of them

Existing law requires candidates who are endorsed by a party to file a signed certificate with SOTS stating he or she was endorsed, among other information. Individuals who seek endorsement as the party's candidate in a primary must also file a certificate with the secretary that they qualify to run in the primary, among other things.

The act generally allows candidates to correct endorsement certificates and certificates of candidacies for nomination. Specifically, if a timely-filed certificate contains an error or omission that would invalidate it, the candidate, or an individual authorized to act on his or her behalf, generally may correct the issue by appearing in person at SOTS's office (other than a weekend day or a legal holiday) by 4:00 p.m. on the 19th day after he or she was endorsed (or by 4:00 p.m. on the 57th day before an election for minor party nominations). Certificates may not be corrected if they are not timely filed or, for certificates of candidacies for nomination, not properly attested or signed as required by law.

If the candidate or individual does not correct the certificate, it is deemed invalid and the party is deemed to have neither made nor certified the endorsement or candidacy for nomination, whichever applies.

The act (1) authorizes the secretary to amend certificates to correct errors or omissions and (2) requires her to maintain a record of any amendment she makes. The act specifies that it does not require the secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify errors or omissions. (PA 26-42, §§ 65-68, amends these provisions to additionally require SOTS to make her best efforts to notify an affected candidate if she discovers an error so that an authorized individual can correct it. As under this act, SOTS is still not required to affirmatively attempt to identify errors or omissions.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 83-87 — BALLOT FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE

Adjusts the requirements for filing ballots with SOTS for review and approval

Prior law required municipalities to file with SOTS a sample ballot for an election 10 days before that election's early voting period. The act instead requires town clerks to file all official election and primary ballots with SOTS for her approval at least 10 days before the applicable early voting period begins. It prohibits using any of these ballots unless they have been approved.

The act also requires this filing by the clerk for absentee ballots before they are printed. Further, the absentee ballots may not be printed or used unless they have been approved. Existing law also requires municipal clerks to file an absentee ballot with SOTS after these ballots are printed.

Prior law required the secretary to order that ballots be reprinted if they contained an error or omission. The act instead specifies these provisions do not prohibit the secretary from ordering actions she deems appropriate for election or absentee ballots in case of any ballot errors or omissions, including reprinting.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 88 — TECHNICAL CHANGE

Makes technical changes to an absentee voting statute

The act makes technical changes to an absentee voting statute.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 89 — DECLARATORY JUDGMENTS FOR AGGRIEVED ELECTORS

Authorizes SOTS to initiate declaratory judgment actions on behalf of aggrieved electors within 90 days before an election or primary

The act allows the secretary to start a declaratory judgment action in court under certain circumstances if an elector or electors have been aggrieved under the state's election laws. The action must seek an order to ensure election administration procedures are properly executed, and electors' rights are adequately protected under the state's election laws. The action may be initiated if one or more electors makes a complaint within the 90 days before an election or primary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 90 — LOG OF REJECTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Requires moderators to keep and transmit to SOTS a log of absentee ballots that are rejected because the voter failed to (1) sign the required statement or (2) in certain cases, have provided sufficient identification required by federal law

By law, when a voter is casting an absentee ballot, he or she must sign a statement that he or she is eligible to vote, under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting. If a voter fails to sign this statement, the absentee ballot must be rejected.

Additionally, by law, if a voter registers to vote by mail and does not meet federal identification requirements at the time of registration, the voter must give sufficient identification the first time they seek to vote absentee. If a voter fails to do so, the absentee ballot must be rejected. Acceptable forms of identification include certain documents with the voter's name and address (such as bank statements or utility bills) or valid photo identification with the voter's name and address.

Under the act, moderators must (1) maintain a log of absentee ballot applicants whose ballots were rejected due to one of the reasons discussed above, (2) note the specific rejection reason on the log for each of these applicants, and (3) send the log to SOTS when they electronically transmit the duplicate list (voting results).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 91-93 — RECANVASS PROCEDURES

Requires recanvassing all voting districts when a discrepancy occurs, not just the district with the discrepancy; modifies the procedures for communicating with the moderator during a recanvass

Under prior law, within three days after an election, a moderator had to initiate a recanvass (a recount) if it appeared there were discrepancies in a voting district's returns. The act requires that the returns of all voting tabulators and absentee and write-in ballots in the municipality be recanvassed, not just the returns in the voting district where the discrepancy occurred.

Additionally, during any recanvass, the law permits a moderator to order the removal of a person if disorder arises that interferes with the recanvass, and the person refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority. This previously included if the person was attempting to communicate with any recanvass official other than the moderator. The act expands the reasons for possible removal to include attempting to communicate with the moderator. However, it also permits each political party, or each candidate (in the case of a recanvass where there are multiple candidates from a political party), to select a party representative who may communicate directly with the moderator during the recanvass.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 94 — EXEMPTING BALLOTS FROM FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT DISCLOSURE

Generally exempts ballots from disclosure under FOIA

The act exempts from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) ballots, including write-in ballots, cast at an election, primary, or referendum. The act does not impact the ability to conduct a recanvass or audit. A recanvass (recount) generally takes place when there is a discrepancy, close vote, or tie. An audit assesses whether voting machines accurately counted properly marked ballots during an election or primary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 95 — REFERENDUM QUESTIONS UNDER HOME RULE ORDINANCES

Expands the definition of referendum to include questions submitted to voters under a home rule ordinance

The act expands the definition of referenda under the state's election laws to include any questions submitted to municipal voters under a home rule ordinance. By doing so, election laws apply to these questions in the same way they apply to questions submitted to municipal voters under charters and special acts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 96 & 97 — DISCLOSURE OF VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Limits the disclosure and use of voter registration information and subjects violators of the use restrictions to fines; explicitly authorizes SOTS to adopt regulations on the use of voter registration information

SOTS and registrars of voters collect and maintain voter registration information for various purposes, which includes voters' names, addresses, birthdates, and certain identification numbers, among other things, subject to certain disclosure limits. The act further limits the disclosure and use of this information and explicitly authorizes the secretary to adopt regulations on its use.

First, the act allows disclosure of only the birth year from a voter's date of birth, unless the information is for a state governmental purpose, in which case the full birthdate must be disclosed. Under prior law, the month and year could have been disclosed, with the full birthdate available for any governmental purpose.

The act also restricts the use of voter registration information to election-related, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes. It specifically prohibits its use for personal, private, or commercial purposes, including harassment in the second degree of a voter or voter's household; advertising, marketing, selling, or soliciting products or services; or reproduction in print, digital, or broadcast visual or audio, or display in any other format. By law, unchanged by the act, voter registration information may be used for jury administration.

Additionally, the act authorizes SEEC to impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per offense for a violation of these provisions.

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, a person's driver's license, identity card, and Social Security number on voter registration records are always confidential and prohibited from disclosure. A voter may also request for certain information not to be disclosed to protect the voter's or his or her family's safety. The act requires voters to submit these requests to their local registrar of voters rather than to SOTS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 98 — REPEALED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Repeals a requirement that school boards annually report to the Commission for Educational Technology certain information on their use of internet websites, online services, or mobile applications

The act repeals a requirement that school boards annually report to the Commission for Educational Technology certain information on their use of internet websites, online services, or mobile applications that are not covered by a contract that meets the standards required under the state data privacy laws.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-2—SB 299*Emergency Certification***AN ACT CONCERNING REDEMPTION OF OUT-OF-STATE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS**

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes to the state’s beverage container redemption law (“bottle bill”). (The state’s bottle bill generally requires a deposit to be charged on each beverage container at the time of purchase, which is then refunded to the consumer when it is redeemed at a retailer or redemption center.)

First, the act replaces the prior redemption center registration requirement with a licensure requirement and requires license applicants to pay a \$2,500 application fee.

Beginning April 1, 2026, the act reduces the handling fee distributors pay to certain redemption centers by up to one cent if the redemption center does not use certain scanning technology to redeem beverage containers. (PA 26-148 alters this requirement by instead discontinuing the reduction starting on July 1, 2027, or when the redemption center uses specified scanning technology to redeem beverage containers at its facility, whichever comes first).

Among other things, the act also:

1. bans redemption centers, dealers, and distributors from accepting certain beverage containers (like those previously redeemed, on a list of beverages unavailable for sale in Connecticut, or damaged in a way that prevents barcode scanning);
2. reduces the (a) container redemption threshold over which redemption centers must take certain information from people redeeming containers and (b) general cap on how many containers a person may redeem in a day;
3. increases the required remittance of unclaimed bottle bill deposits to the General Fund for FY 27 if the average statewide redemption rate for FY 26 was over 60%;
4. authorizes a rebate to certain deposit initiators who reported a negative balance in their special account for the quarter ending June 30, 2026, and requires them to apply the rebate to reduce this negative balance; and
5. authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner, in consultation with the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) commissioner, to set additional reporting requirements for deposit initiators and redemption center owners or operators beyond those required under the existing bottle bill law and the act, if designed to further the bottle bill law’s requirements and purposes.

The act increases the fines for violating the bottle bill’s requirements to: (1) between \$500-\$750 for a first offense; (2) \$750-\$1,000 for a second offense; and (3) at least \$2,000 and a class A misdemeanor for any third or subsequent offense (and allows civil penalties to be brought). It also gives municipal police enforcement authority over these violations.

Lastly, the act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 1 & 4 — REDEMPTION CENTER LICENSURE

Under prior law, a person seeking to establish or operate a redemption center had to get approval to operate from, and be annually registered with, DEEP.

Beginning July 1, 2026, the act requires registered owners of redemption centers, and people who seek to operate one, to apply to the DEEP commissioner for a license to operate.

The act requires the commissioner to set the license application form, but it must at least request the same information as prior law required for a registration. This specifically includes (1) the business principals’ names and business address, (2) the name and address of the sponsors and dealers (such as retailers) the redemption center will serve, (3) the types of accepted beverage containers, (4) the operational hours, and (5) whether containers will be accepted from consumers.

The act allows the commissioner to suspend the license of, or impose a civil penalty on, or both, a redemption center owner or operator who violates the bottle bill’s licensure or beverage container acceptance requirements.

Redemption Center Licensing Funding

PA 25-168, § 404, established the “bottle bill escheats enforcement and assistance account” and required the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to distribute \$250,000 in FY 26 from the account to the State Police for enforcement of the ban on illegal bottle redemption.

This act eliminates this specific requirement and instead requires the OPM secretary to transfer \$250,000 in FY 26 from the account to DEEP for designing, implementing, and operating redemption center licensing.

§ 1 — BEVERAGE CONTAINER ACCEPTANCE

Prohibited Containers

The act bans redemption center operators, dealers, and distributors from accepting for redemption a beverage container that (1) they know or have reason to know was not originally sold in Connecticut as a filled beverage container, (2) was previously redeemed, (3) is damaged in a way that prevents reading or scanning the barcode, or (4) is on a deposit initiator's (the first distributor to collect the 10-cent container deposit) list of beverage containers unavailable for sale in Connecticut.

Volume Caps for Large Redeemers

The act also decreases the volume caps on redeeming beverage containers at redemption centers.

First, it lowers, from 2,500 to 1,000, the maximum number of beverage containers that a single person may redeem without the redemption center needing to (1) record certain information about the person redeeming the containers and (2) get a certification that the containers were originally sold as filled beverages in the state and not previously redeemed. The act specifies that all beverage containers transported in a single vehicle must be treated as from a single person.

The act also lowers, from 5,000, to 4,000, the maximum number of beverage containers that redemption centers may accept from a person in one day, unless they are from a nonprofit institution or verified fundraising activity.

Beverage Container Transfer and Processing

Existing law generally prohibits redemption centers from removing any beverage container from its premises, or transferring containers between premises under their control, before giving them to the distributor for removal. The distributor may, however, give written authorization for this to occur. The act requires the redemption center owner or operator to forward these authorizations to DEEP.

The act also bans redemption center owners and operators from using bulk bailing to process beverage containers.

Record Retention, Examination, and Reporting

Existing law requires redemption centers to keep the records of large redeemers for at least two years. The act also requires that these records, including the redeemer certifications, be quarterly sent to DEEP. It allows the commissioner to revoke a redemption center's license for failing to transfer the records.

The act expands the list of entities authorized to examine a redemption center (or reverse vending machine) operator's accounts and records (for example, receipts or disbursements) that are kept under the bottle bill. Previously, only DEEP had this authority. The act also gives it to the Attorney General, the Chief State's Attorney, and any state or municipal law enforcement agency.

§ 1 — HANDLING FEE

By law, distributors must pay dealers and redemption center operators, in addition to the container's refund value (the 10 cent deposit), a handling fee of at least 2.5 cents for each container of beer, hard seltzer, hard cider, or other malt beverage, and 3.5 cents for each container of mineral water, soda water and similar carbonated soft drinks, or other noncarbonated beverages returned for redemption.

Beginning April 1, 2026, the act reduces the per container handling fee paid to certain large volume redemption centers by up to one cent. The reduction applies to redemption centers that (1) annually process an average of 50 million or more beverage containers and (2) do not use automated barcode or universal product code (UPC) scanning to redeem all beverage containers.

(PA 26-148 alters this requirement by instead discontinuing the reduction starting on July 1, 2027, or when the redemption center uses specified scanning technology to redeem beverage containers at its facility, whichever comes first).

For determining if the reduction applies, DEEP, in consultation with DRS, must confirm the average beverage container processing volume of redemption centers. Existing law requires redemption centers to quarterly report on how many containers they redeem.

§ 2 — UNCLAIMED BOTTLE DEPOSITS REMITTED TO GENERAL FUND FOR FY 27

By law, deposit initiators must remit a percentage of unclaimed bottle deposits to the General Fund each quarter, based on the average statewide redemption rate for the preceding fiscal year. The act increases this required remittance for FY 27 from:

1. 5% to 25% of unclaimed deposits if the FY 26 redemption rate was 65% or more, and
2. 25% to 35% of unclaimed deposits if the FY 26 redemption rate was greater than 60% but less than 65%.

As under existing law, the required remittance is 45% if the redemption rate was 60% or less.

§ 2 — REBATE TO ELIGIBLE DEPOSIT INITIATORS WITH NEGATIVE BALANCES

Existing law requires deposit initiators to deposit the refund value of containers they sell into special interest-bearing bank accounts and use the funds in these accounts to reimburse dealers and redemption centers for the refunds on redeemed containers. If a deposit initiator does not have enough money in its account in any quarter to pay these refunds, it must subtract the deficiency from its next quarterly remittance of unclaimed bottle deposits until the deficiency is completely subtracted.

The act authorizes a rebate to eligible deposit initiators who reported a negative balance in their special account for the quarter ending June 30, 2026, and requires that they apply the rebate to reduce this negative balance.

Eligible Deposit Initiators

Under the act, to qualify for the rebate, the deposit initiator must have (1) derived at least 80% of its FY 26 revenue from distributing beer, ale, wine, or distilled spirits and (2) properly reported a negative balance in its special account for the quarter ending June 30, 2026. Eligible deposit initiators may apply for the rebate to the DRS commissioner in a form he sets by July 15, 2026. The commissioner must review the submitted applications by August 15, 2026, and determine which are eligible.

Rebate Amount and Claims

The act sets the rebate amount equal to the negative balance the eligible deposit initiator properly reported for the quarter ending June 30, 2026, but requires that each rebate amount be proportionately reduced if the sum of all allowable rebates is more than 80% of the unclaimed bottle deposit revenue projected for FY 27 (based on the April 30, 2026, consensus revenue estimate).

The DRS commissioner must notify eligible deposit initiators about their rebate amount in writing.

§§ 1 & 3 — PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

The act's additional requirements for beverage container acceptance (§ 1) are subject to existing law's bottle bill enforcement mechanisms, including credential denial and the Attorney General investigating and bringing a civil action.

Fines and Misdemeanor Offense

The act increases the fines for violations of bottle bill requirements, as shown in the table below. It also allows the fine to be brought as a civil penalty through a court action by the attorney general, upon complaint of the DEEP commissioner.

Fines For Bottle Bill Violations Under Prior Law and the Act

	<i>Under Prior Law</i>	<i>Under the Act</i>
<i>First Offense</i>	\$50 - \$100	\$500 - \$750
<i>Second Offense</i>	\$100 - \$200	\$750 - \$1,000
<i>Third or Subsequent Offense</i>	\$250 - \$500	\$2,000 or more

The act also makes someone who violates bottle bill provisions three or more times guilty of a class A misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

Under the act, municipal police officers may enforce bottle bill violations in addition to state agencies and state police

officers. Any fine issued by a municipal police officer must be paid to the respective municipality.

Unfair or Deceptive Trade Practice

Existing law prohibits a person from returning a beverage container to get a refund value or handling fee for empty beverage containers if that person knows, or has reason to know, the container was not sold in Connecticut as a filled container or was previously redeemed. The act makes any violation of this provision by dealers or redemption centers an unfair or deceptive trade practice (see BACKGROUND).

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA)

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the Department of Consumer Protection commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in certain cases, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

PA 26-28—HB 5142

Aging Committee

Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR VIRTUAL MONITORING IN RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

SUMMARY: This act allows residential care home residents to use technology of their choosing for virtual monitoring and sets related notification, use, and consent requirements.

Existing law, unchanged by the act, similarly allows nursing home residents to use this technology (as well as technology for virtual visits) and gives nursing homes immunity from liability arising from its use in three circumstances. The act narrows these circumstances and gives residential care homes the same immunity.

Under the act, “virtual monitoring technology” allows someone to remotely monitor a resident using devices capable of audio or video communications, which may be able to record, that the resident owns and operates in his or her room or living area. The resident must purchase, activate, install, maintain, repair, operate, deactivate, and remove the technology at his or her own expense.

The act authorizes the Department of Public Health commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the act’s provisions on residential care homes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME VIRTUAL MONITORING

Roommate Notice and Consent

If a residential care home resident intends to use technology for virtual monitoring in a shared living space, the act requires the resident to first notify any roommates and tell them the type and location of the technology, its intended use and hours of operation, and whether it can record audio or video or be activated remotely.

The resident must also get the roommate’s written consent to use the technology. If the roommate later withdraws consent, the resident must stop using the virtual monitoring technology unless he or she again consents.

Generally, the act authorizes “resident representatives” to do things it allows or requires a resident to do (give or get consent to use the technology, for example). A “resident representative” is the resident’s legally appointed health care representative, guardian, or conservator. If the resident does not have one of these individuals their resident representative can be a designee, as indicated in a signed written document in the resident’s facility records or a legally liable relative or other responsible party who is not a facility employee or contractor.

Resident Notification to the Home

Under the act, the resident must file a signed, written notice with the home and a copy of the roommate’s consent, if applicable, at least seven days before installing or using the virtual monitoring technology. The notice must:

1. identify the type of technology and its intended use, hours of use, and location in the resident’s room or living unit;
2. state whether the technology can record audio or video or be remotely activated or controlled;
3. acknowledge that the resident is responsible for purchasing, installing, activating, maintaining, repairing, operating, deactivating, and removing the technology; and
4. include a waiver of all civil, criminal, and administrative liability for the residential care home in line with the act (see below).

The resident must also notify the residential care home in writing within seven days if a roommate withdraws his or her consent for the technology’s use.

Residential Care Home Policies and Procedures

The act authorizes residential care homes to set policies and procedures for using virtual monitoring technology that address:

1. placing the devices in a visible, stationary location in the resident’s room or living areas;
2. restrictions on recording video or audio outside the resident’s room or living areas or in any shared common spaces;
3. compliance with applicable federal, state, and local life safety and fire protection requirements;
4. limitations on using the technology when it will interfere with resident care or privacy unless the resident, any

- roommate, or their representatives consent to its use;
- 5. the ability to limit the technology's use if the home's internet service is disrupted; and
- 6. actions that the residential care home may take if a resident does not comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws or facility policy in using the technology, including a process for residents to appeal these actions.

Facility Notice Requirements

The act requires a conspicuous notice to be placed on the door of a resident's room or living area where virtual monitoring technology may be used.

Notification and Consent Forms

The act authorizes the long-term care ombudsman, in consultation with the Department of Public Health and residential care home representatives, to develop and provide standard forms on its website for:

- 1. residents' notice to a residential care home of their intent to install and use virtual monitoring technology,
- 2. roommate consent forms for residents who wish to use virtual monitoring technology that may capture audio or video of a roommate, and
- 3. resident notice to the residential care home that a roommate has withdrawn consent for using virtual monitoring technology.

Use of Recordings and Images and Mobile Devices

Under the act, the resident and anyone communicating with or monitoring them must use the technology and any recordings or images from it in a way that does not violate anyone's right to privacy under state or federal law.

Although the act broadly exempts from its requirements cell phones primarily used for phone calls and tablets not used for virtual monitoring, it specifies this requirement applies to cell phones and tablets as well.

IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

Nursing Homes

Under existing law, nursing home residents can use technology for virtual visitations as well as virtual monitoring (see BACKGROUND). Nursing homes are immune from civil, criminal, and administrative liability from its use in three circumstances. The act narrows these circumstances, as described in the below table.

When Nursing Homes Have Immunity Under Prior Law and the Act

<i>Prior Law</i>	<i>Act</i>
An individual's privacy rights, under state or federal law, were violated due to a resident's use of the technology	Home has immunity only for violations of state, not federal, law and if the resident was using the technology as the law allows
A resident's technology was damaged but not because of the home's negligence	Home has immunity only if it neither intentionally nor negligently caused the damage
Audio or video a resident recorded was accidentally or intentionally disclosed to an unauthorized party or an unauthorized party intercepted or used it	Home has immunity only if it did not intentionally cause the audio or video to be disclosed, intercepted, or used by the unauthorized party

Residential Care Homes

The act also makes residential care homes immune from civil, criminal, and administrative liability for damages caused by the use of video monitoring (but not virtual visitation) technology in the same three circumstances, meaning when:

- 1. an individual's rights to privacy under state law are violated by a resident using the technology as the act allows;
- 2. a resident's technology is damaged or malfunctions, as long as the home did not intentionally or negligently cause it; or

3. audio or video a resident made is accidentally or intentionally disclosed to or used or intercepted by an unauthorized party, as long as the home did not intentionally cause it.

BACKGROUND

Virtual Visitation Technology

By law, nursing home residents have a right to use virtual visitation, as well as virtual monitoring, technology as long as they comply with the law's notice, use, and consent requirements. "Virtual visitation" is remote visitation between a resident and family member or other person using a device capable of audio or video communications that may be able to record.

Additionally, the nursing home patients' bill of rights states that residents of nursing homes and residential care homes (among other facility types) are entitled to buy and use virtual visitation technology, so long as it does not violate other individuals' right to privacy under state or federal law. Patients who are negligently deprived of these rights may bring a private cause of action in court.

PA 26-44—HB 5141

Aging Committee

AN ACT REQUIRING FEAR OF RETALIATION TRAINING FOR PERSONS PROVIDING ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES IN MANAGED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

SUMMARY: This act requires each licensed assisted living services agency (ALSA) that provides services to a managed residential community (MRC) to make sure the agency's employees receive annual in-service training about residents' fears that employees, or others, will retaliate against them for making complaints about their care.

The training must at least include (1) a discussion about residents' rights to file complaints and voice grievances; (2) examples of what might be, or be perceived as, an employee's retaliation against a resident; and (3) ways to prevent employee retaliation and ease residents' fears about it.

Under the act, the person leading the training must be familiar with the needs of the resident population the agency serves at the MRC. But this person does not need to be a qualified social worker or social worker consultant.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

ALSAs

By law, the state does not license assisted living facilities. Instead, it licenses and regulates ALSAs that provide assisted living services. These services include nursing services and assistance with activities of daily living. ALSAs can generally only provide these services at an MRC or certain federally funded elderly housing complexes.

PA 26-50—sHB 5143

Aging Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT REQUIRING TRAINING FOR HOMEMAKER-COMPANION AGENCY EMPLOYEES

SUMMARY: Beginning January 1, 2027, this act requires homemaker-companion agencies to annually provide at least eight hours of paid training to both their new and current employees, unless they are exempt as described below. The training must be on certain topics (such as identifying abuse and best practices in personal hygiene) from a list of training programs approved by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner.

The act requires each homemaker-companion agency to annually attest to DCP, as the commissioner directs and starting by January 1, 2027, that it will adhere to the training requirements. It also allows the agencies to advertise that they comply with state-mandated training requirements and include specific training topics that are covered.

Additionally, the act requires each homemaker-companion registry (see BACKGROUND) to ensure that anyone it refers or supplies to, or places with, a consumer has completed every DCP-approved training program at least once every two years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision allowing agencies to advertise compliance with training requirements is effective January 1, 2027.

HOMEMAKER-COMPANION TRAININGS

DCP-Approved List of Trainings

The act requires the DCP commissioner, by October 1, 2026, to develop a list of approved homemaker-companion agency employee training programs, limited to the topics listed below. In doing so, he must consult with the commissioners of public health, social services, developmental services, and mental health and addiction services. DCP must post the list on its website.

New Hire and Continuing Education Trainings

Under the act, new employees must take trainings on at least the following topics within 90 days after starting work (unless exempt, as described below):

1. maintaining a clean and safe environment, including best practices for dressing, bathing, and toileting assistance;
2. identifying and reporting (a) abuse and neglect and (b) changes in a client's condition and service needs; and
3. if the employee will be attending to clients with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, providing nonmedical services to them.

Employees must also take annual continuing education training (unless exempt, as described below), which includes the above-listed trainings as well as:

1. communication,
2. differentiating between medical and nonmedical care, and
3. any other topic the commissioners deem appropriate.

The act requires agencies to make sure each employee takes each training at least once every two years.

Exempt Employees

The act exempts new employees from the initial trainings if, within three years before being hired, they took the trainings while employed by a different homemaker-companion agency. To be exempt, the employee must provide the form described below, showing he or she already completed these trainings.

The act also exempts from the training requirements any employee who is a registered nurse's aide, a home health aide, a personal care attendant, or employed in a position (administrative, for example) that does not provide homemaker or companion services (see BACKGROUND).

Under the act, a home health aide is someone employed by a home health aide agency, which generally provides supportive services, like assistance with dressing and feeding, in the patient's home under a registered nurse's supervision. These services exclude assisting people who have chronic and stable diseases or conditions.

Training Records

After an employee completes a training required by the act, the agency and employee must complete a form attesting to this, as directed by the DCP commissioner. The form must indicate the training and the date it was completed, include the agency's and employee's names, and be signed by both parties.

The act requires the agency to keep paper or electronic copies of these forms in employees' personnel files. The agency must also keep a list of all training programs it used and a summary of their content.

BACKGROUND

Homemaker-Companion Agencies, Registries, and Services

By law, a "homemaker-companion agency" is generally an organization that either employs or refers people to provide companion or homemaker services to consumers. "Registries" supply, refer, or place an independent contractor with a

consumer, who directly pays the contractor, to provide these services.

“Homemaker services” are nonmedical and supportive services such as cooking, cleaning, and personal hygiene. “Companion services” are nonmedical, basic supervision services that ensure a healthy and safe environment for a person in his or her home (CGS §§ 20-670 & -679a).

PA 26-74—sSB 123

Aging Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CERTAIN RATE INCREASES AT ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES, MUNICIPAL AGENTS FOR AGING, EMERGENCY POWER GENERATOR REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN MULTIFAMILY HOUSING PROJECTS, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR HOME HEALTH AIDE EMPLOYEES, THE NURSING HOME BED MORATORIUM AND NURSING HOME RESIDENT DATA

SUMMARY: This act makes various unrelated changes to laws related to older adults, including:

1. requiring assisted living services agencies (ALSAs) to hold informational hearings before raising fees by more than 10% (§ 1),
2. requiring municipal agents for the elderly (which the act renames “agents for aging”) to be free from conflicts of interest (§ 2),
3. changing the applicability of an existing requirement that certain multifamily age-restricted buildings with at least 15 stories have a backup generator (§ 3),
4. requiring home health aide agencies to give their employees certain personal protective equipment for free (§ 4),
5. creating an exception to the state’s nursing home bed moratorium and modifying related certificate of need (CON) criteria (§§ 5 & 6), and
6. establishing a process for the Department of Social Services (DSS) to audit nursing homes’ minimum data set information that is different than its process for auditing other long-term care facilities that receive Medicaid (§ 7).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various; see below.

§ 1 — HEARING ON ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES FEE INCREASES

The act requires ALSAs to hold an informational hearing if an existing fee increases by more than 10%. The hearing must (1) occur at least 30 days before the increase takes effect and (2) give residents, their representatives, and family members an opportunity to comment.

Under existing law, ALSAs must disclose fee increases to residents or their representatives at least 60 days before they take effect. But ALSAs may immediately adjust fees if (1) they are directly related to a change in the level of care or services needed to meet a resident’s safety needs at the time of a scheduled resident care meeting or (2) a resident’s condition changes so that it requires a change in service.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 2 — MUNICIPAL AGENT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

By law, each municipality must appoint a municipal agent to help seniors learn about community resources and file for benefits, among other things. The act makes several changes in the law on these agents. Specifically, it:

1. prohibits appointing or reappointing anyone as a municipal agent who has an existing or potential conflict of interest and establishes a process to handle conflicts that happen after an agent is appointed;
2. allows municipalities to jointly appoint agents, rather than requiring each municipality to have its own, by entering into a memorandum of understanding that may lay out terms (for example, sharing agent expenses); and
3. renames them “municipal agents for aging” (rather than “municipal agents for elderly persons”) and replaces the term “elderly” with “older adults” throughout.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Covered Conflicts of Interest

The act requires anyone appointed as a municipal agent to be free of any existing or potential conflicts of interest that could interfere with his or her ability to give unbiased information, help, or referral services.

Under the act, a conflict of interest exists if the agent, a business associated with the agent, or a member of the agent's immediate family (spouse, parent, sibling, child, or child's spouse) receives a financial or personal benefit. Other situations may also be conflicts of interest under the act.

Certification

Beginning July 1, 2026, the act requires each municipal agent to certify in writing that he or she is unaware of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest that could interfere with his or her ability to serve in this role, as described above. Agents must make this certification when they are appointed or reappointed and submit it to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) commissioner in the way she sets.

Conflicts That Arise

If a conflict of interest, or the potential for one, arises after an agent has been appointed, the act requires the agent to immediately report it to the appointing authority (the municipality or municipalities). It allows other interested parties to report an agent's conflict of interest, or a potential one, as well.

The act requires the appointing authority to decide whether the conflict of interest would be nullified by having another municipal agent or a municipal employee act instead of the potentially conflicted agent. In doing so, the appointing authority may consult with ADS.

§ 3 — EMERGENCY GENERATOR REQUIREMENT

By law, privately owned multifamily housing projects must have at least one emergency power generator if they (1) have at least 15 stories, age-restricted units, and a mortgage insured under the federal National Housing Act and (2) are in a municipality that has a population size that falls within a specified range. Under prior law, this range was between 130,000 and 134,999. Under the act, it is between 130,000 and 139,999 and based on the 2020 federal census (see BACKGROUND).
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 4 — PPE FOR HOME HEALTH AIDES

The act requires home health aide agencies to give their home health aide employees and contractors free personal protective equipment (PPE) that they need to safely provide home health aide services to each client. These may include, among other things, (1) disposable gloves; (2) hand sanitizer; (3) aprons, gowns, and foot covers; and (4) face shields, surgical masks, N95 masks, or higher-rated masks that are certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

By law, a home health aide agency provides supportive services in a patient's home or a similar environment. These services may include assisting with personal hygiene, dressing, feeding, and incidental household management tasks, but exclude assisting individuals with their daily living activities when they have a chronic and stable disease or condition. Services must be provided under the supervision of a registered nurse.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 5 & 6 — NURSING HOME BEDS MORATORIUM AND CON CRITERIA

The act creates an exception to the state's nursing home bed moratorium, allowing DSS to approve additional Medicaid-certified beds in existing or new nursing homes under certain circumstances. Relatedly, it also modifies the factors the DSS commissioner must consider when reviewing certificate of need (CON) applications, including those for additional beds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Nursing Home Bed Moratorium Exception

Existing law establishes a nursing home bed moratorium that generally prohibits DSS from accepting or approving CON requests for more nursing home beds, with certain exceptions, such as beds (1) used by patients with AIDS or who require neurological rehabilitation and (2) associated with a continuing care facility that are not used for Medicaid patients.

The act adds a new exception that allows DSS to approve a request to add new Medicaid-certified beds to existing or new nursing homes. When doing so, the department must give preference to nontraditional, small-house style nursing homes whose goals are in keeping with the department's long-term care strategic plan to address facility needs in priority census tracts.

CON Criteria

By law, nursing homes, rest homes, and intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual disabilities generally need CON approval from DSS when (1) introducing new services, (2) changing ownership, (3) relocating licensed beds or decreasing bed capacity, (4) terminating a service, or (5) incurring certain capital expenditures.

Under existing law and the act, the DSS commissioner must consider several factors when reviewing CON requests, such as whether there is clear public need for the proposed action. When determining public need for requests to add new Medicaid-certified beds under the act, the commissioner must consider whether there is a demonstrated bed need in the towns within a 15-mile radius of the town where the new beds will be added. (Existing law also requires the commissioner to do this when considering requests to relocate beds to a replacement nursing home.)

For all CON requests, existing law requires the commissioner to consider how a request contributes to regional long-term care delivery quality, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness. Under the act, in making this consideration, she must include the requesting nursing home's star rating on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service's (CMS) five-star quality rating system for nursing homes.

The act also modifies how bed need is determined for CON requests. Under the act, a service area with a demonstrated bed need is one whose nursing home occupancy is above 96% for at least two consecutive quarters. The DSS commissioner may also consider the service area's projected future bed need above 96% occupancy using its latest strategic statewide long-term care rebalancing plan. Previously, demonstrated bed need was based on a service area's nursing home occupancy (with no percentage specified) and projected bed need for up to five years at 97.5% occupancy using the (1) Office of Policy and Management's latest population projections by town and age and (2) Department of Public Health's latest available nursing home utilization statistics by age cohort.

§ 7 — NURSING HOME MINIMUM DATA SET AUDITS

Existing law sets procedures and requirements related to DSS audits of long-term care facilities that receive Medicaid or other state payments (for example, nursing homes, residential care homes, and intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual disabilities).

The act establishes a different process for DSS audits of nursing homes' minimum data set (MDS) information. Federal law requires nursing homes to assess each resident's functional capacity using the MDS assessment tool and DSS then uses the information to calculate nursing homes' acuity-based Medicaid reimbursement rates. (Generally, acuity-based rates refer to rates that vary based on, among other things, the facility's patient case mix.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Deadline to Provide Information

Under the act, if DSS requests documentation related to an MDS audit, the nursing home must provide it within 10 days. For other types of audits, existing law gives facilities at least 30 days to provide documentation on any discrepancies found during the audit.

Limitation on Post-Exit Interview Submissions

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the commissioner must prepare a preliminary report on an audit's findings. She must then hold an exit conference with the audited facility to discuss the preliminary report, and the facility may present evidence refuting the report's findings. For MDS audits, the act prohibits nursing homes from giving the commissioner any more documentation after the exit conference, unless the commissioner and nursing home agree to it.

BACKGROUND

According to the 2020 federal census, New Haven and Stamford have populations between 130,000 and 139,999. Only New Haven had a population within the prior law's range.

PA 26-103—sSB 125

Aging Committee

Judiciary Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT REQUIRING NURSING HOMES TO ANNUALLY REPORT CERTAIN OWNERSHIP INFORMATION REGARDING INVESTMENT ENTITIES, ACQUIRE, IF FEASIBLE, A SURETY BOND OR A SIMILAR FORM OF SECURITY IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO NINETY DAYS OF OPERATING COSTS, MAINTAIN FULL GOVERNANCE CONTROL AND AUTHORITY OVER NURSING HOME ASSETS AND ACTIVITIES AND ANNUALLY ATTEST THAT NO INVESTMENT ENTITY HAS CONTROL OVER NURSING HOME RESIDENT HEALTH, SAFETY OR CARE

SUMMARY: This act establishes new requirements for state-contracted nursing homes that serve Medicaid recipients. Beginning by February 1, 2028, it requires each home to annually attest that no investment entity has control over resident health, safety, or care. And, starting on that date, it generally requires each nursing home's licensee to have full control over the home's governance, assets, and activities. The act also requires each home to annually report to the Department of Social Services (DSS) on any investment entity that has at least a 5% beneficial ownership interest in it.

Under the act, homes that are owned by investment entities generally must have a surety bond in favor of the state, equal to 90-days of its operating costs, but the bond requirement does not apply if DSS is unable to identify a financially feasible bond or security instrument as the act requires the department to do.

Under the act, an "investment entity" collects capital investments from individuals or other entities and purchases an ownership share of a nursing home, either directly as a parent company or through another entity it at least partially owns or controls. This term includes real estate investment trusts, which are generally companies that own or finance income-producing commercial real estate.

Lastly, the act requires DSS to study and report on certain topics related to investment entity ownership of nursing homes and the possible effects of establishing limitations on the sale of property on which a nursing home is located.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the DSS reporting requirement is effective upon passage.

LICENSEE'S CONTROL OVER THE HOME AND ATTESTATION

Beginning February 1, 2028, the act requires each nursing home licensee to have full control over the home's governance, assets, and activities, including clinical, operational, managerial, financial, and human resource matters. And, beginning by that date, nursing homes must annually attest to the Department of Public Health (DPH) that no investment entity has control over resident health, safety, or care.

Waiver

If a nursing home thinks it will not be able to comply with the act's governance requirements, it may apply to the DSS commissioner for a one-year waiver through a process the act establishes. Any home that needs a waiver must apply for it at least six months before the compliance deadline. The commissioner may only grant a waiver if she thinks it will benefit or maintain access to resident care or make the home's operations more stable. She may request any information or documentation she needs to assess the application and may place any necessary terms or conditions in granting a waiver.

Attestation Penalty

Under the act, DPH may impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per violation on nursing homes that do not provide the required attestation. A nursing home may file a written request for a hearing to contest the fine within 10 business days after receiving DPH's order imposing the penalty. If the home requests a hearing, DPH must schedule one as a contested case held as the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act requires.

SURETY BOND

Under the act, if an investment entity has a beneficial ownership interest in a nursing home of at least 5%, the home generally must have a surety bond, or similar security, in favor of the state covering 90 days of the home's operating costs in case it enters a receivership, starts an emergency closure, or faces imminent financial distress. This requirement applies only if DSS identifies a security instrument, as described below. (Generally, an owner of a beneficial interest may receive financial benefits from an asset even if not recorded as a legal owner.)

The act requires DSS to identify security instruments (like surety bonds, escrow accounts, and insurance products) that nursing homes may use to meet this requirement. DSS must tell the nursing homes about any suitable, financially feasible security instruments it identifies by January 1, 2028. If DSS does not identify any, this requirement does not go into effect.

If DSS identifies a security instrument, beginning July 1, 2028, covered homes must have secured a bond or security when applying for an initial license or to renew its license with DSS or DPH. When applying for licensure, the nursing home must submit proof (for DPH, a copy of the bond or security) it has one that will remain in effect for the entire licensure period.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT AND PENALTY

Beginning by February 15, 2027, the act requires each nursing home to annually give DSS certain information about each investment entity that has a beneficial ownership interest of at least 5% in the nursing home, including:

1. its name and business address and whether it is an individual, partnership, corporation, or other type of legal entity;
2. the names of individuals holding certain leadership positions (directors, officers, trustees, managing partners, and general partners);
3. each partner's ownership share;
4. a certificate of good standing from a secretary of state, if it is incorporated in another state;
5. audited and certified financial statements, if applicable, that must at least include certain information (for example, income statements and a cash flow statement from the most recent fiscal year);
6. a description of financing (for example, mortgage loans) used to acquire or construct the home and any subsequent debt refinancing;
7. a copy of the purchase agreement for the nursing home and any agreement to transfer ownership interests in it (for example, real estate, asset, or stock agreements); and
8. documentation on any escrow or contingency accounts.

If a nursing home does not submit this information within 30 days after it is due and DSS notifies the home within 14 days after the missed deadline, the DSS commissioner may impose a \$1,000 per day fine on the home, which may contest the fine in an administrative hearing through a process established in existing law for DSS decisions.

DSS REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The act requires DSS, consulting with DPH, to review and evaluate the:

1. disclosures nursing homes provided, as required under the act;
2. quality of care at nursing homes where an investment entity has a beneficial interest compared to the care provided at homes without this ownership interest; and
3. potential implications of requiring the owners of land or buildings where nursing homes are operating to get DPH's approval if the owner wants to sell or convey the property within five years after getting it.

DSS must report its findings to the Aging, Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees by February 15, 2028.

PA 26-36—sHB 5421
Appropriations Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE PATIENT LIFTS TO CERTAIN HEALTH CARE OFFICES AND FACILITIES

SUMMARY: This act creates a separate, nonlapsing “health care facility patient lift account” to be administered by the state treasurer. The Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner must use the account to make grants to health care offices or facilities (see below) to buy patient lifts for transferring patients who are elderly or who have disabilities, injuries, or chronic health conditions from facility beds to wheelchairs or other equipment. The commissioner (1) must not make any grant that exceeds the account’s available balance and (2) may use up to 2% of the account’s balance in any fiscal year to pay the department’s costs for administering the account.

The account must contain (1) any amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the state for these purposes; (2) any moneys required by law to be deposited in it; and (3) gifts, grants, donations, or bequests made for these purposes. The account’s investment earnings become part of its assets.

Under the act, DPH may make grants to physician offices; radiological facilities; imaging centers; hospitals, including chronic disease hospitals; outpatient clinics; nursing homes; residential care homes; home health care or home health aide agencies; hospice facilities or agencies; assisted living services agencies; and certain intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-57—sHB 5381
Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING UNLAWFUL FUNERAL SERVICE PRACTICES

SUMMARY: This act establishes a funeral service guaranty account to be used by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to give restitution to victims of fraud or other illegal activity related to funeral service contracts entered into on or before July 1, 2026.

By law, funeral service contracts are contracts where money is paid or securities or a death benefit provided by certain life insurance policies in exchange for future funeral, burial, or related services. The law requires these contracts to have certain provisions. The act:

1. changes the required statement in the contract about the purchaser receiving notice from the escrow agent about the initial deposit by requiring it to (a) be in bold type and (b) state the amount of the deposit and
2. requires these contracts to include a statement that purchasers sign attesting to receiving and having time to review DCP’s funeral services contract fact sheet before entering the contract.

Finally, the act creates a prepaid funeral service contract working group to report recommendations to the General Law Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the funeral service contract provision requirements are effective July 1, 2026.

§ 1 — GUARANTY ACCOUNT

Beginning July 1, 2027, the act allows DCP to use the funeral service guaranty account to (1) give restitution to a beneficiary or purchaser of a funeral service contract entered into on or before July 1, 2026, who was a victim of fraud or unlawful practices related to money paid on the contract and (2) cover its administrative costs, including personnel, in an amount up to 2% of the fund’s balance in a fiscal year. Restitution payments from the account:

1. can be up to \$10,000 per funeral service contract,
2. cannot exceed the balance available in the account for restitution,
3. can be for less than (a) a person’s loss or damages or (b) the amount of the restitution order if necessary to preserve the account’s integrity.

If the account does not have sufficient funds, DCP must pay unpaid claims or parts of them, in the order they were determined, when funds become available.

The account is a separate, nonlapsing account that contains money from the state for the account; any money required by law to be deposited into it; and any gifts, grants, donations, or bequests to the account. Any investment earnings on the account’s funds become part of the account and the treasurer administers the account.

Application

The act requires an applicant to the fund to give DCP a copy of the original funeral service contract and proof:

1. of any services provided under the contract,
2. that the applicant is a contract beneficiary or purchaser or beneficiary's estate or legally authorized agent, and
3. of payment for funeral or burial services not provided in the contract.

DCP can consider, but cannot require, any court order entered against the funeral service contract provider.

Recovering Funds

The act requires DCP to attempt to recover amounts paid from the account. Before receiving payment, a person must assign the right, interest, and title to the claim to DCP for the amount paid from the fund. DCP takes on the rights of that person for the amount paid from the fund plus reasonable interest. Any amount and interest recovered is paid to the account.

The act requires DCP to determine if the provider has assets than can be sold or applied to pay the account and can request that the attorney general take action to reimburse the account.

Regulations

The act requires DCP to adopt regulations to implement the restitution process. DCP must:

1. adopt and implement policies and procedures on these topics by June 1, 2027, which are valid upon posting on the eRegulations system until regulations are adopted and
2. propose regulations by the earlier of April 1, 2028, or 90 days after the working group established by the act issues its final report.

§ 3 — WORKING GROUP

The act creates a prepaid funeral service contract working group to study issues related to these contracts, consumer protections for contract purchasers and their agents, and a guaranty fund (such as the one created by the act).

The working group consists of:

1. one member appointed by each of the General Law Committee's chairpersons and ranking members (the chairpersons must choose two of these members as working group chairpersons and legislators appointed to the working group under this provision are only voting members if also chosen to serve as a working group chair);
2. the Banking, DCP, Insurance, and Public Health commissioners and the probate court administrator, or their designees; and
3. one representative, jointly appointed by the General Law Committee chairpersons, representing an association of each of the following: funeral directors, banks, and insurance companies.

The act requires appointing authorities to (1) make their appointments by June 18, 2026, and (2) fill any vacancies.

The working group chairpersons must schedule the group's first meeting by July 18, 2026, and the group must meet monthly and at other times the chairpersons choose. The General Law Committee staff must staff the working group.

The group must give the General Law Committee an initial report of its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2027, but the act requires a final report at an earlier date (by January 1, 2027). The group terminates the later of January 1, 2028, or when it submits its final report.

PA 26-62—sHB 5447

Appropriations Committee

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

SUMMARY: This act makes several unrelated changes affecting children's behavioral health. Specifically, it requires:

1. the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO) executive director to establish working groups to (a) study eating disorder treatment and (b) develop a statewide food education roadmap and model school nutrition curriculum;
2. the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults, between the ages of 14 and 21, who have

- intellectual or developmental disabilities; and
3. each school-based health center, starting January 1, 2027, to (a) use an evidence-based screening tool for early identification of disordered eating behaviors in addition to using existing methods to diagnose these behaviors and (b) give the screening tool to each student in grades six through 12 during the student's annual health assessment required under existing law (§ 4).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision requiring (1) the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health and Policy and Planning Committee (TCBHPPC) to annually review the progress of the working group is effective October 1, 2026, and (2) each school-based health center to use a screening tool for early identification of disordered eating behaviors is effective July 1, 2026.

§§ 1 & 2 — CWCSEO WORKING GROUPS

The act requires the CWCSEO executive director to establish two working groups: one on eating disorder treatment and one to develop a statewide food education roadmap and a model school nutrition curriculum. Each working group's members are selected by the executive director and must include at least one member of the TCBHPPC.

Under the act, the executive director must annually report the working groups' study results to the TCBHPPC and the Children, Education, Human Services, and Public Health committees starting by January 1, 2028. The TCBHPPC must also annually review the working groups' progress.

Working Group on Treating Eating Disorders

Under the act, this working group must consult with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to compile information to be made available to the public for:

1. providers of eating disorder treatment services in the state, including facilities that provide this treatment;
2. details about the types of services these providers offer and the ages of the people they serve; and
3. any other resources available in the state for people with eating disorders.

The working group must also consult with DPH to establish best practice guidelines for facilities providing eating disorder treatment.

Working Group to Develop a Statewide Food Education Roadmap

The act requires this working group to develop a statewide education roadmap and a model school nutrition curriculum that includes developmentally appropriate evidence-based education programs on disordered eating behaviors, nutrition, culinary skills, growing food, food safety and food systems.

§ 3 — DSS FEASIBILITY STUDY

The act requires the DSS commissioner to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults, between ages 14 and 21, with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The commissioner must do this in collaboration with the children and families, developmental disabilities, and mental health and addiction services commissioners and the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate.

The study must at least include:

1. the facility's appropriate size and patient capacity;
2. best treatment practices;
3. operational costs and the feasibility of operating within available appropriations;
4. appropriate location sites for the facility, which may include state-owned property; and
5. billing options, including Medicaid, for the inpatient population served.

DSS must report the study results to the Appropriations, Children's, Human Services, and Public Health committees by July 1, 2027.

PA 26-51—HB 5208

Banking Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING DATA SECURITY, PAYROLL PROCESSING, CONSUMER FRAUD PROTECTION, MORTGAGE LOANS AND EMPLOYEE CREDIT RATES

SUMMARY: This act requires:

1. certain entities and individuals to adopt written programs with standards on developing, implementing, and maintaining reasonable data security safeguards for customer information;
2. Department of Banking (DOB) licensees and Connecticut banks and credit unions to notify the department within three business days after a data security incident;
3. DOB to (a) study financial institutions' payroll processing methods and how long it takes payroll checks to clear and (b) report its findings and recommendations to the Banking Committee by January 1, 2027 (§ 2); and
4. the Banking Committee chairpersons to convene a working group to study consumer fraud and how to protect against it.

Additionally, the act narrows the circumstances under which creditors must give mortgage loan applicants a plain language notice about flood insurance, generally requiring them only for one-to-four family residential real properties in the state.

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the flood insurance notice provision is effective July 1, 2026, and the data security provisions are effective October 1, 2026.

§ 1 — DATA SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Written Program to Protect Customer Information

The act requires the following entities and individuals to adopt written programs with standards on developing, implementing, and maintaining reasonable data security safeguards to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of customer information: banks, Connecticut credit unions, federal credit unions, out-of-state banks with a branch in Connecticut, out-of-state trust companies or credit unions with an office in Connecticut, licensees under Connecticut banking law, and those who are subject to DOB jurisdiction under Connecticut securities law. It specifies that these programs must be consistent with applicable federal regulations. Under the act, to the extent that this requirement conflicts with existing state law on financial records disclosure, the provisions giving customers the greater protection control.

Under existing law, these same entities and individuals must comply with the financial privacy provisions of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Act of 1999 and associated regulations (see BACKGROUND). The act specifies that this requirement includes compliance with the applicable provisions of three associated federal regulations on standards for developing, implementing, and maintaining safeguards to protect customer information.

Notice about Data Security Incidents

Under the act, DOB licensees and Connecticut banks and credit unions must initially notify the department within three business days after they know, or have reason to know, of certain data security incidents. The reporting requirement is triggered by any data security incident that may (1) materially impact the ability to operate safely and soundly or comply with applicable laws and regulations, (2) significantly disrupt customer services, or (3) involve unauthorized access to an individual's personal information (see BACKGROUND). The act allows the DOB commissioner to ask for additional information about the incident after receiving the initial notice.

A "data security incident" under the act is unauthorized access to or unauthorized acquisition, destruction, or corruption of certain electronic files, media, databases, or computerized data. The files, media, databases, or data involved must have either (1) an individual's personal information or (2) a licensee's or bank's or credit union's supervisory, financial, operational, or business information.

§ 3 — CONSUMER FRAUD WORKING GROUP

The act requires the Banking Committee chairpersons to convene a working group to study consumer fraud and how to protect against it. The working group must at least include the 19 ex-officio and appointed members listed in the following table.

Working Group Membership

Member	Appointing Authority
Banking Committee chairpersons and ranking members (or designees)	N/A
DOB commissioner (or designee)	
Department of Consumer Protection commissioner (or designee)	
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner (or designee)	
Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's executive director (or designee)	
Elder law attorney representing seniors in Connecticut	
Representative of an association representing financial institutions in Connecticut	Banking Committee chairpersons
Three representatives of organizations representing Connecticut credit unions, consumers, and seniors, respectively (one each)	
Three members of an association, selected by the Banking Committee chairpersons, representing financial institutions in Connecticut	
Three members of an organization, selected by the Banking Committee chairpersons, representing credit unions in Connecticut	Selected organization

The Banking Committee chairpersons must schedule the working group's first meeting by August 3, 2026. The working group must select two chairpersons from among its members. The Banking Committee's administrative staff serve in this capacity for the working group.

The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Banking Committee by January 1, 2027. It ends when it submits the report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

§ 4 — FLOOD INSURANCE NOTICES

Prior law required creditors, beginning July 1, 2026, to give mortgage loan applicants a plain language notice about flood insurance at least 10 days before closing on any mortgage loan transaction.

The act limits this notice requirement to apply only when the loan will be (1) secured by a mortgage on a one-to-four family residential real property in Connecticut and (2) for less than \$1 million or primarily for personal, family, or household use. It specifies that covered loans include open-end lines of credit and home equity loans. Open-end lines of credit are generally credit arrangements that assume repeated transactions. Under the act, "home equity loans" are closed-end credit extensions (1) secured by a mortgage on a one-to-four family residential real property in the state that is the borrower's primary residence and (2) that have the full principal amount advanced at the loan's issuance and are repaid over a specified term. They are made based on the borrower's equity in the property and do not finance the property's purchase.

Under the act, the notice must be given to the loan applicant at least (1) 10 days before the loan's closing date or (2) by the loan's closing date if it involves an open-end line of credit or a home equity loan.

Creditors subject to this notice law, unchanged by the act, include state or federal banks, credit unions, mortgage lenders, correspondent lenders, and other financial institutions. Also unchanged is the notice's required content, which is that (1) standard homeowners' policies do not cover flood damage and related losses, (2) flood damage can happen regardless of whether the property is in a designated flood zone, and (3) the applicant may want to consult an insurance producer or surplus lines broker about flood insurance availability and benefits.

BACKGROUND

Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Act of 1999

Subtitle A of Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Act of 1999 limits the circumstances under which a financial institution can disclose a consumer's nonpublic personal information to nonaffiliated third parties. It also requires financial institutions to disclose to their customers the institution's financial privacy policies and practices with respect to affiliated and nonaffiliated parties (15 U.S.C. § 6801 et seq.).

Personal Information

By law, "personal information" is a person's first name or initial and last name, combined with at least one of the following:

1. driver's license or state identification card number;

2. government-issued identification number that is commonly used to verify identity, such as a Social Security, taxpayer identification, passport, or military identification number;
3. credit or debit card number;
4. financial account number, with other information that would give account access;
5. information about the person's medical history, mental or physical condition, or medical treatment or diagnosis;
6. health insurance policy number or subscriber identification number, or any unique identifier a health insurer uses to identify the person;
7. biometric data generated by electronic measurements of the person's unique physical characteristics and used to authenticate or determine identity (for example, fingerprint, voice print, or eye image); or
8. precise geolocation data.

It also includes a person's username or email address, combined with a password or security question and answer that would allow access to an online account (breach of login credentials) (CGS § 36a-701b).

PA 26-79—SB 218

Banking Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY BANK AND CREDIT UNION INVESTMENT PROGRAM, MORTGAGE PAYMENTS, PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF RENTAL SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS, CERTAIN APPROVALS BY THE BANKING COMMISSIONER, CONNECTICUT BRANCH APPLICATIONS AND SECURED CREDIT CARDS

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to banking-related laws. Specifically, the act:

1. sets the minimum interest rate that the state treasurer may accept for investment-related services under the Community Bank and Credit Union Initiative and requires that the treasurer select participating banks and credit unions through an application process, rather than a competitive bidding process (§ 1);
2. requires mortgagees to accept payments on the outstanding principal of residential property loans that are beyond the loans' required monthly payments (§ 2);
3. explicitly authorizes the Department of Banking (DOB) commissioner, after an investigation, to order a civil penalty of up to \$100,000 for certain violations of the security deposit laws (§ 3);
4. eliminates the requirement that Connecticut banks with a "satisfactory" Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) rating submit a plan for meeting community banking needs when applying to establish a branch location in the state or convert a limited branch to a branch, or vice versa (§ 4);
5. generally shortens the timeframe for the DOB commissioner to notify banks applying to establish a Connecticut or out-of-state branch about his determination before the applications are deemed approved (§ 5); and
6. expands the factors the DOB commissioner must consider when assessing a bank's state CRA performance to include whether it offers a loan or deposit product designed to help local community residents, including low- and moderate-income people, establish or improve their credit history (§ 6).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 1 — COMMUNITY BANK AND CREDIT UNION INITIATIVE

The act sets the minimum interest rate that the state treasurer may accept for investment-related services under the Community Bank and Credit Union Initiative at 100 basis points (one percentage point) below the previous day's yield for a comparable U.S. Treasury security with the same maturity date as the one applicable to the investment-related services, as determined by the treasurer. The act also requires that the treasurer select banks and credit unions to participate in the program through an application process, rather than a competitive bidding process as prior law required.

Under this initiative, the treasurer may invest up to \$300 million in Connecticut-based banks and credit unions that meet the applicable asset limits and capital standards. The financial institutions participating in the initiative make loans to people and small-to-medium sized companies and provide banking services in underserved markets.

§ 2 — MORTGAGE LOAN PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS

The act sets circumstances under which mortgagees (lenders or servicers) of certain residential property loans must accept payments on the loans' outstanding principal that are beyond the loans' required monthly payments ("prepayments"). This applies to mortgage loans made on or after January 1, 2027, for one-to-four family owner-occupied dwellings.

The act requires a mortgagee to accept a prepayment from a mortgagor (borrower) that reduces the amount of principal owed on the loan, either fully or partially. But to apply a prepayment, the mortgagor must be current on making all monthly payments due under the loan.

The act allows the mortgagee to apply a prepayment to other amounts owed under the loan if the loan's terms allow it to do so. Additionally, under the act, making a prepayment does not change the due date or amount of the loan's regular monthly payment unless the mortgagee agrees to it in writing.

Lastly, the act specifies that a mortgagee (1) must apply the prepayment according to applicable state and federal laws and regulations and (2) cannot assess a charge on a prepayment if state or federal law or regulation prohibit it. But for Federal Housing Administration-insured loans, it allows for mortgagors to have to reimburse mortgagees for any charge, premium, or fee the law or regulation requires for payment of a mortgage loan before its fixed payment date.

§ 3 — CIVIL PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN RENTAL SECURITY DEPOSIT LAW VIOLATIONS

Existing law authorizes the DOB commissioner to order a civil penalty of up to \$100,000 for violations of any provision of the statutes within his jurisdiction or any regulation, rule, or order adopted or issued under these statutes. The act explicitly authorizes him, after an investigation, to order this penalty for certain violations of the security deposit laws, in addition to issuing cease and desist orders for violations of these laws, as existing law allows. (Existing law also authorizes specified penalties for security deposit law violations (see *Background — Penalties for Security Deposit Law Violations*).)

Existing law authorizes the commissioner to receive and investigate complaints about certain alleged violations of the security deposit laws. These laws apply to residential landlords and generally (1) cap maximum allowable security deposits, (2) require deposits be placed in an escrow account, (3) set the interest rate on security deposits, (4) require landlords to pay tenants annual interest on security deposits, and (5) set timeframes for paying security deposits and interest at the end of tenancy.

By law, the commissioner does not have jurisdiction when the landlord (1) fails to annually pay the tenant interest on a security deposit or (2) has a good faith claim for actual damages that the tenant received written notice about. The latter includes situations where a landlord refuses or fails to return all or part of the security deposit because he or she is claiming damages.

Background — Penalties for Security Deposit Law Violations

Among other things, existing law makes any landlord who fails to return a tenant's security deposit (less the value of any itemized damages) within the statutory timeframe liable for twice the security deposit amount. Landlords are also subject to specified penalties under the existing security deposit laws if they knowingly and willfully:

1. fail to pay all or part of a security deposit due when the tenancy ends (a fine of up to \$250 for each offense);
2. violate the escrow account requirements (a fine of up to \$500, up to 30 days in prison, or both for each offense if at the time of the offense the landlord leased four or more residential units); or
3. fail to make the required interest payments on security deposits (a fine of up to \$100 for each offense).

§ 4 — COMMUNITY BANKING NEEDS PLAN

Prior law prohibited the DOB commissioner from approving certain types of applications from entities that received a CRA rating other than "outstanding" on their most recent community reinvestment performance evaluation unless they submitted a plan showing how they would provide adequate services to meet the banking needs of all community residents, including those with low or moderate income. The act exempts any entity with a "satisfactory" rating on its most recent applicable community reinvestment performance evaluation from this requirement when applying to (1) establish a Connecticut branch location, including a limited or special need limited branch, or (2) convert a limited branch to a branch, or vice versa. It retains the requirement for applicants for other DOB approvals, including to merge or consolidate with a Connecticut bank or organize a holding company.

Existing law authorizes the commissioner to waive this requirement or require the submission of alternative information if the entity has at least a "satisfactory" rating and meets certain other criteria (for "eligible entities," see *Background — Eligible Entities*). The law also waives this requirement for applications to establish a mobile branch in the state but allows the commissioner to require applicants to submit other information instead of a plan.

Background — Eligible Entities

By law, an "eligible entity" is an applicant that:

1. received a composite rating of one or two under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System as a result of its most recent safety and soundness examination;
2. received a compliance rating of one or two on its most recent compliance examination;
3. received a satisfactory or better rating on its most recent community reinvestment performance evaluation;
4. is well capitalized, as determined under federal law;
5. is not subject to a cease and desist order, consent order, prompt correction action directive, written agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other administrative agreement with its primary state or federal banking regulator; and
6. is not subject to any formal or informal administrative action by that regulator.

§ 5 — TIMEFRAME FOR BRANCH APPLICATION APPROVALS

By law, when the DOB commissioner receives an application from a Connecticut bank to establish a branch here (including a limited, special need limited, or mobile branch) or outside of the state (including a limited or mobile branch), he must publish a notice of the application in the department's weekly bulletin, determine if the applicant is an eligible entity, and promptly notify the applicant about his determination.

The act requires that the application be deemed approved on the fifth business day, rather than the twelfth calendar day, after the end of the comment period stated in the department's weekly bulletin, unless the commissioner informs the applicant, in writing, about certain facts before then (for example, that an adverse comment has been received that warrants additional investigation or the application needs additional information). It similarly allows the application to be deemed approved before the end of the fifth business day, rather than the twelfth calendar day, if the commissioner issues a written notice of his intent not to disapprove it.

§ 6 — STATE CRA ASSESSMENTS

Existing law lists specific factors the DOB commissioner must consider in assessing a bank's community reinvestment performance under the state's CRA, including its (1) record of offering security deposit escrow accounts and (2) efforts to work with delinquent residential mortgage customers who are unemployed or underemployed. The act additionally requires the commissioner to consider if the bank offers a loan or deposit product designed to help local community residents, including low- and moderate-income people, establish or improve their credit history.

The state's CRA law applies to all state-chartered banks, as well as out-of-state banks with a Connecticut branch, except those that generally do not grant credit to the public as part of their normal business. It requires the commissioner to assess each bank's record of meeting its obligation to satisfy the credit needs of its local communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, using the federal CRA's methodology and other state-specific factors.

PA 26-25—sSB 157
Committee on Children

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CAMP SAFETY

SUMMARY: This act specifies that the existing mandated reporter requirement for youth camp staff applies to camps operated by a municipal agency. By law, people in many designated occupations or professions who have contact with children are mandated reporters with a legal duty to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect (see BACKGROUND).

Prior law designated all paid youth camp staff (including a director or assistant director) age 21 or older as mandated reporters, but it did not specify if this applied to both licensed and license-exempt municipal camps. The act expressly states that it does.

The act also requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), in consultation with three statewide organizations, to develop a report with details about each municipal youth camp in the state and submit it to the Committee on Children by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the youth camp report requirement is effective upon passage.

YOUTH CAMP REPORT

The act requires OEC, in consultation with a statewide (1) association advocating on behalf of municipal parks and recreation departments, (2) organization advocating for small towns, and (3) organization of municipal leaders, to submit a report on Connecticut municipal youth camps to the Committee on Children. The report is due by January 1, 2027, and must at least include a list of each municipal youth camp in the state and details for each camp about:

1. the physical environment, facilities, and settings;
2. the number and age range of children served in the prior year;
3. the number of employees in the prior year;
4. the operating schedule for the prior year, including the dates when children attended;
5. any requirements for employee training, including frequency, in emergency first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
6. whether employees are authorized to administer medication to children and if they offer employee training for administering medication;
7. whether child care assistance subsidy payments are accepted (Care 4 Kids);
8. whether it has written policies and procedures for (a) employee hiring and training, including if they do criminal background checks on prospective or current employees, and (b) facilities and equipment safety and maintenance; and
9. the extent to which these written policies and procedures meet the regulatory requirements for OEC-licensed youth camps.

BACKGROUND

Mandated Reporters

The mandated reporter law imposes a legal duty on specified occupations or individuals (for example, doctors, nurses, athletic coaches, social workers, and school employees) to report to the appropriate authorities any reasonable suspicion or belief that a child is being abused or neglected.

By law, a mandated reporter's failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect within a statutorily set time is a class A misdemeanor. But it is a class E felony if the (1) violation is a repeat violation; (2) violation is willful, intentional, or due to gross negligence; or (3) mandated reporter had actual knowledge that a child was abused or neglected, or a student was the victim of sexual assault (CGS § 17a-101o(d)).

PA 26-26—sHB 5004
Committee on Children
Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD WELFARE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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[§ 20 — IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT FROM OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS REPORT](#)

Requires DCF and OCA to study and report on ways to improve department policies and practices to ensure a child’s immediate removal from an out-of-home placement if they become a victim of physical or sexual assault

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[§ 22 — REQUIRING AN INVESTIGATION AND NEW DCF INVESTIGATOR IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES](#)

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Requires additional follow-up and oversight of people who are convicted of certain crimes and then live with a minor child; requires notification to DCF when people convicted of these crimes are released from incarceration

SUMMARY: This act makes numerous changes to child welfare law. A section-by-section analysis follows.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§ 1 — RELATIVE AND FICTIVE KIN IN EMERGENCY PLACEMENTS

Requires, rather than permits, the DCF commissioner to make an emergency placement of a child to an unlicensed relative or fictive kin caregiver if certain conditions are met; requires the commissioner to document in writing the reasons for denying these placements

The act requires, rather than permits, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner to make an emergency placement of a child to a relative or fictive kin caregiver (an unrelated person at least 21 years old who has a significant emotional connection with the child or family), even if the person is not DCF-licensed or -approved when the placement is deemed in the child's best interest. By law, an "emergency placement" is the placement of a child in the home of a relative or fictive kin caregiver due to the sudden unavailability of the child's primary caretaker. As under existing law, DCF must first do a basic family assessment, including a home visit, prior to the emergency placement.

After the placement is approved, the commissioner must order a criminal history and child abuse registry check of anyone 18 years old or older living in the home. By law, a criminal history can result in the denial of the placement or removal of the child. The act requires the commissioner to document the reason for any denial of a placement with, or removal from, a relative or fictive kin caregiver.

The act also requires the commissioner, when placing a child with someone who is not a relative or fictive kin caregiver, to document why doing so, rather than placing the child with a relative or fictive kin caregiver, is in the child's best interests.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 1 — FOSTER PARENT LICENSE DENIAL

Provides those denied a foster care license the ability to appeal the decision to the DCF commissioner; requires the commissioner to decide on the appeal within 60 days

Upon the denial of an initial foster care license, the act requires DCF to disclose, in writing, the reason for the denial to the applicant. Any applicant denied an initial license can appeal the denial to the commissioner within 30 days after the denial, in a way the commissioner establishes. The commissioner must grant the license or affirm the denial, in writing, within 60 days after the applicant makes the appeal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 2 — RELATIVE AND FICTIVE KIN AND ABUSE AND NEGLECT PROCEEDINGS

Explicitly includes a fictive kin caregiver in the placement options for an abuse and neglect proceeding; requires the state agency petitioning the court to give primary consideration to placement with them

Under prior law, following a petition by a state agency (or others authorized to make a petition) to the court alleging child abuse or neglect, a court could consider vesting the child's care and custody temporarily with only a relative, agency, or other person. The act explicitly adds a fictive kin caregiver to the list of possible temporary care and custody placement options a court can consider during these proceedings and when these orders are made ex parte (on behalf of one party).

Prior law required the state agency filing the temporary custody petition to give primary consideration to placing the child in the town where the child lives. Under the act, the agency's petition must give primary consideration to placement with a relative or fictive kin caregiver, regardless of where the child was living when removed. If that placement is denied, the agency must give secondary consideration to placing the child in the town where the child lives.

By law, the agency must file in the petition, with the court clerk the reasons for a child's placement if it is not with a relative or fictive kin caregiver or within the town where the child lives. The act adds that when the placement is not with a relative or fictive kin caregiver, the filing must include confirmation that the placement selected for the child serves the best interests of the child.

The act makes related minor and conforming changes.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 3 — RELATIVE OR FICTIVE KIN CAREGIVER GRANT FOR NECESSITIES

Establishes a grant program to make payments to certain caregivers for clothing, food, safety-related purchases, and other necessities for children in their care after an emergency placement

The act establishes a grant program to make payments to caregivers for clothing, food, safety-related purchases, and other necessities for DCF-placed children in their care. For purposes of the grant, a “caregiver” is a relative or fictive kin caregiver who has accepted emergency DCF placement of a child.

It requires the DCF commissioner, by January 1, 2027, to develop a distribution formula for the grant payments, which must set the (1) maximum total grant payment at \$625 (the act does not specify, but this appears to be a one-time grant per placement; under a related law, once a placement is processed, the caregiver is eligible for a foster care stipend) and (2) guidelines for the appropriate expenditure of grant payments.

The act requires each caregiver receiving a grant payment to file an expenditure report with the DCF commissioner as she determines. A caregiver must pay back any amount spent in violation of the commissioner’s guidelines.

By January 1, 2028, and each following year, the DCF commissioner must submit a report to the Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee (see § 18) and the Committee on Children. The report must include, for the preceding year, the number of grant payments made and the amount of each one, and the length of each placement that has ended.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 4 — AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANTS FOR FOSTER CAREGIVERS

Establishes a grant program to give caregivers financial support to help cover the cost of after school programs or child care services for foster children in their care

The act establishes a grant program to give caregivers financial support to cover, either fully or partially, after school program and child care service costs for children in their care by DCF. Under the act, after school programs take place after regular school hours and provide educational, enrichment, and recreational activities for children grades kindergarten through 12. “Caregivers” are generally those who are either a (1) relative or fictive kin caregiver who (a) is licensed or approved to provide foster care or (b) has accepted emergency placement of a child or (2) licensed foster care provider caring for a child for whom reunification with the parent is unlikely within the foreseeable future.

The act requires grant payments to be prioritized for caregivers who are eligible for foster care maintenance payments or a guardianship subsidy, but who have not yet received an initial payment or subsidy. Under the act, no more than 50% of the total funds available in any fiscal year for the grant program can be for either after school program or child care service costs.

For the grant program, the act requires DCF to develop the following by January 1, 2027:

1. an application process;
2. caregiver eligibility criteria;
3. appropriate expenditure guidelines for the caregiver grants; and
4. a grant distribution formula, including the maximum grant available.

Each grant recipient must file an expenditure report with DCF and return unexpended funds to the department.

Beginning by January 1, 2028, the act also requires DCF to annually report to the Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee (see § 18) and the Committee on Children on the number of applications it received and grants it awarded in the previous year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 5 — PROSPECTIVE SOCIAL WORKER INTERNSHIP AND FIRST-YEAR SOCIAL WORKER MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Requires DCF to establish a (1) first-year social worker mentorship program for their newly hired social workers and (2) prospective social worker internship program for people enrolled in a bachelor’s or master’s degree program in a relevant field

The act requires DCF to establish a (1) first-year social worker mentorship program for their newly hired social workers and (2) prospective social worker internship program (in consultation with higher education institutions), each of which must include opportunities for job shadowing, support, and coaching. Under the act, DCF must (1) establish both programs

by January 1, 2027, and (2) pay a stipend to each intern, first-year social worker, and mentor who successfully completes their applicable program.

For both programs, DCF must establish an application process and acceptance criteria, set mentor-selection criteria, and recruit social workers to be mentors.

Additionally, the act requires DCF to annually report on these two programs to the Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee (see § 18 below) and the Committee on Children, beginning by January 1, 2028. The report must include information about each program, for the preceding year, on (1) the number of participants, (2) its cost, (3) whether adequate resources have been allocated, and (4) participant recruitment and retention statistics.

Prospective Social Worker Internship Program

To participate in the prospective social worker internship program, an applicant must be enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program in a relevant field, including, among others, social work, applied sociology, child development, clinical psychology, nursing, social services, education, or criminal justice.

The program must (1) last at least one academic semester, (2) include opportunities for internship experiences, and (3) offer participants insight into the challenges and benefits of social work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 6-8 — TRAINING ON PERINATAL MOOD AND ANXIETY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Requires training for DCF staff on perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, human trafficking, and cultural sensitivity and implicit bias

The act requires the DCF commissioner to develop and provide a mandatory educational training program for DCF employees in three areas: (1) perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, (2) human trafficking, and (3) cultural sensitivity in the delivery of the department's services and implicit bias.

For all three types of training, DCF employees hired before January 1, 2028, must initially complete each training by December 31, 2028. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2028, must initially complete each training not later than one year after beginning employment. The perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and human trafficking trainings must be completed at least once, and the cultural sensitivity and implicit bias training at least once every two years.

All three trainings must be ready by January 1, 2028, and offered at least every six months.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (§ 6)

The DCF commissioner must develop and provide a mandatory educational training program for DCF employees about (1) perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and (2) trauma-informed, non-stigmatizing practices for interacting with people suffering from these disorders. The commissioner must do this in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services commissioner.

Human Trafficking (§ 7)

The DCF commissioner must develop and provide a mandatory educational training program for DCF employees about human trafficking and trauma-informed, non-stigmatizing practices for interacting with child and adult victims of human trafficking. The commissioner must do this in consultation with the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's executive director, and the Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner.

Cultural Sensitivity and Implicit Bias (§ 8)

The DCF commissioner must develop and provide a mandatory educational training program for DCF employees about implicit bias and delivering the agency's services with cultural sensitivity. Under the act, "implicit bias" means an attitude or internalized stereotype that affects a person's perceptions, actions, and decisions in an unconscious way and often contributes to unequal treatment of someone based on their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or other characteristic.

§§ 9 & 10 — POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR YOUTHS IN DCF CARE

Requires DCF to establish a postsecondary education grant program for young people who either were adopted before turning 18 or who consent to stay in DCF care after turning 18 years old; requires the state auditors to audit the program; establishes reporting requirements for DCF and the auditors

The act requires DCF to establish a postsecondary education grant program by January 1, 2027. The program must award grants to fund postsecondary education (programs that lead to an academic degree, vocation certification, or trade) for youths who either (1) were adopted through DCF's foster care program on or after January 1, 2005, before age 18, or (2) consent to remain in DCF care after turning age 18 as allowed under state law. Under the act, young people generally cannot participate in the program after they turn age 21. However, with DCF's permission, they may continue to participate until they (1) turn age 24 or (2) complete their postsecondary education program, whichever happens first.

The act requires DCF to establish:

1. an application process,
2. a list of DCF-approved postsecondary education programs,
3. a grant distribution formula, and
4. eligibility criteria.

It also requires participants to annually complete (1) the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and (2) applications for any appropriate scholarships and grants, including any available through a scholarship application portal administered by an education provider.

The act requires DCF to report to the Committee on Children by July 1, 2027, on (1) the number of applicants received and accepted and (2) any challenges implementing the program. It must also report, by January 1, 2028, to the Appropriations, Children, Government Oversight, and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees, and to the Auditors of Public Accounts on this program and any similar program. The report must include information on:

1. the number of applicants received and accepted;
2. grant payment information, including the total grant payments offered, amount of each individual grant, and average grant payment amount per participant both for the prior year and over the course of participating in the program;
3. postsecondary education program information, including what postsecondary programs participants enrolled in and the percentage of participants who completed the postsecondary program;
4. the number of participants who requested, and have been approved, to remain in the program after turning age 21;
5. reasons why DCF denied initial applicants and existing participants' requests to remain in the program after turning 21;
6. demographic information; and
7. how long any similar program has existed.

The act requires the auditors to do a performance audit of the program by July 1, 2028, and submit a report to the same committees. The report must include the audit's results and generally the same information that DCF must report as described above, plus any recommendations for improving the program's administrative efficiency or effectiveness.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provision requiring the program audit is effective October 1, 2026.

§§ 11 & 12 — CHILD WELFARE ONLINE DASHBOARD AND ASSOCIATED WORKING GROUP

Requires DCF to make a public website with an online dashboard and various information related to DCF programs and procedures and child welfare by January 1, 2027; creates a working group to identify information for the online dashboard

The act requires DCF, by January 1, 2027, to make a public, online dashboard with information on DCF's administration and operation of statewide programs with services for abused, neglected, and uncared for children and young people, as well as children and young people who have mental health needs and substance use disorders. The dashboard must also:

1. include information identified by the Online Dashboard Working Group (see below);
2. include information identified in the annual reports relating to caregiver grant programs and social worker internship and mentorship programs established by the act (see §§ 3, 4 & 5 above);
3. be integrated with any electronic data collection and tracking tools DCF uses; and
4. present information in an accessible way.

The dashboard may be within DCF's existing website, and must also include information on:

1. DCF offices, programs, and services, including the Office of Community Relations, housing and homelessness programs, the child abuse and neglect careline, and text message programs for the public, and
2. child abuse and neglect identification and how to report child abuse and neglect.

The website must also include the mandated reporter video training program the law required DCF to create, and any accompanying training materials, in a publicly-accessible format that does not require a username or password.

Online Dashboard Working Group

The act creates a working group to identify information to be included on the online dashboard. The working group must consist of:

1. any legislators the Committee on Children chairpersons designate;
2. the Committee on Children ranking members, or their designees;
3. any people the chairpersons find relevant and necessary to carry out the working group's duties; and
4. the DCF commissioner or her designee.

The Committee on Children's administrative staff serve as the working group's administrative staff.

The working group must report its findings to the Committee on Children by October 1, 2026, and ends on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provision creating the working group is effective upon passage.

§ 13 — DCF PROCEDURES WHEN A CHILD UNDER PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION OR SERVICES IS TAKEN OUT-OF-STATE BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Sets procedures for when a child who is the subject of a DCF investigation, under protective supervision, receiving protective services, or residing with a child who meets one of these criteria is taken out-of-state by a parent or guardian

The act sets procedures for when a child who is the subject of a DCF investigation, is under protective supervision or receiving protective services, or residing with a child who meets at least one of these criteria will be taken out of the state by his or her parent or guardian. It (1) requires the parent or guardian to notify DCF, in a way the commissioner requires, if the child will be taken out of the state for more than 14 consecutive days and (2) allows DCF to require the parent or guardian to notify DCF if the child will be taken out-of-state for 14 or fewer days.

The act also requires DCF to give written notice of these provisions to the parents or guardians of each eligible child.

Notification Requirements

Under the act, the parent or guardian must give DCF this notice at least 48 hours before taking the child out of state and must include (1) the address of each place where the child will sleep during this period and (2) how long the child will be out-of-state. If this changes, the parent must notify DCF as soon as practicable.

Failure to Notify Procedures

The act requires DCF to follow specified procedures when a parent or guardian removes a covered child out-of-state, or extends the time out-of-state, without the required notification. It also allows DCF to follow these procedures when a covered child is taken out-of-state for 14 or fewer days.

In these situations, DCF must attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or other family member for up to three consecutive days to determine the child's location (if unknown) and evaluate the child's safety (DCF may stop attempting to make contact if they determine the child's location). If it determines the child's location, DCF must:

1. contact the child welfare or law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the child is located (the "local agency") and ask them to do an in-person visit to ensure the child's safety;
2. follow-up with the local agency for up to three consecutive days after the initial visit request to see if the child was actually visited and to discuss any findings (DCF may stop these efforts early if they determine the visit was conducted);
3. directly visit with the child in-person (or virtually if in-person is not feasible) to evaluate the child's safety; and
4. document in writing all attempts to contact the child, parent, guardian, family member, and local agency.

Under the act, if DCF is not notified about the child's removal from the state until after they have already returned, it does not need to follow the above procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 14 — PROHIBITION ON USING MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AS SOLE OR PRIMARY REASON FOR DCF ACTION

Generally prohibits DCF from using evidence that a parent or guardian has voluntarily sought or received mental health treatment as the sole reason to pursue certain actions

The act generally prohibits DCF from using evidence that a parent or guardian has voluntarily sought or received professional mental health treatment, such as for perinatal mood or anxiety disorders, as the sole reason to pursue any action or proceeding related to harm or risk of harm. But the act specifies that DCF can still (1) act when a child is harmed or at risk of harm and (2) use mental health treatment evidence in an action or proceeding if otherwise authorized.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 15 — CONSIDERATION OF CHILD’S EXPRESSED OPINION IN DCF HOME VISITS

Requires DCF personnel to consider children’s opinions during home visits when investigating a report of child abuse or neglect of a young child

By law, all DCF investigations into reports of child abuse or neglect for children from birth to age three must include a home visit to, among other things:

1. observe the child and any siblings;
2. evaluate the parents, home, and condition of other children living in the household; and
3. if appropriate, determine the nature and extent of, and who is responsible for, the reported abuse or neglect.

The act requires DCF personnel, during these home visits, to consider any opinions expressed by the child or other children living in the household about whether the child was abused or neglected.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 16 — PERSONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DEVICES FOR DCF STAFF DURING HOME VISITS

Requires DCF to offer employees who do visits to the homes of children under DCF supervision personal emergency communication devices

The act requires the DCF commissioner, beginning January 1, 2027, to give all DCF employees who regularly do visits to, or evaluations of, the homes of children under the commissioner’s supervision personal emergency communication devices if the employees would like to use the devices during these visits or evaluations. The commissioner must also develop guidelines and a training program for their use.

The act defines “personal emergency communication device” as a GPS-enabled, wearable device that allows someone to contact local police by pressing a button or through another mechanism.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 17 — URGENT CRISIS CENTER

Requires DCF to establish an urgent crisis center in Stamford for FY 27

The act requires DCF to establish an urgent crisis center in Stamford for FY 27. Urgent crisis centers are walk-in DCF-certified clinics that treat the urgent mental or behavioral health needs of children who do not require medical emergency department care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 18 — CHILD WELFARE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Establishes a Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee charged with making recommendations about the state agencies providing child welfare services

The act establishes a 32-member Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee. It charges the committee with evaluating and making recommendations about the (1) operation, policies, and service outcomes of state agencies providing services relating to and supporting child welfare in the state and (2) efficacy and continued operation of existing statewide

boards, committees, and councils charged with oversight and evaluation of child welfare services. The committee consists of the Children and Appropriations committees' chairpersons and ranking members, and the following officials or their designees: (1) the commissioners of Children and Families, Education, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Services, Social Services, Housing, and Correction; (2) the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary; (3) the chief court administrator; (4) the probate court administrator; (5) the chief public defender; and (6) the child advocate.

The committee also includes 12 appointed members, as shown in the table below with their appointing authorities and qualifications.

Appointed Committee Members

Appointing Authority	Number of Members	Qualifying Description
House speaker	2	One mental health professional employed at an urgent crisis center
Senate president pro tempore	2	One DCF regional social worker supervisor
House majority leader	2	One private provider of child welfare services
Senate majority leader	2	One licensed foster parent
House minority leader	2	One expert in child welfare employed by an in-state higher education institution
Senate minority leader	2	One relative or fictive kin caregiver with whom a child in DCF's care and custody has been placed

Under the act, any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority. Committee members serve without compensation. The Committee on Children chairpersons and the OPM secretary, or their designees, must serve as co-chairpersons. They must schedule and hold the first committee meeting by November 30, 2026. The committee must meet quarterly but can meet more often upon the call of the co-chairpersons. The co-chairpersons may designate subcommittees to carry out committee duties.

The committee must submit its first annual report on its evaluation and recommendations to the Committee on Children by January 1, 2028. Starting January 1, 2031, the committee may choose, by its own majority vote, to terminate if it finds its work is no longer necessary or beneficial.

The committee must complete its duties under the act in consultation with one or more organizations that focus on child welfare-related issues, including an independent in-state higher education institution. The committee can accept administrative support as well as technical and research assistance from any such organization.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 19 — DCF AND DESPP COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENT AND CHILD WELFARE POLICIES STUDY

Requires DCF and DESPP to study and report on improving their communication with one another and their policies on removing children from home

The act requires DCF and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to study ways to improve (1) communication between DCF and DESPP on child welfare services and (2) existing policies and practices on removing children from their homes. DCF and DESPP must report their findings and associated recommendations to the Committee on Children by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 20 — IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT FROM OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS REPORT

Requires DCF and OCA to study and report on ways to improve department policies and practices to ensure a child's immediate removal from an out-of-home placement if they become a victim of physical or sexual assault

The act requires DCF and the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) to jointly study ways to improve department policies and practices to ensure children are immediately removed from out-of-home placements made by DCF if they become a victim of physical or sexual assault occurring in, or because of, the out-of-home placement (presumably, this would apply when the perpetrator was someone living in the home or with access to it). DCF and OCA must report the study's findings and associated recommendations to the Committee on Children by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 21 — RELEASING ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAGE INFORMATION

Permits DPH to release acknowledgment of parentage information to DCF

By law, the Department of Public Health (DPH) may release information relating to an acknowledgment of parentage to certain parties, including, among others, (1) someone who signed the acknowledgment; (2) the child, if they are at least age 18; (3) a guardian of the person whose parentage is acknowledged; and (4) an authorized representative of the Department of Social Services. The act also allows the information to be released to an authorized DCF representative.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Related Act

PA 26-130, § 4, also authorizes DPH to release acknowledgment of parentage information to an authorized DCF representative but only allows them to do so when the information being requested is to further the department's duties or responsibilities in a pending superior court for juvenile matter where the child's parentage is at issue.

§ 22 — REQUIRING AN INVESTIGATION AND NEW DCF INVESTIGATOR IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

Requires DCF assignment of a new investigator in certain circumstances of alleged abuse or neglect

The act requires the DCF commissioner to begin a new investigation into reports of child abuse or neglect when a third report of abuse or neglect is accepted within a 12-month period concerning a child or a combination of children who are related or living in the same home. The investigation must be done by a DCF employee that did not do the previous investigations of the child or children during the 12-month period.

The requirement applies after the third accepted report of child abuse or neglect in which the following has been identified as the subject of prior accepted reports during the previous 12-month period: (1) the child who is the subject of the report; (2) a sibling, half-sibling, step-sibling, or other child residing in the same home as the child; or (3) any combination of these children.

The act requires the investigation to be done as required by law, which includes (1) a home visit with observation of the child or children; (2) an evaluation of the parents; (3) a determination of the nature, extent, and cause or causes of the abuse or neglect; (4) a determination of the person or persons suspected to be responsible for the abuse or neglect; (5) and the name, age, and condition of other children residing in the same household.

The act specifies that it does not (1) prevent the commissioner from removing a child from the child's surroundings under her existing authority or (2) require the department to assign a second, new investigator for any further reports of abuse or neglect about a child made after completion of the investigation of a third report as required by the act.

Additionally, existing law allows DCF to evaluate accepted reports and choose to forgo an investigation for a family assessment and services referral if it determines that doing so is a lower risk for the child. The act waives this ability when these third accepted report situations occur.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 23 — ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT AND NOTIFICATIONS ON PEOPLE CONVICTED OF CERTAIN CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Requires additional follow-up and oversight of people who are convicted of certain crimes and then live with a minor child; requires notification to DCF when people convicted of these crimes are released from incarceration

Beginning October 1, 2026, the act requires notification to DCF and additional oversight of anyone convicted of certain crimes against children when they are released from a correctional institution and then live in a home with a minor child. The table below shows the 14 crimes for which this applies and a high-level summary for each. A minor child is a person under age 18.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Crimes Triggering Additional Oversight When Living With a Minor Child

Crime	CGS §	Description
Cruelty to persons	53-20	When a person intentionally tortures, torments, or unlawfully punishes another person or deprives them of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or physical care
Injury or risk of injury to, or impairing morals of, children; sale of children	53-21	When a person (1) causes or allows a child under age 16 to be placed in a situation where the child's life or limb is endangered or morals are likely to be impaired, (2) has sexual or indecent contact with the child's intimate parts, or (3) sells or buys permanent custody of the child
Abandonment of child under the age of six years	53-23	When a person having charge of a child under age six leaves the child in any place, with intent to abandon the child
Aggravated sexual assault of a minor	53a-70c	When any person commits certain crimes (for example, sexual assault) against a child under 13 and the crime is compounded by certain factors (for example, the victim was kidnapped, illegally restrained, or stalked, or the accused was previously convicted of a violent sexual assault)
Promoting prostitution of a person less than 18 years old in the first degree	53a-86(a)(2)	When a person knowingly advances or profits from the prostitution of a person under age 18
Enticing a minor	53a-90a	When a person uses an interactive computer service (such as the Internet) to knowingly persuade, induce, entice, or coerce someone under age 18, or who the person reasonably believes to be under 18, to engage in prostitution or unlawful sexual activity
Obscenity as to minors	53a-196	When a person knowingly promotes to a minor, for money, any material or performance that is obscene for minors
Employing a minor in an obscene performance	53a-196a	When a person employs a minor or allows a minor to be employed to promote any material or performance that is obscene for minors, regardless of whether the minor receives any consideration (is paid)
Promoting a minor in an obscene performance	53a-196b	When a person knowingly promotes any material or performance that employs a minor, whether or

<i>Crime</i>	<i>CGS §</i>	<i>Description</i>
		not the minor receives consideration, and the material or performance is obscene for minors
Importing child sexual abuse material	53a-196c	When a person knowingly imports or causes to be imported into the state three or more visual depictions of child sexual abuse material (often referred to as “child pornography”)
Possessing child sexual abuse material in the first degree	53a-196d	When a person knowingly possesses (1) 50 or more images of child sexual abuse material, (2) one or more images of child sexual abuse material depicting the infliction or threatened infliction of serious injury, or (3) a series of images or a video depicting either multiple children engaging in sexually explicit conduct or more than one act of explicit conduct by one or more children
Possessing child sexual abuse material in the second degree	53a-196e	When a person knowingly possesses (1) between 20 and 49 images of child sexual abuse material or (2) a series of images or a video depicting a single act of sexually explicit conduct by one child
Possessing child sexual abuse material in the third degree	53a-196f	When a person knowingly possesses (1) fewer than 20 images of child sexual abuse material or (2) a series of images or a video depicting a single act of sexually explicit conduct by one child
Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor	53a-196i	When a person knowingly buys advertising space for an advertisement for a commercial sex act that includes a depiction of a minor

Under the act, when someone convicted of a crime in the table above is released from incarceration and sentenced to a period of parole or probation, the correction commissioner or the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) executive director, as applicable, must notify the DCF commissioner within one week after the release if a minor child resides at the residential address to which the person was released.

Child Receiving DCF Services

Upon receiving the notification, the act requires the DCF commissioner or her designee to check if any minor child residing at the residential address is under protective supervision or receiving protective services. Within a week of determining that there is a minor child under protective supervision or receiving protective services, the commissioner or designee must visit the address to evaluate the child’s safety. The visits must continue monthly until the probation or parole ends or a minor child no longer resides at the address.

By law, a child is under “protective supervision” when a court determined a child was neglected, but DCF or another social agency is, at the court’s request, helping correct the neglect while the child stays in the home. “Protective services” are public welfare services provided to a family following a complaint of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, but where there is no ruling on the complaint.

Child Not Receiving DCF Services

The act requires DCF to notify the correction commissioner or the CSSD executive director, as applicable, if no minor child at the residential address is under supervision or receiving protective services. Upon that notification and then at least every three months, the correction commissioner or the CSSD executive director, as applicable, must ask the probationer or parolee about the welfare of any minor child residing with them and must do so until the person’s probation or parole ends.

PA 26-48—sSB 155
Committee on Children

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE DATA LINK CONNECTICUT SYSTEM

SUMMARY: This act merges Department of Children and Families (DCF) reporting requirements from nine statutes into one report. It does so by repealing certain reporting requirements and moving others to a new consolidated report that DCF must submit to the Appropriations and Children committees on its activities for the prior fiscal year. The act's consolidated report is due annually, starting on October 15, 2027. It generally maintains the prior law's reporting requirements.

The act also:

1. merges two existing DCF reporting requirements on the Behavioral Health Partnership,
2. removes the requirement that DCF report any missing or abducted child in the department's custody to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Crime Information Center to align with FBI requirements for submitting these reports, and
3. changes the name of the P20 WIN program (Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network) to "Data Link Connecticut" (or "DataLinkCT").

Lastly, it makes minor and technical changes (§ 8).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the name change for P20 WIN (§§ 9-14) and the technical changes (§ 8) are effective October 1, 2026.

§§ 1, 4-7 & 15 — CONSOLIDATED REPORT

The act generally consolidates nine separate DCF reporting requirements into one report to the legislature on DCF's activities and makes various changes to the information it must provide. The table below describes the act's changes for each of these reporting requirements, listed by topic. The act also makes other minor and technical changes.

In consolidating the reporting requirements, the act (1) shifts their due dates, from the prior dates in the table below to October 15 of each year, starting in 2027, and (2) requires DCF to report on all these topics on a fiscal year basis. It requires DCF to submit the consolidated report to both the Appropriations and Children committees, rather than only the latter as prior law required for most of the separate reports. (The three exceptions are described in the table below.)

The act specifies that the report must not include personally identifying information.

Consolidated Report Requirements Included in § 1

<i>Topic, Act §, and Statutory Citation</i>	<i>Prior Law Reporting Requirement and Due Date</i>	<i>Changes Under the Act</i>
Race and Ethnicity Data (§ 15) (CGS § 17a-6e)	Data showing DCF services use by race and ethnicity, an assessment of usage trends, and recommendations for results-based accountability measures for parity in access to services Due by February 15 each year	None
Visitation of Children in DCF Care (§ 5) (CGS § 17a-10a(f))	Data showing compliance with the law on visitation for children in DCF care due to temporary placements or commitment orders; must include the number of (1) children with out-of-home placements who have siblings, (2) child cases with documented sibling visits, and (3) individual siblings involved in each case Due by October 1 each year	Requires the report to have the number of sibling pairs in each placement, rather than the number of individual siblings involved in each case

Topic, Act §, and Statutory Citation	Prior Law Reporting Requirement and Due Date	Changes Under the Act
DCF-Operated Facilities (§ 15) (CGS § 17a-32a)	For each DCF-operated facility, (1) aggregate resident profiles; (2) descriptions of, and updates on, major initiatives; (3) key outcome indicators and results; (4) operating costs; and (5) descriptions of educational, vocational, and literacy programs, behavioral treatment and other services for residents, and their outcomes No specified due date	Requires this information to be submitted to the Appropriations and Children committees, rather than the State Advisory Council on Children and Families and each facility's respective advisory group; eliminates related requirements that (1) these advisory groups respond to their facilities' annual report and recommend improvements and enhancements they find necessary and (2) DCF serve as administrative staff to these groups and post these reports on its website
Reports of Animal Harm, Neglect, or Cruelty (§ 15) (CGS § 17a-100c)	Number of written reports made by DCF employees and animal control officers that DCF and Department of Agriculture (DoAg) receive on actual or suspected instances of animal harm, neglect, or cruelty; each commissioner must report this information Due by February 15 each year	Eliminates the DoAg commissioner's reporting requirement and instead requires DCF's report to include data from DoAg's monthly animal abuse reports to DCF, required under existing law
Family Assessment Response Program (§ 7) (CGS § 17a-101g(g))	Family assessment response (FAR) program status, including specified data, statistics, and analysis for the previous 12 months, such as the number of accepted reports of child abuse or neglect and percentage of reports assigned to the FAR program Due by July 1 each year	Removes the requirement to include the percentage of families receiving a family assessment response broken down by race and ethnicity and makes minor and technical changes Eliminates the prior requirement that this information be included in the annual children's report card
Private Provider Outcomes (§ 15) (CGS 17a-63a)	Information on DCF's efforts to determine measurable outcomes and incorporate them in provider contracts, including (1) the number of service types with outcomes, (2) the types of outcomes, (3) incorporating the outcomes into the contracts, and (4) the application of outcome information to quality improvement No due date specified	Requires DCF to also include information on outcome achievement and other quality indicators as noted in annual evaluations of each provider
Foster Care Licensing Practices (§ 15) (CGS § 17a-114g)	Specified information on DCF foster care licensing practices including (1) how it ensures it complies with foster care licensing laws and regulations, (2) how it assesses the needs of children and youths in foster care and provides support for foster parents to meet these needs, (3) DCF safeguards used when it seeks to license a relative caregiver with a history of child abuse or neglect or	Requires the report to include the results of any DCF audits of its licensing practices, rather than just random audits

Topic, Act §, and Statutory Citation	Prior Law Reporting Requirement and Due Date	Changes Under the Act
	psychiatric illness or a criminal record, and (4) the results of DCF's random audits of its licensing practices Due by January 1 each year	
Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment Fund Grant (§ 6) (CGS § 17a-22ii)	Information on the grant program's effectiveness Due to the Public Health Committee by January 1 each year	Eliminates requirement that report be submitted to the Public Health Committee
Juvenile Referrals and Diversions (§ 4) (CGS § 10-19m(c))	Information on the referral or diversion of children under 18 from the juvenile justice and court systems; must include specified statistics and demographic information and any other statistics and information the legislature may periodically request Due to the entire General Assembly by December 1 every other year	Requires DCF to report this same information annually, rather than every two years, and eliminates the provision allowing the legislature to request other statistics and information

§§ 2 & 15 — BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP REPORTING

The act merges two existing DCF reporting requirements on the Behavioral Health Partnership. It repeals a provision that requires DCF and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to monitor the Behavioral Health Partnership's implementation and annually report to the legislature on any related estimated cost savings. The act instead adds this cost savings reporting requirement to the existing annual report that DCF, DMHAS, and the Department of Social Services must make evaluating the Behavioral Health Partnership program and its services. By law, this annual program evaluation must, among other things, include information on the services provided, number of people served, program outcomes, and spending on child and adult populations under the program.

The act requires the agencies to submit the next annual program evaluation by October 1, 2026. By law, and under the act, they must submit the report to the Appropriations, Children, Human Services, and Public Health committees.

§ 3 — FBI NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

The act removes the requirement that DCF report any missing or abducted child in DCF custody to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC). In practice, only law enforcement authorities may access the NCIC to make these reports.

By law, unchanged by the act, DCF must, within 24 hours after a child in its custody is determined to be missing or abducted, notify the (1) law enforcement authority with jurisdiction where the child was reported missing or abducted and (2) National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

§§ 9-14 — P20 WIN DATA SYSTEM NAME CHANGE

The act renames the P20 WIN program "Data Link Connecticut" (or "DataLinkCT") in five places without otherwise changing the law. The program is a state data system used to match and integrate data from certain labor- and education-related state agencies, colleges and universities, and other organizations to inform policy and practice for education, workforce, and supportive service efforts.

Disconnected Youth Report (§ 14)

The act requires the data system executive board to report on disconnected youth every two years rather than annually, as prior law required. It makes the first biennial report due by July 1, 2027. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the

reports must go to the Appropriations, Children, Education, Human Services, Judiciary, Labor and Public Employees, and Public Health committees.

For the reports, a “disconnected youth” is someone aged 14-26 who is (1) an at-risk student or (2) not enrolled in high school and (a) does not have a high school diploma or its equivalent; (b) has a diploma or equivalent but is unemployed and not enrolled in an adult education program, college, or a workforce training or certification program, including an apprenticeship, or otherwise pursuing postsecondary education; or (c) is incarcerated.

PA 26-78—sSB 132
Commerce Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT-GERMANY AND CONNECTICUT-INDIA TRADE COMMISSIONS

SUMMARY: This act creates two new trade commissions within the Legislative Department: the Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission and the Connecticut-India Trade Commission. Under the act, each commission must do the following between Connecticut and its respective country:

1. advance bilateral trade and investment,
2. initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest,
3. promote business and academic exchanges,
4. encourage mutual economic support and infrastructure investment, and
5. address other issues it determines.

The Connecticut-India Trade Commission must also explore new opportunities for collaboration in the arts and technology.

To carry out their duties, the act authorizes the commissions to (1) get any assistance and data they need from any executive department, board, commission, or state agency; (2) take necessary and appropriate actions; and (3) accept gifts, donations, or bequests.

The act requires each commission, starting by February 1, 2028, to annually report to the governor, Department of Economic and Community Development, and Commerce Committee on its activities during the prior year, including any policy and legislative recommendations needed to carry out its purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission Members

Under the act, the commission includes the following 24 appointed or ex-officio members, as well as any additional members the Commerce Committee chairpersons determine are necessary:

1. two members each appointed by the six legislative leaders;
2. two Commerce Committee members, one each appointed by the committee chairpersons;
3. the Commerce Committee's ranking members, or their designees;
4. three members appointed by the governor;
5. one representative of a Connecticut public college or university, appointed by the governor;
6. one Connecticut chamber of commerce representative, appointed by the governor;
7. two representatives of German or German-American communities in the state from different political parties, appointed by the governor; and
8. one German honorary consular diplomatic representative willing to serve on the trade commission, appointed by the governor.

The act requires commission members to be (1) currently or formerly involved in organizations promoting German affairs or (2) interested in the well-being of trade relations between Connecticut and Germany.

Connecticut-India Trade Commission Members

Under the act, the commission includes the following 27 appointed or ex-officio members, and any additional members the Commerce Committee chairpersons determine are necessary:

1. two members appointed by the House speaker, including one expert in domestic nonprofit affairs or in the governance of international nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations that may have information on opportunities for social and economic collaboration between Connecticut and India;
2. two members appointed by the Senate president pro tempore, including one expert in domestic or international law that may impact legal agreements, trade partnerships, or opportunities for institutional collaboration between Connecticut and India;
3. two members appointed by the House majority leader, including one domestic or global public health expert with an ability to explore opportunities for collaboration between Connecticut and India;
4. two members appointed by the Senate majority leader, including one expert in local, domestic, or global economic

- development and investment opportunities intended to strengthen the partnership between Connecticut and India;
5. two members appointed by the House minority leader, including one expert in artistic opportunities for cultural exchange between Connecticut and India;
 6. two members appointed by the Senate minority leader, including one expert in domestic or global advanced manufacturing intended to create opportunities for investment, partnership, and collaboration between Connecticut and India;
 7. two Commerce Committee members, one each appointed by the committee chairpersons;
 8. two Commerce Committee ranking members, or their designees;
 9. two members of the Asian-American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Issues Caucus with expertise in AAPI cultural and social engagement;
 10. one member of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's sub-commission on matters affecting the AAPI population;
 11. three members appointed by the governor, including one expert in aerospace, information technology, cybersecurity, renewable energy, or clean energy;
 12. two representatives of a Connecticut public college or university, appointed by the governor;
 13. one Connecticut chamber of commerce representative, appointed by the governor; and
 14. two representatives of Indian or Indian-American communities in the state from different political parties, appointed by the governor.

Under the act, commission members must be (1) currently or formerly involved in organizations promoting Indian affairs or (2) interested in the well-being of trade relations between Connecticut and India.

Appointments

For each commission, the act requires appointing authorities to make their initial appointments by October 1, 2026, and fill any vacancies. Vacancies occurring other than by term expiration must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. The members, except those appointed by the governor, may be legislators.

Terms

Under the act, members generally serve four-year terms, until their successors are appointed, except as follows:

1. initial gubernatorial and House majority and minority leader appointments end on September 30, 2029;
2. initial House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and Senate majority and minority leader appointments end on September 30, 2030; and
3. initial and subsequent Commerce Committee chairperson appointments end when the term of the appointing committee chairperson ends.

Under the act, members serve without compensation but are reimbursed, within available funds, for necessary expenses incurred performing their duties.

Leadership and Meetings

The act requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select each commission's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold each commission's first meeting by November 1, 2026.

Under the act, each commission must meet quarterly or as often as the chairpersons or a majority of the members deem necessary. Members who miss three consecutive meetings or 50% of the meetings in a calendar year are deemed to have resigned. A majority of members is a quorum for conducting business.

The act requires the (1) General Law Committee's administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission and (2) Government Oversight Committee's administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the Connecticut-India Trade Commission.

PA 26-104—SB 134*Commerce Committee**Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee**Appropriations Committee***AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE IN THE TOWN OF PLAINVILLE**

SUMMARY: This act establishes an airport development zone in Plainville made up of nine specified census blocks, based on the 2020 federal decennial census. In doing so, it makes taxpayers eligible for partial property tax exemptions for improving or acquiring qualified manufacturing facilities and acquiring machinery and equipment in the designated area (see BACKGROUND).

Airport development zones are also among the designated exceptions where the Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner may generally approve advertisements within 660 feet of the edge of the interstate and other limited access highways in areas owned, managed, or leased by a public authority. By law, these advertisements are subject to DOT approval and related regulations and cannot be built where state law, local ordinance, or zoning regulations prohibit them (CGS § 13a-123(e)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND*Property Tax Exemptions Available in Airport Development Zones*

Businesses located in airport development zones may receive a five-year, 80% property tax exemption for acquiring, building, renovating, or expanding a qualifying manufacturing facility, which includes facilities housing specified business services if the economic and community development commissioner determines they depend on, or are directly related to, the airport (CGS §§ 12-81(59) & 32-9p). They may also receive the same partial exemption for acquiring machinery and equipment for these facilities (CGS § 12-81(60)). The state generally reimburses the municipality for half the forgone property tax revenue, depending on available funding (CGS § 32-9s).

PA 26-121—sSB 306*Commerce Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY**

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to consult with the following individuals when preparing the state's comprehensive energy strategy:

1. economic and community development commissioner;
2. agriculture, housing, and transportation commissioners or their designees;
3. Office of Policy and Management secretary or his designee;
4. Consumer Counsel or her designee;
5. Public Utilities Regulatory Authority chairperson or his designee; and
6. Connecticut Green Bank chief executive officer or his designee.

By law, DEEP must prepare the strategy every four years and consider, among other things, how Connecticut's energy policies affect greenhouse gas emissions and the state's economy. The act also requires the DEEP commissioner to submit the final comprehensive energy strategy to the Commerce Committee, in addition to the Energy and Technology and Environment committees as existing law requires.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-122—sSB 307*Commerce Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE COMMERCE STATUTES AND PROHIBITING SCHOLARSHIP DISPLACEMENT FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes to Department of Community and Economic Development (DECD) statutes and business-related laws. Principally, the act:

1. renames DECD's Small Business Express Program (EXP) as the Small Business Boost Program;
2. replaces the minority business revolving loan fund (MBRLF) program with the Connecticut Opportunity Fund program and correspondingly changes the eligibility criteria for the program's administering entities and loan recipients;
3. renames the Minority Business Initiative Advisory Board as the "First Generation and Emerging Business Initiative Advisory Board," changes the board's purpose to promoting equitable growth and generational wealth, and adds two members to the board;
4. increases, from \$10 million to \$25 million, the cap on financial assistance that DECD or Connecticut Innovations (CI) can award for a business project over a two-year period without legislative approval and eliminates the separate \$20 million cap for financial assistance to biotechnology business projects (§ 4);
5. allows employment promissory notes between an employer and employee for the repayment of H-1B visa fees the employer paid on the employee's behalf;
6. eliminates several DECD offices and generally shifts their responsibilities to the DECD commissioner or the department;
7. delays or eliminates reporting requirements for certain DECD or CI programs;
8. expands the eligibility criteria for Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board members and adds an attendance requirement; and
9. adds an attendance requirement for Connecticut Tourism Council members.

The act also generally prohibits public higher education institutions from reducing a student's financial aid because he or she receives a private scholarship, with certain exceptions. It requires the institutions to apply private scholarships first to offset unmet need, and then to reduce student loans, when a student's cost of attendance exceeds his or her financial aid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that the (1) Connecticut Opportunity Fund and financial aid reduction provisions are effective July 1, 2026, and (2) financial assistance cap provision is effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to income and tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2026.

§§ 1, 2, 9, 25 & 26 — SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM AND MINORITY BUSINESS REVOLVING LOAN FUND

The act renames DECD's Small Business Express Program as the "Small Business Boost Program." (The renamed program generally serves the same purpose as under prior law: providing the capital needed to fuel small business growth through the program's components.) The act correspondingly replaces references to EXP in related statutes, including renaming the program's dedicated account as the "Connecticut small business boost account."

The act also delays, from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2028, the date by which DECD must aim to have the program be self-funded with a maximum default rate of 20% for small businesses receiving assistance.

Connecticut Opportunity Fund

The act replaces the MBRLF, an EXP component that issued loans to minority-owned small businesses, with at least one Connecticut opportunity fund as a Boost component to issue loans to small businesses in historically underserved communities with owners who meet certain qualification criteria.

The act removes the requirement that a business be minority-owned to qualify for the renamed funds. Instead, a small business qualifies for an opportunity fund loan if its owner meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. operates or lives in a concentrated poverty census tract (census tracts in which at least 30% of the households have incomes below the federal poverty level);
2. has an adjusted gross income that is not more than the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual area median household income (presumably, for the federally-designated metro area in which the business

- owner operates or lives);
- 3. is a first-time business owner or enterprise lacking access to traditional commercial lending; or
- 4. meets the income eligibility criterion described above and operates or lives in a municipality that has a (a) population of at least 60,000 and (b) concentrated poverty census tract (this includes Bridgeport, Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury).

Additionally, in determining an applicant's eligibility, the act requires DECD to prioritize qualified applicants in the order the qualification criteria are listed above.

The act also expands the types of business development entities that DECD must partner with to administer the funds. Prior law required DECD to allocate, from available funding, grants for up to two nonprofit organizations (that provided at least 75% of their lending and technical assistance to minority-owned businesses) to establish and administer MBRLFs. The act instead requires DECD to partner with up to two nonprofit community development financial institutions (CDFIs) with Connecticut operations to establish and administer Connecticut opportunity funds.

CDFI Requirements

The act subjects CDFIs to prior law's limitations for nonprofit organizations administering the funding. These include (1) that not more than 10% of the funding a CDFI receives from DECD may be used to fund CDFI administrative costs and (2) restrictions on the businesses' use of loans made by CDFIs. Specifically, under the act and prior law, small businesses may use loans to purchase or acquire machinery and equipment, make construction improvements, pay for relocation expenses, or as working capital. Working capital may be used to pay rent or for other business expenses as authorized by the CDFI.

Under the act, the opportunity funds are also subject to other statutory requirements previously applicable to MBRLFs. These include (1) issuing loans that range from \$10,000 to \$500,000 with a 4% maximum repayment rate and up to 10-year term; (2) requiring the CDFI to review and approve loan terms, conditions, and collateral requirements in a way that prioritizes job growth and retention; and (3) specifically requiring the CDFI administering a fund to prioritize applicants that will create new jobs to be retained for at least 12 consecutive months as part of the applicant's business plan. In addition, the act requires CDFIs to prioritize applicants with business plans that contribute to closing gaps in access to capital for underserved communities and individuals.

The act also subjects CDFIs administering an opportunity fund to prior law's requirement that, not later than five years after the fund is established, the investment income, loan repayments, or other revenue sources received by the CDFI in connection with the fund cover the CDFI's administrative expenses for the fund. As under prior law, the act also requires CDFIs to submit annual audits of grant spending, as prepared by an independent auditor, to the DECD commissioner until all grant funds are spent. If the commissioner finds any improper spending, he may require grant repayment.

Reporting and Data Collection

The act requires the DECD commissioner to collect data on loan recipients, including their geographic distribution, income levels, and other indicators of access to capital. Beginning February 1, 2027, the commissioner must annually report this data and an analysis of it to the governor; Auditors of Public Accounts; and Appropriations, Commerce, and Finance, Revenue, and Bonding committees.

§ 3 — MINORITY BUSINESS INITIATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

The act renames the Minority Business Initiative Advisory Board as the "First Generation and Emerging Business Initiative Advisory Board" with the purpose of promoting equitable growth and generational wealth. It defines an "emerging business" as any business that has been registered and has maintained its status with the secretary of the state's office for no more than five consecutive years.

Under the act, the First Generation and Emerging Business Initiative Advisory Board must advise the DECD commissioner on increasing technical assistance and access to capital and state contracts for first generation and emerging businesses, rather than for minority-owned businesses as the Minority Business Initiative Advisory Board did under prior law. Additionally, the new board must develop and administer programs to foster financial literacy and generational wealth, rather than to foster minority employment and entrepreneurship.

The act also (1) expands the board's membership to include two members appointed by the chair of the legislature's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, (2) allows the board to establish bylaws governing its procedures, and (3) makes technical and minor changes.

§ 5 — EXCEPTION TO PROMISSORY NOTE BAN

The act creates an exception to Connecticut's employment promissory note ban to allow employers (currently, those with more than 25 employees) to require, as a condition of employment, an employee to sign a promissory note to fully or partially repay any fee related to the federal H-1B visa the employer paid on the employee's behalf. Under existing law, an employment promissory note is an agreement where an employee must pay his or her employer a sum of money if the employee leaves before a set amount of time. (PA 26-12, § 4, expands the employment promissory note ban to cover all employers, not just those with more than 25 employees, starting October 1, 2026.)

The H-1B visa allows U.S. employers to temporarily hire foreign workers for positions requiring specialized knowledge and at least a bachelor's degree. The worker's initial stay is up to three years or, for certain Department of Defense employees, five years. Visas may be extended in some circumstances, and visa holders may eventually become citizens through the green card process.

§§ 6-8 & 10-12 — OFFICE DESIGNATIONS REMOVED

The act removes references to specific offices within DECD and generally shifts their responsibilities to the department or commissioner. Specifically, it removes references to the offices of Film, Television and Digital Media; Data Infrastructure Administration and Security; Permit Ombudsman; and Brownfield Remediation and Development. The act requires the DECD commissioner to designate a permit ombudsman within DECD.

The act also removes a requirement that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, CI, Office of Policy and Management (OPM), and Department of Public Health each designate a staff member as their liaison to work with the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development. By law and under the act, these entities must enter a memorandum of understanding about their respective brownfield and remediation activities.

§§ 13-16, 20-24 & 28 — REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ELIMINATED OR MODIFIED

The act eliminates DECD's annual legislative reporting requirements for the following:

1. the Youth Service Corps grant program, which gives certain municipalities grants to establish local youth service programs that have paid, community-based service learning and academic and workforce development programs for eligible Connecticut youth and young adults;
2. CI's plan to increase funding to state businesses under the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs (federal grant programs rewarding small business innovation); and
3. the innovation place program, which awards grants of up to \$50,000 to startups in certain municipalities with entrepreneurial and innovation potential and gives them access to support services, such as mentoring and coworking space.

The act also eliminates the requirement that (1) CI report annually to DECD on bond funds spent on each of the state's economic clusters and (2) DECD include in its annual report certain information on the Connecticut Aerospace Reinvestment Act.

Additionally, the act delays, from January 1 to February 1, the due date for the DECD commissioner's annual legislative reports on the:

1. makerspace program (a pilot program to give financial assistance to entities establishing or expanding makerspaces that could be models for self-sustaining makerspaces, which are generally community spaces for entrepreneurs);
2. Invest CT Fund program (through which participants qualify for tax credits against their insurance premiums and surplus lines broker taxes by investing in eligible businesses through state-certified Invest CT funds); and
3. Good to Great program (a program to give grants to nonprofit organizations that own or operate cultural and historic sites in the state for capital improvements).

The act changes the reporting requirement for the Connecticut Clean Economy Council from twice per year to every two years. It also delays, from July 1, 2026, to October 1, 2026, the deadline for the council to submit a plan to transition workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean energy jobs.

The council, established in 2025, advises on strategies and policies that strengthen the state's climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs, particularly for vulnerable communities. By law, it must report on its work, and any findings and recommendations, to the governor; OPM; and the Commerce, Energy and Technology, Environment, and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees.

§§ 17 & 18 — MANUFACTURING INNOVATION ADVISORY BOARD

The act makes several changes to the Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board, which is responsible for the strategic direction of the Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) and the financial assistance application process for eligible recipients. The act allows the board to consult any individual or entity to accomplish its purposes. It also expands the eligibility criteria for appointed members. Specifically, the act allows for board members who:

1. have skill, knowledge, and experience in industries and science related to biotechnology, semiconductors, or clean energy production (in addition to aerospace, medical devices, digital manufacturing or communication, or advanced manufacturing, as under prior law) or
2. are community college faculty or technical high school teachers in a related discipline (in addition to university faculty or graduate degree holders, as under prior law).

Attendance Requirement

Under the act, any appointed board member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or half of all meetings held in a calendar year is deemed to have resigned. The appointing authority must fill any resulting vacancy in the same way as the original appointment and for the replaced member's unexpired term. If the vacancy is not filled within 60 days, the board's chairperson must temporarily fill the vacancy until the appointing authority makes an appointment.

Reporting

The act delays the due date, from January 1 to February 1, for DECD's annual report on the MIF to the advisory board. The act also requires DECD (MIF's administrator), rather than the advisory board, to submit the report, with the advisory board's approval, to the Commerce Committee.

§ 19 — CONNECTICUT TOURISM COUNCIL

Attendance Requirement

Under the act, any appointed member of the Connecticut Tourism Council who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or half of all meetings held in a calendar year is deemed to have resigned. The appointing authority must fill any resulting vacancy in the same way as the original appointment and for the replaced member's unexpired term. If the vacancy is not filled within 60 days, the council chairperson must temporarily fill the vacancy until the appointing authority makes an appointment.

By law, the Connecticut Tourism Council consults with DECD on the state's tourism promotion efforts, including the strategic marketing plan.

Reporting

The act requires the DECD commissioner, rather than the council as under prior law, to annually report to the Commerce Committee describing tourism promotion efforts in the state and evaluating the department's strategic marketing plan. It also delays the report's due date, from January 1 to February 1.

§ 27 — PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP FINANCIAL AID REDUCTION

The act generally prohibits public higher education institutions participating in the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program from reducing the amount of financial aid awarded to a student who receives a Willis scholarship or federal Pell grant because the student receives a private scholarship. Under the act, financial aid is the sum of the student's scholarships, grants, and federal, state, and institutional aid, but does not include student loans.

The act permits these higher education institutions to reduce a student's financial aid upon receipt of a private scholarship when:

1. a student's total financial aid meets or exceeds the student's cost of attendance (which includes direct costs, such as tuition, fees, and room and board, and indirect costs, such as books and transportation) or
2. a student athlete requires a reduction to meet individual or team financial aid restrictions imposed by an athletic association or conference.

When a student's cost of attendance exceeds his or her financial aid, the act requires higher education institutions to apply the amount of any private scholarships (1) first to offset the student's unmet need (the amount remaining after subtracting the financial aid and loans the student received from the cost of attendance) and (2) then to reduce the amount of student loans included in the student's financial aid package.

PA 26-123—sHB 5145

Commerce Committee

Public Health Committee

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY COMMISSION TO REPORT ON THE REVIEW PROCESS FOR CERTAIN WATER COMPANIES THAT REQUEST TO CEASE OPERATIONS

SUMMARY: The act requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH), to report to the Commerce, Energy and Technology, and Public Health committees by January 15, 2027, on water company cessation requests. More specifically, the report must include a listing of each instance over the past two calendar years in which a water company applied for PURA's or DPH's consent to cease operations or discontinue providing water services.

Under the act, the report must also include:

1. a docket timeline for each application showing the dates of any docket activity;
2. a list of any documents or other materials PURA used in making its decision (such as water quality reports, responses to interrogatories, and written testimony); and
3. any other details on the application's processing that PURA deems appropriate to include.

For this purpose, a "water company" is either:

1. an entity (including different types of corporations and municipalities) that owns, leases, maintains, operates, manages, or controls a pond, lake, reservoir, stream, well, or distributing plant or system to supply water to at least two service connections or 25 people or
2. a deficient well system serving properties within a defined area in which at least 25 people are served by private wells that failed to meet certain potability and service standards (CGS § 16-262n(a)).

The act also requires PURA, by July 1, 2026, to start a docket to adopt regulations requiring the authority to give written instructions informing a water company of the process to request an expedited review of the company's request to cease operations or discontinue providing water services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Water Company Service Cessation

Under existing law, a public service company cannot cease operations (including through dissolution or corporate termination) unless PURA consents (CGS § 16-46). (A public service company is generally a utility, including a water company, among others (CGS § 16-1(a)(3)).) Existing law also requires both PURA and DPH to consent before certain water companies, as defined above, cease operations or discontinue water service.

PA 26-135—sHB 5467

Commerce Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONCIERGE SERVICES TO SMALL BUSINESSES

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to designate an existing department employee for concierge services to Connecticut small businesses, including giving them information and assistance about DECD-administered economic or community development projects and programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-37—sHB 5468

Education Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF PARENT-MANAGED LEARNING

SUMMARY: Starting with the 2027-28 school year, this act requires parents or guardians (“parents”) seeking to withdraw their child from public school to go, in person, to the school district’s office and sign a withdrawal form. It also prohibits parents from withdrawing their child for parent-managed learning (such as homeschooling) if any adult living with the child is on the state’s child abuse and neglect registry or currently under investigation for child abuse or neglect. The act requires the district’s superintendent to conduct a records check with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to determine whether a child may be withdrawn for parent-managed learning.

Starting with the 2028-29 school year, the act requires parents of school-age children to annually complete (or cause to be completed) an intent to educate form indicating whether their child will (1) enroll in a public school, (2) attend a nonpublic school, or (3) be instructed through parent-managed learning (such as homeschooling). The forms must be submitted to the school district where the parent resides by October 1 and may be submitted electronically. The act deems parents in compliance with this requirement if their child attends a public school or if the nonpublic school the child attends files the required annual attendance report.

The act also requires:

1. the State Department of Education (SDE) to create the intent to educate and withdrawal forms and make them available to school districts (§ 2) and
2. school boards to report to SDE the number of children being instructed through parent-managed learning for whom an intent to educate form was completed (§ 4).

Lastly, the act makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, except the requirement for SDE to create the forms and the conforming changes to laws on DCF records’ confidentiality and private school attendance reports are effective July 1, 2026.

PARENT-MANAGED LEARNING

Under the state’s compulsory school attendance law, parents were required to either send their children to public school or show they are otherwise receiving instruction equivalent to the one provided in public school (with certain exceptions, such as parents opting to delay school for a five- or six-year-old).

The act modifies this law to specifically require parents to (1) send their child to public or nonpublic school or (2) instruct them in the studies taught in public school through “parent-managed learning” (education managed by a child’s parent or guardian in a setting other than a public or nonpublic school). By law and unchanged by the act, children must, regardless of educational setting, receive instruction in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, and United States history and citizenship (including town, state, and federal governments).

INTENT TO EDUCATE FORM

Submission Requirement

Starting with the 2028-29 school year, the act requires certain parents to annually complete (or cause to be completed) an intent to educate form indicating whether their child will (1) enroll in a public school, (2) attend a nonpublic school, or (3) be instructed through parent-managed learning. It applies to parents of children:

1. enrolled in public school;
2. attending a nonpublic school (defined as a school, other than a public school, that is approved by SDE after receiving accreditation and files the required annual attendance report);
3. instructed through parent-managed learning (a) who are newly eligible for kindergarten (by turning five before September 1 of the school year) or (b) for whom an intent to educate or a withdrawal form (as described below) was submitted the prior school year (this effectively grandfathers most children who began instruction through parent-managed learning prior to the 2028-29 school year);
4. for whom an option form was signed (because the parent opted to defer their five- or six-year-old from starting school, as allowed by law); and
5. who move to a different school district or withdraw from a nonpublic school during the school year.

Under the act, a parent is deemed in compliance with the requirement to submit the intent to educate form if the (1) child attends a public school or (2) nonpublic school the child attends files the annual attendance report it must submit by law.

Submission Procedure

Under the act, intent to educate forms must be submitted by October 1, to the school district office for the town where the parent resides, and they may be completed and submitted electronically. Parents who move into a district have 14 days to complete the form.

Nonpublic Schools

The act requires parents of children who will attend a nonpublic school to submit evidence of that fact. It also requires parents of children who withdraw from a nonpublic school to attend a different one to complete an updated form and provide this evidence.

Procedure When Forms Are Not Submitted

Under the act, if a school board does not receive an intent to educate form from a parent required to submit one by November 1 (and the parent is not deemed compliant as described above), the board must make at least three attempts to contact the parent to tell them they must submit the form. If the board cannot make contact by November 1, the act requires the school board to notify SDE that it has not received the form.

WITHDRAWALS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL

Starting with the 2027-28 school year, the act requires parents seeking to withdraw their child from public school to go, in person, to the school district's office and sign a withdrawal form.

Withdrawals for Nonpublic School

If the child is withdrawing to attend a nonpublic school, the parent must show evidence that the child will attend the school. The child's withdrawal is complete when the school district receives this evidence.

Withdrawals for Parent-Managed Learning

If a child is withdrawing for parent-managed learning, the withdrawal is not effective until the superintendent completes a records check with DCF. The act specifies that this check does not constitute a report of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Under the act, within two business days after receiving a withdrawal form, the superintendent (or his or her designee) must conduct a records check with DCF for each person ages 18 or older who lives with the child. The act specifically allows DCF to release information from its records to school boards in order to complete the act's requirement.

The records check must identify whether any of the adults living with the child are (1) on the state child abuse and neglect registry or (2) currently under DCF investigation for child abuse or neglect. If so, the child may not be withdrawn. Within five business days after starting the records check, the superintendent must notify the parent whether the withdrawal is effective. If it is not, the superintendent must tell the parent (1) the reason the withdrawal is not effective and (2) how he or she may challenge the records check findings, including appropriate DCF contact information.

DCF as a State Educational Authority

The act also deems DCF to be a state educational authority under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for the records check and allows it to receive the educational records of any child for whom a withdrawal form is signed.

PA 26-52—HB 5215

Education Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act makes technical changes to the education and early childhood statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-105—sSB-137

Education Committee

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

SUMMARY: This act makes various unrelated changes affecting education providers and programs. Specifically, it:

1. adds a licensed pediatrician, appointed by the governor, to the Early Child Cabinet, bringing its membership to 33 (§ 1);
2. increases the maximum per child and per classroom grant a school board can receive under the Smart Start program (§ 2);
3. requires youth camps to give the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) the camp's contact information and receive notices from an emergency notification system whenever there is an emergency situation in the area that could affect the children's safety (§ 3);
4. requires child care providers to notify OEC if they have knowledge that a worker at their facility is listed on the child abuse and neglect registry (§§ 4 & 6); and
5. clarifies and adds new definitions for each person under the child care services provider or staff member definition who must undergo a background check (§ 5).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except that the provision on the emergency notification system takes effect October 1, 2026.

§ 2 — SMART START GRANT RATE INCREASE

By law, OEC, in consultation with the state Department of Education, administers the Connecticut Smart Start competitive grant program to give school boards grants for capital and operating expenses to establish or expand preschool programs. Under the program, school boards may receive (1) a one-time capital expenses grant up to \$75,000 per classroom and (2) an annual operating expenses grant in an amount based on either the number of children or preschool classrooms in the program.

The act increases the maximum annual operating expenses grant from \$5,000 to \$6,500 per child and from \$75,000 to \$97,500 per preschool classroom.

§ 3 — EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AND YOUTH CAMPS

The act requires every OEC-licensed youth camp (licensee) to provide, verify, and update OEC (when appropriate) with their youth camp's contact information, including its name, address, and telephone number.

The act also requires OEC to share this contact information, in a memorandum of understanding or other agreement, with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for use in an emergency notification system that notifies licensees about emergency situations (such as a fire, criminal act, emergency, or act of nature, such as an earthquake or hurricane) that occur in a youth camp's vicinity that may endanger the safety or wellbeing of the children at the camp.

§§ 4 & 6 — NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES ON CHILD ABUSE REGISTRY

Child Care Center or Group Child Care Home

By law, anyone licensed to operate a child care center or group child care home must notify OEC if the owner, conductor, operator, maintainer, or employee of the center or home is convicted of any crime. Failure to comply with this

notification requirement (1) may result in license suspension or revocation and (2) subjects the licensee to a civil penalty of up to \$100 per day for each day after the person learned about the conviction.

The act additionally requires these licensed child care centers and group homes to notify OEC if the owner, conductor, operator, maintainer, or employee is placed on the child abuse and neglect registry. Failure to disclose knowledge of registry placement is subject to the same disciplinary measures as knowledge of criminal convictions.

Family Child Care Homes

The act makes similar modifications to family child care homes by subjecting any person who applies or is licensed to operate a family child care home, or any household member at least age 18, to the same requirements listed above. For family child care homes, the act also:

1. adds household members to the list of child care workers that must be reported if they have a criminal conviction or are on the registry;
2. changes the age of a household member in a family child care home to someone who is at least age 18, rather than at least age 16 (related provisions already apply to those at least age 18 for household member background checks); and
3. aligns the family child care home statute with the child care center and group child care home statute by requiring OEC notification about a conviction of any crime rather than just crimes referred to under this provision.

§ 5 — DEFINITION EXPANSION AND BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND STAFF MEMBERS

Child Care Services Provider or Staff Member Definition Modification and Expansion

The act makes distinctions between child care staff, program staff, assistants, and substitute staff members which apply to all three types of licensed settings: (1) child care centers, (2) group child care homes, and (3) family child care homes (see BACKGROUND). Under the act, these individuals must all undergo background checks.

By law, and unchanged by the act, a “child care services provider or staff member” is any person who is (1) a licensee, employee, volunteer, assistant, or household member of a child care facility; (2) a family child care provider; or (3) generally anyone who provides child care services under the Care 4 Kids child care subsidy program.

Under prior law, a “child care services provider or staff member” additionally included anyone who was an alternate staff or substitute. The act (1) eliminates “alternate staff,” (2) specifies that a “substitute” is a “substitute staff member,” and (3) adds “staff” and “program staff” to the definition.

Additionally, the act adds statutory definitions for the subset of terms included in the expanded definition of child care services provider or staff member, as described in the table below.

Child Care Services Providers’ or Staff Members’ Definitions Under the Act

<i>Child Care Staff Member or Household Member</i>	<i>Definition Under Act</i>
Employee	Any (1) person paid to work for a family child care provider as a substitute staff member or assistant or (2) staff or program staff in a child care center or group child care home
Volunteer	Any person (1) who is not a child care center or group child care home employee and (2) whose activities involve the direct care of, or the opportunity for unsupervised access to, children
Staff	Any person who is (1) employed by a child care center or group child care home and (2) at least age 16, but not directly responsible for children’s care and does not have unsupervised access to children
Program Staff	Any person who is (1) employed by a child care center or group child care home, (2) at least age 16, and (3) directly responsible for children’s care
Assistant	Any person approved by OEC to provide child care services in a family child care home

Child Care Staff Member or Household Member	Definition Under Act
Substitute Staff Member	Any person approved by OEC to provide child care services in a family child care home
Household Member	Any person (other than the licensee) who (1) is at least age 18 and (2) resides in the family child care home

Background Check for Child Care Services Providers or Staff Members

By law, each of the following types of child care services providers or staff members must undergo a background check: (1) prospective employees at a child care center or group child care home; (2) people applying for a family child care home license; or (3) people, other than relatives, who provide child care services to a child and receive the Care 4 Kids child care subsidy.

The act further specifies that this background check must include a check of:

1. national and state criminal history records as under the existing law requiring the person being checked to submit their fingerprints to the state police for the state check, and the state police submit them to the FBI for the national check;
2. national and state sex offender registries;
3. the state's child abuse or neglect registry; and
4. child abuse or neglect registries for any other state where the child care services provider or staff member lived within the last five years.

The child care services provider or staff member definition expansion and background check specifications meet related federal background check requirements (see BACKGROUND).

BACKGROUND

Types of Child Care Licenses

By law, family child care homes provide child care usually offered in the provider's private home, generally serving six to nine children. Group child care homes (1) offer or provide care to between 7 and 12 children (related or unrelated) on a regular basis or (2) meet the family child care home definition, except that they do not operate in a private home. Child care centers offer or provide care to more than 12 children outside the children's homes on a regular basis (CGS § 19a-77(a)).

Related Federal Background Check Requirements

Under P.L. 92-544, the FBI requires state laws requiring national criminal records checks to meet several criteria before the state may receive criminal history record information from the FBI. Among other things, statutes requiring these records checks must (1) exist as a result of a legislative enactment; (2) require applicants who are subject to a national criminal history background check to be fingerprinted; (3) authorize, either expressly or by implication, the use of FBI records to screen applicants; and (4) identify the specific licensee or employee categories that fall within the reporting scope.

PA 26-106—sSB 138

Education Committee

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SUMMARY: This act makes various unrelated changes to education laws, including:

1. aligning the approval process for new charter schools with the governor's biennial budget process, rather than the annual process under prior law (§ 1);
2. requiring the State Department of Education (SDE) to pay transportation grants for *Sheff* region (see BACKGROUND) magnet schools operated by regional educational service centers (RESCs) in an amount of up to one half the total estimated cost paid by the RESC by October 31 of the fiscal year, rather than half the total estimated cost by this date as under prior law (§ 2); and
3. amending what must be in the report by a regional school study committee supporting the district's creation as

part of the planning process to consider forming a regional school district (§ 7).

The act also repeals the following required reports that SDE had to submit to the Education Committee under prior law:

1. an annual report on which school boards have adopted the uniform regional school calendar and any related recommendations (§ 3);
2. an annual report on the surrogate parent program (a joint program with the Department of Children and Families), which is also submitted to the Committee on Children (§ 4);
3. several reports that were part of the commissioner's network of schools program, including (a) a one-time report on the turnaround plan for a participating school, (b) an annual report analyzing and comparing the academic performance of all participating schools (although it leaves intact the requirement for an annual report on the academic performance of each school), and (c) the final report at turnaround plan's conclusion evaluating the plan and performance for each participating school (see BACKGROUND) (§ 5); and
4. a biennial report on the status of educational technology in public schools (reported biennially) (§ 6).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on charter schools and magnet school transportation grant payments are effective July 1, 2026.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

The act eliminates prior law's requirement that the State Board of Education (SBE) annually review all new charter school applications and grant initial certificates of approval for local and state charter schools (see BACKGROUND).

Starting with the biennium beginning July 1, 2027, the act requires the SDE commissioner to ensure that the timing for granting initial certificates of approval for charters coincides with the preparation of the state budget for that biennium.

By law, a new school's initial certificate of approval only takes effect as a full charter if the legislature appropriates funds to SDE for the school's operation (specifically, it takes effect on July 1 in the fiscal year for which the funds are appropriated). State law allows non-profit organizations; boards of education, either alone or jointly with another board; and institutions of higher education, among others, to submit applications to start a new charter school.

TRANSPORTATION GRANTS TO CERTAIN RESC-OPERATED MAGNET SCHOOLS

By law, SDE provides transportation grants to RESC-operated magnet schools that help the state meet its obligations under *Sheff*. These grants must cover a RESC's reasonable transportation costs, subject to a comprehensive financial review, and be paid according to the schedule set in law.

Prior law required SDE to pay half of the grant (specifically, 50% of the estimated transportation costs) by October 31 of the fiscal year. The act instead requires SDE to pay up to one half of the estimated transportation costs by October 31, while maintaining the existing framework for the remainder of the costs. By law, and unchanged by the act, up to 95% of the estimated costs must be paid by June 30 of the fiscal year, and any remaining balance must be paid after the financial review and before March 30 of the following fiscal year.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDY REPORTING

As part of the planning process to consider forming a regional school district, state law requires the creation of a regional school district study committee to evaluate the district's feasibility and participants' desire to continue. At the end of the study, the committee must report to SDE on whether the district should or should not move forward.

If the committee believes it should, the report must address several factors, including having detailed educational and budget plans for at least a five-year period with projected enrollments, staff needs and deployment, and a description of planned programs and supportive services. The act requires that, when feasible, the budget plan be reviewed or audited by an independent third party to determine its viability.

The act also requires the study committee to consider and report on the associated transportation costs in establishing the district.

BACKGROUND

Local and State Charter Schools

By law, local charter schools are part of the public school district where they are located but have a separate council governing the charter (currently, there is only one school like this in the state). State charter schools are managed by private

councils that are not affiliated with or under the control of any public school board (CGS § 10-66bb(c), (e) & (f)). Charter governing councils are made up of private citizens, rather than an elected board of education.

Sheff v. O'Neill State Supreme Court Decision

In this decision, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that the state had a constitutional obligation to remedy the educational inequities in Hartford schools caused by racial and ethnic isolation (*Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996)). The court ordered the state to craft a solution and the General Assembly enacted legislation to create voluntary desegregation in Hartford through magnet schools and other programs, such as Open Choice.

The “*Sheff* region” includes the school districts of Hartford as well as Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Manchester, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, South Windsor, Suffield, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks.

Commissioners Network of Schools Program

Schools selected for the program (those with low-performing students) must (1) craft turnaround plans aimed at improving student achievement and (2) conduct an operations and instructional audit. The program places the school under close SDE supervision while also providing additional resources (CGS § 10-223h).

PA 26-139—sHB 5323

Education Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES

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Allows retired parole officers to provide armed security services in public schools; prohibits police and parole officers who left employment due to certain disciplinary actions from providing armed security services in schools

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§ 6 — REPEAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION REGULATIONS

Delays the effective date of the repeal of various educator preparation regulations from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027

§ 7 — BROAD ASSESSMENT REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Establishes an incentive program for school districts that limits broad assessments, integrates formative assessment tools, and increases teacher competency in the assessment process

§ 8 — GUIDANCE ON REDUCING DISCRETIONARY LOCAL STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

Requires SDE to develop and give guidance to school boards on reducing discretionary local student assessments

§ 9 — SDE REQUEST TO AMEND STATE PLAN UNDER ESSA

Allows SDE to submit a request to the DoEd to amend the state's approved ESSA plan

§ 10 — MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS, INSTRUCTION, AND SPECIALIST GUIDANCE

Requires SDE to (1) redesign the state's high school mathematics pathways, (2) develop a list of professional development providers for high quality mathematics instruction, (3) explore the feasibility of launching MathCon, and (4) develop mathematics specialist guidelines

§§ 11-13 — MISCONDUCT-RELATED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE DURING PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HIRING PROCESS

Makes various revisions to the laws on disclosing misconduct-related information during the hiring process of a prospective school employee, including requiring disclosure of allegations currently under investigation

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to the education statutes. A section-by-section analysis follows.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, unless otherwise noted below.

§ 1 — ARMED SECURITY GUARDS

Allows retired parole officers to provide armed security services in public schools; prohibits police and parole officers who left employment due to certain disciplinary actions from providing armed security services in schools

Prior law limited who a municipality or school board could hire or contract with for armed school security services in a public school to (1) sworn members of local police departments and (2) qualified retired police officers who left in good standing. The act (1) allows former parole officers to also provide these services and (2) defines “good standing.”

Parole Officers

By law, to serve as an armed school security officer, a retired police officer must be a “qualified retired law enforcement officer” under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA). (LEOSA permits qualified officers, both active and retired, to carry a concealed firearm across state lines if they meet the statutory requirements.) Under the act, parole officers must meet this requirement, as it applies to parole officers, to qualify to provide armed school security services.

The act subjects these former parole officers to the same annual training requirements that other retired officers must complete in order to qualify (school security training by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) and firearms training by a certified firearms instructor who meets or exceeds the POST standards or the LEOSA standards). Under the act, these former parole officers are also exempt from the licensing requirements for private security officers, just as existing law exempts retired police officers serving as armed school security officers.

Good Standing

By law, to be hired as armed school security, former officers must have retired or separated from service in good standing. The act specifies that this means the officer's employment with a state, local, or tribal law enforcement unit or the Department of Correction did not end due to disciplinary action, while under investigation, or while a disciplinary action was pending. It further specifies that retired police officers cannot provide security services if they are prohibited from being hired as a police officer due to being dismissed for malfeasance or other serious misconduct or resigning while under investigation.

§ 2 — SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Requires the Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards to create a new school administrator mentorship pilot program

The act requires the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, in consultation with the Connecticut Association of Schools, to create a pilot program for a new school administrator mentorship program. The pilot program must include supports, training, and professional development for new school administrators.

The council must submit a pilot program implementation plan to the Education Committee by July 1, 2027, and implement the program for the 2027-28 school year in the districts it identifies in the plan. By January 1, 2029, the council must report to the Education Committee on the pilot's results, including recommended improvements and requirements for further implementation.

§ 3 — ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Prohibits schools from requiring students in grades 9-12 who participate in interscholastic athletics to meet academic eligibility standards that are higher than those set by CIAC

Starting July 1, 2027, the act prohibits school boards from requiring students in grades 9 to 12 who participate in interscholastic athletics to meet or exceed academic eligibility standards that are higher than those set by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC).

In practice, CIAC's current standards generally require students to have earned a passing grade in at least four quarter credits at the end of the most recent marking period or, for fall sports, at least four credits toward graduation during the prior school year or marking period.

§ 4 — THERAPEUTIC ARTS PROGRAM GRANTS

Requires SDE to create a grant program, within available appropriations, for a therapeutic arts program in public schools starting in the 2027-28 school year

The act requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish, within available appropriations, a grant program for a therapeutic arts program in public schools starting in the 2027-28 school year. Under the act, any school board or Regional Education Service Center (RESC) is eligible for grants, but SDE must prioritize school boards and RESCs that serve school districts with high rates of exclusionary discipline (like suspensions), low access to behavioral health services, and an existing social-emotional learning program.

By January 1, 2027, SDE must determine the grant amounts and post information on its website about the program, eligibility criteria, and available grant funds. Starting by July 1, 2028, SDE must annually report to the Education Committee on the number of grants awarded and their recipients.

§ 5 — TEMPORARY PLACEMENT OF BRIDGEPORT MILITARY ACADEMY STUDENTS

Allows the SDE commissioner to authorize the temporary placement of students enrolled in the Bridgeport Military Academy in available classroom space at the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus while a permanent facility for the Bridgeport Military Academy is constructed

The act allows the SDE commissioner to authorize the temporary placement (for two years or less) of students enrolled in the Bridgeport Military Academy in available classroom space at the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus during construction of a permanent facility for the Bridgeport Military Academy. Under the act, this authorization is limited to the academy's grades and programs approved by SDE and does not alter Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus's magnet school status or magnet grant funding eligibility.

The act requires SDE to:

1. assign a separate facility code to the academy during the temporary placement and continue maintaining separate enrollment, performance, and accountability metrics for both schools; and
2. establish guidelines to ensure that the temporary placement does not cause the students of the two schools to commingle in core academic courses or programs, unless approved by SDE for purposes consistent with each school's educational program.

Once the permanent facility is done, the Bridgeport Military Academy must leave the temporary location and resume operations in the new facility.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 6 — REPEAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION REGULATIONS

Delays the effective date of the repeal of various educator preparation regulations from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027

PA 24-41, § 51, repeals numerous State Board of Education (SBE) educator preparation program and certification regulations. The act delays the effective date by one year, to July 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — BROAD ASSESSMENT REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Establishes an incentive program for school districts that limits broad assessments, integrates formative assessment tools, and increases teacher competency in the assessment process

The act requires SDE to establish an incentive program for school districts that (1) reduces or limits the time students spend taking broad assessments, (2) integrates state-provided interim and formative assessment tools into the curriculum to support instructional improvement, and (3) increases teacher competency in the formative assessment process. The program may also include public recognition, financial awards, and increased operational flexibility for school districts. Under the act, a “broad assessment” measures what students should have learned during a semester or school year, but it does not include the statewide mastery examinations or any federally required student assessments. SDE must establish the program by July 1, 2027, within available appropriations.

§ 8 — GUIDANCE ON REDUCING DISCRETIONARY LOCAL STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

Requires SDE to develop and give guidance to school boards on reducing discretionary local student assessments

By June 1, 2027, the act requires SDE to develop and give guidance to school boards on reducing discretionary local student assessments. The guidance may include eliminating fall and spring broad assessments (as defined in § 7, above) or substituting certain end-of-unit classroom summative assessments with state-provided interim and formative assessment tools.

§ 9 — SDE REQUEST TO AMEND STATE PLAN UNDER ESSA

Allows SDE to submit a request to the DoEd to amend the state’s approved ESSA plan

The act allows SDE to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Education (DoEd) to amend the state’s approved plan submitted for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (P.L. 114-95). Under federal law and ESSA, Connecticut must submit a plan to DoEd addressing standards, assessments, school and district accountability, and special help for struggling schools. This request may include a federal accountability requirements waiver that allows DoEd to modify the state’s high school accountability model by (1) reducing the weight assigned to the academic achievement indicator and (2) increasing the weight for other relevant indicators, such as college and career-oriented measures. The accountability model uses these indicators to calculate the accountability index score for individual districts and schools.

Under the act, SDE can only submit a request after consulting with a working group established through existing law. The working group, which is jointly convened by the Connecticut Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut presidents, or their designees, reviews (1) high school grading policies used by school boards and (2) the accountability index and data SDE uses to calculate index scores.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 10 — MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS, INSTRUCTION, AND SPECIALIST GUIDANCE

Requires SDE to (1) redesign the state's high school mathematics pathways, (2) develop a list of professional development providers for high quality mathematics instruction, (3) explore the feasibility of launching MathCon, and (4) develop mathematics specialist guidelines

The act requires SDE, by January 1, 2027, to redesign the state's high school mathematics pathways to prepare students for relevant postsecondary careers. These pathways must include (1) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; (2) data science and statistics; (3) quantitative reasoning; and (4) workforce and applied mathematics.

The act also requires SDE to (1) develop a list of professional development providers to help implement high-quality mathematics instruction and (2) explore the feasibility of launching MathCon, a professional learning series for educators and national math competition for students. SDE may consult with relevant stakeholders to implement these requirements.

Additionally, SDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB), must develop guidelines for mathematics specialists in supporting mathematics interventions. Under existing law, CEPCB is responsible for modernizing and aligning educator preparation and certification to ensure that policies attract and retain effective and diverse professionals to work in Connecticut's public schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 11-13 — MISCONDUCT-RELATED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE DURING PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HIRING PROCESS

Makes various revisions to the laws on disclosing misconduct-related information during the hiring process of a prospective school employee, including requiring disclosure of allegations currently under investigation

Applicant Misconduct and Employment History Disclosure

Existing law requires school boards, charter school governing councils, magnet school operators, and supervisory agents of nonpublic schools ("school-governing entities") to review an applicant's employment history before offering employment if the applicant will have direct student contact in the position. Through this process, the school-governing entities must, among other things, (1) review a written statement by the applicant; (2) contact the applicant's former employers (presumably, these include only those that the applicant discloses) and gather information from them on SDE-developed forms; and (3) review information from SDE on the department's knowledge of the applicant's engagement in certain misconduct. The act generally expands the scope of what former employers and SDE must disclose to include allegations currently under investigation (whether or not related to the applicant's employment).

Applicant's Written Statement and SDE-Developed Forms for Previous Employers

Under prior law, as part of the applicant's written statement and the forms filled out by the applicant's current and prior employers, all had to state if they knew the applicant:

1. had an allegation made against them of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct under investigation by any employer, state agency, or municipal police department that was not found to be unsubstantiated, and an employer also must reveal any pending investigation;
2. resigned, was asked to resign, otherwise separated from employment, or was disciplined for a substantiated allegation of these acts or while an allegation was pending or under investigation; or
3. surrendered a professional or occupational license or other credential, or had it suspended or revoked, for a substantiated allegation of these acts or while one was pending or under investigation.

The act expands the scope of this inquiry by additionally asking the:

1. applicant and previous employers if the applicant is currently under investigation for abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct and
2. applicant if he or she was, or is currently, facing an allegation involving the injury or risk of injury to, or impairing the morals of, a minor and whether any of the actions described above (resignation, separation, discipline, or surrendering a credential) happened in relation to an allegation or investigation involving the injury or risk of injury to, or impairing the morals of, a minor.

The act also removes a provision in prior law that explicitly exempted disclosing investigations that resulted in a finding that all allegations were unsubstantiated. So, under the act, the applicant must disclose the investigations regardless of

whether the allegations were substantiated. The act also makes conforming changes to specify that certain provisions apply to all employer, state agency, and local police investigations.

Providing Information to SDE

By law, school governing entities must notify SDE when an applicant or employee has been disciplined because of a finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct. The act additionally requires them to notify SDE about applicants who are currently under investigation for this conduct.

SDE-Provided Information

By law, school-governing entities must ask SDE for the following information: (1) an applicant's employment eligibility status for positions requiring a state certification or permit; (2) whether SDE knows of a substantiated finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct against the applicant; and (3) whether SDE has been notified about a criminal conviction or pending criminal charge against the applicant. The act expands the information that SDE must release to school governing entities to also include if it knows of any pending investigation of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct.

Applicants Who Are Contractors

By law, a contractor's employee who will have direct student contact must make the same disclosures as an applicant for employment with a school-governing entity. The act expands the requirements for information disclosure and sharing for these employees in the same way as for job applicants described above. Additionally, for any of its current employees who will have contact with children, a contractor must (1) contact any of that employee's current or former employers that were school-governing entities or caused the employee to have contact with children and (2) ask them for any information about whether there was a finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct against the employee. The act expands this to include information about any pending or open investigation. Under existing law and the act, the contractor must report all of this information to the school-governing entity.

Additionally, under existing law, a school-governing entity must, upon request, give any other school-governing entity or the SDE commissioner information it has about a finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct on someone being considered for a job as a direct employee of another education employer or a contractor. The act similarly expands this provision to apply to investigations.

Contract and Agreement Restrictions

By law, a school-governing entity cannot enter into a collective bargaining agreement, employment contract, resignation or termination agreement, severance agreement, or any other contract or agreement, or take any action with certain effects. Under prior law, these agreements and actions could not require a school-governing entity to expunge information about an allegation or finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct from any documents it maintained unless, after an investigation, the allegation was dismissed or found false. The act raises the standard for expungement by eliminating dismissed allegations, allowing expungement only when an allegation is found to be false.

By law, these agreements also cannot affect a school-governing entity's ability to report suspected abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct to the appropriate authorities.

School Operators Requesting Applicant Misconduct Information From SBE

By law, eligible and nongovernmental school operators (see *Background — Eligible and Nongovernmental School Operators*) may ask SBE for information about (1) the applicant's employment eligibility for a certified position; (2) whether SDE knows of prior applicant discipline for a finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct; or (3) whether SDE has been notified about criminal charges pending, or criminal convictions against, an applicant, and information about the charges. The act allows eligible and nongovernmental school operators to also ask SBE for information about whether a former employer has notified SDE that the applicant is under investigation for abuse; neglect; or sexual misconduct, unless the investigation resulted in a finding that all allegations were false.

Background — Eligible and Nongovernmental School Operators

By law, “eligible school operators” are schools or school districts authorized to receive national criminal history record information from the FBI under federal law. These operators include (1) local or regional boards of education, (2) the Technical Education and Career System (the technical high school system), and (3) interdistrict magnet school operators that are not third-party nonprofit corporations approved by the SDE commissioner.

By law, nongovernmental school operators are:

1. third-party, nonprofit interdistrict magnet school operators approved by the SDE commissioner;
2. state or local charter school governing councils;
3. SBE-approved (a) endowed or incorporated academies and (b) special education facilities;
4. private school supervisory agents; or
5. private providers of special education services.

PA 26-149—sSB 220

Education Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT LITERACY, ASPIRING EDUCATORS, AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS PART OF THE WORLD LANGUAGES CURRICULUM AND THE PARAEDUCATOR HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act makes the following unrelated changes to education laws:

1. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to create guidance for school districts on implementing targeted reading intervention to students identified as struggling in reading (§ 1);
2. modifies the aspiring educators diversity scholarship program by (a) making “aspiring educators,” rather than “diverse educators,” eligible for the scholarship and (b) no longer requiring that candidates graduate from an alliance district high school (§§ 2 & 3);
3. requires SDE to establish the American Sign Language (ASL) education working group (§§ 4 & 5); and
4. makes permanent two health care subsidy programs for paraeducators employed by local or regional boards of education and expands the programs to include paraeducators at charter schools, allows a portion of unspent funds from the aspiring educators scholarship program to be used to help pay for the program expansion for charter schools, and requires the comptroller to calculate the cost of expanding the program to include charter school paraeducators (§§ 2, 6 & 7).

The act also makes several minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except that the (1) codification of the assessment requirement and aspiring educator provisions are effective upon passage and (2) creation of the American Sign Language working group is effective January 1, 2027.

§ 1 — READING INTERVENTION AND ASSESSMENTS

The act requires SDE to create guidance on implementing multitiered systems of support (MTSS) or response to intervention (RTI) frameworks for students identified as struggling in reading and distribute it to local and regional boards of education (school boards). Generally, MTSS and RTI are educational approaches that identify struggling students and offer them targeted, personalized instruction to meet their needs, with services that increase in intensity (for example, in frequency or duration) as student need rises. The act requires the guidance to be based on the results of SDE-approved reading assessments.

By January 1, 2028, SDE must submit to the Education Committee a report on the guidance it creates and any legislative recommendations.

§§ 2 & 3 — ASPIRING EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIP

The act makes “aspiring educators,” rather than “diverse educators,” eligible for existing law’s teacher recruitment scholarship, which potentially broadens the pool of eligible candidates. It also changes the name from the “aspiring educators diversity scholarship program” to the “aspiring educators scholarship program.”

Under prior law, the scholarship targeted “diverse” students, which are those whose race is other than white, or whose

ethnicity is defined as Hispanic or Latino by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by the U.S. Census Bureau. Under the act, an “aspiring educator” is someone from a population subgroup that (1) is underrepresented in the teaching profession in Connecticut and (2) has been identified under state law as a teacher shortage area.

Under prior law, the SDE commissioner annually determines geographic and subject areas with teacher shortages based on teacher vacancies, new certificates issued, and classes being taught by people without training specific to the subject area. Under the act, the commissioner must also determine the population subgroups in which a teacher shortage exists and, when doing so, consider those that are underrepresented in teaching in the state based on data in the statewide public school information system (see BACKGROUND).

This potentially broadens eligibility for the scholarship and shortage designation. Although the act does not define “subgroup,” presumably, subgroup categories could include things in addition to race and ethnicity, such as gender, socioeconomic status, disability, or other similar status.

Scholarship Program

Under prior law, the scholarship program awarded annual scholarships of up to \$10,000 to students who graduated from high school in an alliance district (see BACKGROUND) and are enrolled in good standing in a teacher preparation program at any four-year institution of higher education. The act eliminates the requirement that students graduate from an alliance district and replaces it with any school district in the state, which broadens eligibility.

The act requires SDE, in consultation with the Education Committee chairpersons, to develop a policy for administering the scholarship with the new criteria by January 1, 2027. SDE must annually award scholarships under the new criteria beginning FY 27 and, beginning January 1, 2028, annually submit a report to the Education Committee with data on the scholarship recipients’ population subgroups and the teacher preparation programs in which they are enrolled.

§§ 2, 6 & 7 — PARAEDUCATORS HEALTH CARE SUBSIDY AND COST STUDY

The act makes permanent two health care subsidy programs for paraeducators employed by local or regional boards of education and expands the programs to include paraeducators at charter schools. Under prior law, the programs expired on June 30, 2025.

One program subsidizes paraeducators who (1) open a health savings account (HSA) or are Medicare-eligible and (2) enroll in a high deductible health plan (HDHP). The subsidy covers a percentage, determined by the comptroller, of the deductible for the paraeducator’s health plan minus the amount of any employer contributions to an HSA or health reimbursement account.

The second program subsidizes school boards that cover paraeducators under an employer health plan (generally, a health insurance plan) or the partnership plan (a health benefit plan the comptroller offers to nonstate public employers and certain others). The subsidy covers up to 10% of the aggregate premium cost (including both the employee and employer shares) the board of education paid for the coverage, divided by the number of board-employed paraeducators enrolled in the health plan. The subsidy must be used to offset the paraeducators’ share of the premium.

The act also eliminates an obsolete provision.

Use of Unexpended Funds for the Paraeducators Health Subsidy (§§ 2 & 7)

The act requires the education commissioner to determine if there are any unexpended funds in the aspiring educators scholarship program for FY 26 and if so, she must transfer up to \$300,000 of the unexpended funds to the paraeducators subsidy program for its expansion to paraeducators at charter schools for FY 27. This must be done by July 15, 2026, through a memorandum of understanding with the comptroller.

The act also requires the comptroller to calculate the cost of expanding the subsidy to include paraeducators employed by charter schools. By January 1, 2027, the comptroller must submit the cost calculation to the Appropriations and Education committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the requirement to calculate the cost of expanding the subsidy and report it to the legislature is effective upon passage.

§§ 4 & 5 — AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE WORKING GROUP

The act requires SDE to establish an ASL education working group with at least eight members to make recommendations to SDE on (1) curriculum guidance for ASL instruction, (2) teacher certification standards based on standards set by the ASL Teachers Association and the ASL Proficiency Interview, and (3) guidance to educator preparation

programs in the state for (a) expanding ASL and interpretation education programs and (b) incentives to become an ASL educator. (PA 26-151 also establishes an ASL education working group.)

The working group must have a representative from (1) SDE, (2) the Department of Aging and Disability Services, (3) the Department of Labor, (4) the Office of Higher Education, (5) the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers, (6) the American School for the Deaf, and (7) the Connecticut Association of the Deaf. It must also include at least one ASL instructor who teaches in a public school in the state.

Starting by January 1, 2028, SDE must annually report to the Education Committee on the working group's progress.

By July 1, 2030, SDE must issue the ASL instruction curriculum guidance described in the act to each local and regional board of education to ensure consistent implementation of ASL as part of the world languages curriculum required under state law. By law, world languages include ASL if it is taught by a qualified instructor who is supervised by a certified teacher.

Working Group Duties

The act requires the working group's recommendations to address:

1. ASL instruction curriculum guidance that includes aligning the curriculum with nationally recognized proficiency frameworks;
2. teacher certification standards based on standards set by the ASL Teachers Association and the ASL Proficiency Interview, including (a) establishing a proficiency benchmark, (b) recognizing an alternative certification pathway for native ASL users and interpreters, and (c) reciprocity with ASL teaching certifications from other states; and
3. guidance for educator preparation programs in the state on (a) expanding ASL and interpretation education programs; (b) creating educational incentives, such as tuition support, credit enhancement, or alternative route programs; and (c) establishing bridge, endorsement, or alternative programs for native ASL users and certified interpreters seeking teacher certification.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the formation of the working group is effective January 1, 2027.

BACKGROUND

Alliance Districts

The alliance district program requires each of the state's 36 lowest performing school districts (as measured by the accountability index scores) to submit an improvement plan to SDE for approval before the department releases the district's alliance funding (a portion of the annual education cost sharing grant that these districts receive). The plan must detail how it intends to use its alliance funding and how this will increase student achievement.

Public School Information System

By law, SDE must administer this system to (1) establish a standardized electronic data collection and reporting protocol to comply with state and federal reporting requirements, (2) improve the exchange of information from school-to-school and district-to-district, and (3) maintain the confidentiality of individual student and teacher data. In addition to students and teachers, the system includes data on individual schools and districts and preschool children (CGS § 10-10a(b) & (c)).

PA 26-20—sSB 321

Energy and Technology Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EXCAVATION PROJECTS

SUMMARY: This act sets advance notice requirements for telecommunications service providers or broadband Internet access providers (“broadband providers”) building any underground facility in the state’s public highways, streets, or other public rights-of-way. Under the act, the amount of advance notice and who it must go to (the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT)) depends on the project’s length and location.

The act requires PURA to publish the information it receives from these notices in a way it determines is accessible to any person or entity that may be interested in installing an underground facility in the proposed facility’s area.

The act also specifies that its provisions, and related provisions in existing law, do not prevent a telecommunications service provider or broadband provider from building an underground facility if it receives any applicable permit required for the construction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

NOTIFICATION TO PURA

Prior law generally required PURA to develop a process for building facilities in public highways, streets, or other public rights-of-way to ensure timely and nondiscriminatory procedures that accomplish conduit excavations for telecommunications service providers and broadband providers. It also specified certain requirements for PURA to impose on applicants to build underground facilities with conduits for telecommunications service providers or broadband providers.

The act removes these provisions and instead sets advance notice requirements for telecommunications service providers or broadband providers building any underground facility in public highways, streets, or other public rights-of-way in the state. Specifically, it requires the providers to submit to PURA a notice that includes the proposed facility’s description and location. If the facility is more than 500 feet long, they must submit the notice at least 30 days before starting construction. Otherwise, they must submit the notice at least five days before starting construction.

NOTIFICATION TO DOT

For excavation work to build underground facilities in a state highway right-of-way, the act requires the providers to also submit to DOT a notice that includes the proposed facility’s description and location, and a list of any other service providers that will use the proposed facility during the construction. (The act does not specify but, presumably, these notices are subject to the same deadlines as the notices to PURA.)

Under existing law, an application for construction in the public highways, streets, or other public rights-of-way must require the applicant to install a conduit for DOT’s benefit, as required by law. The act further requires that this conduit be (1) installed with one pull tape per inch of the conduit’s diameter and (2) capable of accommodating additional fiber optic cable installed for DOT.

RELATED PROVISIONS

The act specifies that the above provisions and related provisions in existing law do not prevent a telecommunications service provider or broadband provider from building an underground facility if it receives any applicable permit required for the construction. These related provisions generally:

1. require providers applying for excavations in state highway rights-of-way to comply with DOT’s encroachment permit process, including paying its fees, and installing a conduit for DOT;
2. authorize the DOT commissioner to lease space, or allow access to the space, in any DOT-installed conduit in public highways, streets, or other public rights-of-way; and
3. require providers authorized to install facilities in, under, or over public highways, streets, or other public rights-of-way to obey, observe, and comply with these provisions on underground conduits and PURA’s applicable orders about them.

PA 26-30—HB 5246*Energy and Technology Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES CONCERNING ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY****SUMMARY:** This act makes technical changes to energy-related statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-46—sHB 5336*Energy and Technology Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED NUCLEAR ENERGY**

SUMMARY: This act requires the Connecticut Council for Advancing Nuclear Energy Development, within available appropriations, to study the demand for skilled labor in the advanced nuclear energy industry, including the development of nuclear power technologies such as small modular reactors, micro-reactors, or reactors that use cooling sources such as molten salt, liquid metal, or high temperature gas. In doing so, the council must consult with a representative of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council and a representative of a joint apprenticeship and training committee that facilitates workforce training in the state.

As part of the study, the act allows the council to recommend legislation or regulations needed to support the development, expansion, and operations of advanced nuclear energy technologies in the state. These include recommendations about:

1. ways to meet the need for skilled trades workers and other services or labor providers;
2. creating opportunities for state agencies to collaborate with federal agencies, higher education institutions, businesses, nonprofits, and other stakeholders interested in the advanced nuclear energy industry; and
3. any other strategies to promote developing a skilled labor workforce to meet the industry's needs.

The act requires the council to submit a progress report, including any relevant recommendations, to the Commerce and Energy and Technology committees by February 15, 2027. Then, it must submit the full report on its findings and recommendations to those committees by February 1, 2028.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-127—HB 5340*Energy and Technology Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE POWER GENERATION****TABLE OF CONTENTS:****§§ 1-4 — RENEWABLE ENERGY SUCCESSOR PROGRAMS**

Requires PURA to establish successor programs for clean energy tariffs (RRES, NRES, and SCEF); sets a total aggregate procurement target for these successor programs and ESS, with related review and reporting requirements; sets requirements for program eligibility, establishing tariffs and rates, energy purchases under the tariffs, and rates that take effect when tariffs expire

§ 5 — RRES, NRES, AND SCEF END DATE

Sunsets current clean energy tariffs on December 31, 2028, or sooner if successor tariffs take effect; allows PURA to add a monthly charge that applies after tariffs expire

§ 6 — ENERGY STORAGE PROGRAM SUNSET

Generally aligns ESS's end date with those of successor programs

§ 7 — GREEN BANK ENERGY STORAGE PILOT PROGRAM

Requires the Green Bank to administer a pilot program to promote energy storage installation for RRES and RSIP customers

§ 8 — WORKING GROUP ON PILOT PROGRAM RESULTS AND ESS SUCCESSOR PROGRAM

Requires a working group to examine the Green Bank's pilot program results and make recommendations on an ESS successor program

§§ 9 & 10 — PORTABLE SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES

Exempts portable solar generation devices from interconnection requirements, among other things, and sets requirements for exempt devices; requires officials to consider provisions on safe installation of these devices in the next State Building Code and the State Fire Safety Code amendments

§ 11 — AGRIVOLTAICS INCENTIVE PROGRAM STUDY

Requires DEEP to study an incentive program for agrivoltaics projects and report on it to the legislature by January 1, 2027

§ 12 — INCIDENT REPORTS FROM ELECTRIC GENERATION OR STORAGE FACILITIES

Requires (1) Siting Council certificate holders for electric generation or storage facilities to report major and minor incidents to the council and (2) the council to annually report on them to the Energy and Technology Committee

§ 13 — EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING AND CONTACT PERSON

Allows the Siting Council to require applicants to provide emergency service training to local emergency services personnel; requires the council to require applicants to designate an emergency contact person and post the person's contact information at the facility

§ 14 — PURA WORKING GROUP ON RESUMING ENERGY GENERATION SERVICE

Requires PURA to convene a working group to review processes on resuming energy generation service after a service shutoff at a generation or storage facility and report to the legislature by February 1, 2027

§ 15 — SMART SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM

Requires DAS to implement a smart solar permitting platform by July 1, 2028, to automatically review applications to build residential solar, alone or in combination with energy storage projects; requires municipalities to allow applications to be submitted through the DAS platform or an alternative automated solar permitting platform; sets related reporting requirements

§ 16 — SITING COUNCIL MORATORIUM ON APPROVING SOLAR FACILITIES IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES AND DEEP REPORT

Generally prohibits the Siting Council, until July 1, 2027, from approving solar facilities in certain municipalities that already have council-approved solar facilities on a certain proportion of their total land area; requires the DEEP commissioner to report on various solar-siting issues

§§ 17 & 18 — SITING COUNCIL TRANSMISSION PROJECT DECISIONS

Specifies that the Siting Council's jurisdiction includes combinations of electric transmission lines and substations or switchyards that meet certain criteria related to future generation sources

§ 19 — SHARED CLEAN ENERGY GAS REBATE

Removes the selection deadline for SCEF gas rebates

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY: This act creates new and successor renewable energy programs, including for residential and non-residential customers and shared clean energy facilities, and makes other changes mostly in laws related to renewable energy, as described in the following section-by-section analysis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§§ 1-4 — RENEWABLE ENERGY SUCCESSOR PROGRAMS

Requires PURA to establish successor programs for clean energy tariffs (RRES, NRES, and SCEF); sets a total aggregate procurement target for these successor programs and ESS, with related review and reporting requirements; sets requirements for program eligibility, establishing tariffs and rates, energy purchases under the tariffs, and rates that take effect when tariffs expire

Existing law establishes three programs that govern how electric customers who install, lease, subscribe to, or otherwise contract with renewable energy facilities are compensated for the energy and related attributes these facilities generate: the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES) program, the Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (NRES) program, and the Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF) program. Prior law ended these programs in 2027 and 2028. (The act extends these dates, see below.)

The act requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to establish successor programs for RRES, NRES, and SCEF. PURA must initiate proceedings to do so by August 1, 2026, and issue final orders on them by December 1, 2027.

The act sets a total aggregate procurement target for the successor programs and the existing Energy Storage Solutions (ESS) program. For each successor program, the act sets requirements for program eligibility, establishing tariffs and rates, energy purchases under the tariffs, and rates that take effect when the tariffs expire. The act requires electric distribution companies (EDCs; Eversource and United Illuminating) to participate in the successor programs under tariffs with up to 20-year terms until December 31, 2035.

As is generally the case under existing law for RRES, NRES, and SCEF, the act requires EDCs to recover their prudently and reasonably incurred costs for the successor programs on a timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of customer electric rates and credit customers for any net revenues through the same component. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2026

Procurement Target, Allocation Process, and Reports (§ 4)

The act sets a target for total aggregate EDC procurement of energy products. For tariff years starting on and after January 1, 2028, the act sets the target at 180 megawatts (MW) per year for the three successor programs and \$85 million per year for these programs and ESS. The target must account for compensation for energy, renewable energy credits (RECs), energy products, or any combination of these participants receive. If the target goals cannot be reconciled in a given year, the spending target (\$85 million) takes precedence over the MW target (180 MW).

In calculating these budgetary and MW targets, the act requires PURA to disregard solar facilities combined with energy storage systems on a residential customer's premises if PURA finds that incentives associated with these systems provide benefits to all ratepayers in the state, as determined by a ratepayer impact measurement test developed by PURA.

The act requires PURA to adopt an allocation methodology under this target that promotes reaching 580 MW of energy storage deployed in the state through ESS by December 31, 2031. By January 1, 2028, PURA must set an initial allocation of targeted MWs and budget expenditures on an annual basis for the three successor programs and ESS that (1) achieves the greatest benefits for all ratepayers, (2) furthers existing law's system efficiency and utilization goals (see BACKGROUND), and (3) equitably distributes benefits to program participants as PURA determines. PURA may adjust its allocation as needed to achieve these goals.

If actual program spending deviates from the target, PURA may revise the budget target for the following year by up to 5%.

The act sets the following reporting and review requirements for PURA:

1. annually reviewing program performance, starting by January 1, 2029, and continuing through January 1, 2035, and determining annual allocations for target procurements that apply for each program;
2. adopting a notice procedure for adjustments in allocations or incentives under the programs to minimize potential enrollment disruptions;
3. starting January 1, 2028, directing EDCs to report to it on any procurement for a reporting period PURA establishes;
4. starting January 1, 2028, and at least quarterly, publishing on its website the total MWs procured under each

successor program in the previous quarter; and

5. developing and implementing a methodology to monitor procurement utilization and effectiveness under the programs.

The act also requires PURA to report annually, starting by January 1, 2029, and continuing until January 1, 2036, on its program effectiveness analysis and any recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee. The report must analyze:

1. the number of MWs and individual projects participating in each program under the budget target within each EDC territory;
2. the total annual budget spending, accounting for the entire incentive for energy, RECs, energy products, or any combination including SCEF subscriber credits;
3. the ratepayer impact of these programs on nonparticipants;
4. whether the programs remained within the budget target, advanced the energy storage MW deployment goal described above, and, if not, any recommended legislative change to maintain cost certainty; and
5. whether and how the projects further existing law's system efficiency and utilization goal.

Residential Successor Program Eligibility (§ 1)

Under the act, residential customers are eligible for the residential successor program if they live in a:

1. single family home,
2. multifamily development with two to four dwelling units, or
3. multifamily development with five or more units (a) where at least 60% of units are occupied by people with income up to 60% of the municipality's area median income or (b) that PURA determined is affordable housing.

To qualify, eligible projects must:

1. be distributed energy resources (DERs), which, under existing law, are (a) customer- or grid-side distributed resources that generate energy from a Class I renewable energy source (like solar, wind, or fuel cells) or Class III source (certain combined heat and power systems and demand-side management projects) or (b) a customer-side distributed resource that reduces energy demand, including conservation and load management or energy storage;
2. emit no pollutants;
3. be located on a customer's premises and have a nameplate capacity of up to 25 kilowatts (kw) per dwelling unit; and
4. be sized not to exceed the load at the customer's individual electric meter or, for eligible multifamily developments, the load of the premises, as determined by EDCs under rules PURA sets.

For eligible multifamily developments with five or more units, DERs only qualify if each dwelling unit gets an appropriate share of the benefits and no greater than an appropriate share goes to offset energy usage attributable to a common area. The act requires PURA to initiate an uncontested proceeding to implement the distribution of benefits from DERs under the program.

Residential Successor Program Rates (§ 1)

The act sets requirements for the residential successor program's tariffs and rates. In the proceeding to establish the program, PURA must set tariffs for each EDC, tariff rates, and tariff terms and conditions. PURA must consider:

1. findings from a study required under existing law on the value of DERs,
2. the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) and Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) recommendations,
3. the system efficiency and utilization goal, and
4. DER impacts on the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals (see BACKGROUND).

PURA must set tariff rates for the residential successor program based on electric system benefits received by all ratepayers from DERs based on time of production, equitable distribution of participant benefits, the IRP and CES, the system efficiency and utilization goal, and the value or benefits of DERs for electric grid reliability. It must also assess whether to incorporate time-varying rates or other dynamic pricing methods.

The act additionally requires PURA to authorize a separate tariff for (1) low-income customers and customers in eligible multifamily developments with at least five units (see above) and (2) customers who live in distressed municipalities (see BACKGROUND). Low-income customers have income up to 60% of state median income or live in an affordable housing development, but PURA can change this definition to align with federal renewable energy incentive program requirements.

Residential Successor Program Utility Requirements (§ 1)

Starting January 1, 2028, the act requires EDCs to offer tariffs for residential customers to buy (1) any energy and RECs on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour (kwh) basis (a “buy-all” tariff) and (2) energy produced and not consumed in a time period PURA sets and any RECs on a cents-per-kwh basis (a “netting” tariff). It prohibits residential customers from selecting more than one tariff for the same premises.

The tariffs are subject to PURA’s terms, conditions, or other stipulations, including stipulations on DER capacity rights.

Nonresidential Successor Program Eligibility (§ 2)

To qualify for the nonresidential successor program, a project must:

1. be a DER up to five MW in size that emits no pollutants;
2. be located on a customer’s premises and sized not to exceed the annual load at the customer’s meter, or set of meters if combined for billing purposes, as PURA determines (with some exceptions, see below); and
3. serve an EDC distribution system.

The act exempts state, agricultural, and municipal (SAM) customers from the requirement that projects be located on a customer’s premises and specifies that the exemption includes co-located energy storage facilities connected to projects. For SAM customers, the act requires projects to be sized not to exceed the annual load at (1) the customer’s meter or set of meters combined for billing purposes; (2) up to five SAM beneficial accounts; and (3) up to five additional non-SAM beneficial accounts for critical facilities (such as that of a hospital or police station) connected to a microgrid (see BACKGROUND). Generally, beneficial accounts are additional customer-designated accounts that benefit from a facility’s energy or related products.

Regardless of the above project size requirement, the act allows commercial and industrial customers to use the premises’ entire rooftop space for the project.

Nonresidential Successor Program Rates and Price Cap (§ 2)

For the nonresidential successor program, the act requires tariff rates to be set by EDC solicitations for projects. PURA must establish a procurement plan for EDCs and resulting tariffs, a price cap on a cents-per-kwh basis for selected DERs, and tariff terms and conditions.

In its proceeding, PURA must consider:

1. findings from a study required under existing law on the value of DERs,
2. the IRP and CES recommendations,
3. the system efficiency and utilization goal, and
4. Class I resource impacts on the state’s GHG reduction goals.

PURA must set the price cap based on electric system benefits received by all ratepayers from the DER, equitable distribution of participant benefits, the CES and IRP, and the system efficiency and utilization goal.

Nonresidential Successor Program Utility Requirements (§ 2)

The act requires EDCs, at least annually and starting January 1, 2028, to jointly or on their own solicit and file with PURA at least one project for PURA’s approval selected through a procurement for the nonresidential successor program that is consistent with the tariffs PURA approves (see above). For any selected project, EDCs must offer a tariff to buy (1) all energy and any RECs (a “buy-all” tariff) at a rate consistent with the PURA-approved procurement plan and (2) energy produced and not consumed in a time period PURA sets and any RECs (a “netting” tariff). EDCs must offer tariffs on a cents-per-kwh basis subject to any of PURA’s terms, conditions, or other stipulations, including on capacity rights.

The act requires PURA to dispose of Class I RECs purchased under the program in a way set by existing law, which requires PURA, in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Office of Consumer Counsel to establish procedures to dispose of RECs for other energy procurements.

Community Solar Program Eligibility (§ 3)

The act requires PURA to establish the Community Solar Program as a successor to the SCEF program. PURA must allow cost-effective SCEF projects of various nameplate capacities (sizes) to participate and may allow multiple SCEFs in the same EDC service area. A SCEF is a Class I renewable energy source that emits no pollutants, is served by an EDC, has a nameplate capacity of up to five MW, and has at least two subscribers.

The act limits SCEF subscribers to low-income customers and allows PURA to (1) give priority to those who have arrearages with their EDC and (2) create incentives or other financing mechanisms to encourage low-income customers to participate. A “low-income customer” is an EDC customer (1) with income up to 60% of state median income, adjusted for family size, or (2) who lives in an affordable housing development. The act allows PURA to change this definition to meet any requirements for federal programs that provide renewable energy incentives.

Community Solar Program Rates and Price Cap (§ 3)

For the Community Solar Program, the act requires tariff rates to be set by EDC solicitations for projects. PURA must establish a procurement plan for EDCs and resulting tariffs, a price cap on a cents-per-kwh basis for selected SCEFs, and tariff terms and conditions.

PURA must set the price cap based on electric system benefits received by all ratepayers from the Class I resource, equitable distribution of participant benefits, the CES and IRP, and the system efficiency and utilization goal.

Community Solar Program Utility Requirements (§ 3)

The act requires EDCs, at least annually and starting January 1, 2028, to jointly or individually solicit and file with PURA for its approval at least one project selected through a procurement that is consistent with the tariffs PURA approves. For any selected project, EDCs must offer a tariff for SCEF subscribers consistent with program requirements PURA adopts.

The Community Solar Program must use one or more tariff mechanisms with EDCs, subject to PURA’s approval, to pay for the purchase of energy products and RECs produced by an eligible SCEF or deliver billing credits. The act requires PURA to determine the billing credit for SCEF subscribers that may be issued through EDCs’ monthly billing systems.

The act requires each EDC to submit a SCEF subscriber enrollment plan to PURA for its approval that may include automatic enrollment and opt-out provisions. PURA must also establish consumer protections for SCEF subscribers and potential subscribers, including required disclosures when selling or reselling a subscription.

Additional Incentives in Successor Program Tariffs (§§ 1-3)

For all three successor programs, PURA must examine and, at its discretion, incorporate the following incentives into the tariffs, which PURA may adjust to enhance grid reliability or ratepayer benefits:

1. energy storage incentives that provide electric distribution benefits, accounting for existing ratepayer funded incentives like ESS to ensure aggregate incentives benefit all ratepayers;
2. incentives on DER locations to improve distribution system reliability; and
3. other energy policy benefits identified in the IRP and CES and to further the system efficiency and utilization goal.

For the nonresidential successor program and the Community Solar Program, the act additionally requires PURA to examine (1) preferences for DERs in distressed municipalities or on brownfields (see BACKGROUND) and (2) solar canopy incentives.

Rates After Tariffs Expire (§§ 1-3)

For all three successor programs, the act requires PURA to set rates that apply when any tariff terms expire. PURA must set these rates to purchase energy on a cents-per-kwh basis. For the nonresidential successor program and the Community Solar Program, this rate must be set at the same rate as the wholesale energy rate.

For residential and nonresidential successor programs, PURA may set a monthly charge for customers that takes effect when any tariff expires. For the Community Solar Program, the act authorizes PURA to allow subscriptions to continue past the tariff term.

§ 5 — RRES, NRES, AND SCEF END DATE

Sunsets current clean energy tariffs on December 31, 2028, or sooner if successor tariffs take effect; allows PURA to add a monthly charge that applies after tariffs expire

Prior law ended RRES after six years (it began in 2022) and NRES and SCEF in 2027. The act instead sunsets these programs on December 31, 2028, or sooner if PURA issues an order to offer tariffs through a successor program described above.

The act also allows PURA to add a monthly charge that applies after a tariff expires under these programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 6 — ENERGY STORAGE PROGRAM SUNSET

Generally aligns ESS's end date with those of successor programs

Existing law required PURA, by January 1, 2022, to initiate a proceeding to develop one or more programs and funding mechanisms for electric energy storage resources connected to the electric distribution system, including programs for (1) residential customers and (2) commercial and industrial customers. PURA established ESS in a 2021 decision (Docket 17-12-03RE03), with the goal of deploying 580 MW by 2030. The program provides incentives for battery energy storage installation for commercial, industrial, and residential customers.

Prior law had no end date for these programs. The act requires them to end on December 31, 2035.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 7 — GREEN BANK ENERGY STORAGE PILOT PROGRAM

Requires the Green Bank to administer a pilot program to promote energy storage installation for RRES and RSIP customers

The act requires the Green Bank to establish and administer a pilot incentive program, within available resources, to promote energy storage for residential solar customers participating in RRES or the Green Bank's Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP). It limits program expenditures to \$2 million and requires the program to provide energy storage system installation at no cost to program participants, with preference for customers in environmental justice communities (see BACKGROUND).

Under the act, the program must be designed to (1) increase understanding of electric system benefits received by all ratepayers from these programs and (2) offset ratepayer costs from net metering credits from Class I resources by encouraging storage behind the meter for customer use. The Green Bank may enter into an agreement with any licensed contractor to install energy storage systems under program guidelines the Green Bank adopts.

The act requires the Green Bank to submit a report by February 1, 2028, to the Energy and Technology and Environment committees, analyzing the pilot program's impact, recommending whether to establish a permanent program, and, if so, any needed legislation. The pilot program ends February 1, 2028, or sooner if the Green Bank submits its report before then.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 8 — WORKING GROUP ON PILOT PROGRAM RESULTS AND ESS SUCCESSOR PROGRAM

Requires a working group to examine the Green Bank's pilot program results and make recommendations on an ESS successor program

When the Green Bank pilot program described in § 7 above ends, the act requires a working group to convene to (1) examine the pilot program's results, including analyzing benefits for all ratepayers, and (2) make recommendations on an ESS successor program.

The working group includes:

1. the Energy and Technology Committee chairpersons, who are the working group's chairpersons;
2. the DEEP commissioner, Consumer Counsel, PURA chairperson, and Green Bank chief executive officer, or their respective designees; and
3. anyone else the chairpersons deem relevant and necessary to carry out the working group's duties.

Under the act, the working group chairpersons must schedule and hold the working group's first meeting within 60 days after the pilot program ends. The Energy and Technology Committee's administrative staff acts in that capacity for the working group.

The working group must report its findings to the Energy and Technology Committee by one year after the working group convenes. It terminates one year after it convenes or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 9 & 10 — PORTABLE SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES

Exempts portable solar generation devices from interconnection requirements, among other things, and sets requirements for exempt devices; requires officials to consider provisions on safe installation of these devices in the next State Building Code and the State Fire Safety Code amendments

The act exempts portable solar generation devices from interconnection requirements under PURA regulations or decisions and limits exempted device use to one behind a customer's electric meter.

Under the act, a portable solar generation device is a solar device that:

1. is not permanently affixed to a structure;
2. has a maximum power output of 1,200 watts;
3. is designed to be connected to a building's electrical system through a 120-volt alternating current outlet behind the meter;
4. meets State Building Code requirements, National Electric Code requirements (NEPA-70) and the Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineers requirements (IEEE 1547);
5. is certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory and meets UL Standard Number 1741;
6. includes a device or feature that prevents the system from energizing the building's electrical system during a power outage; and
7. is intended primarily to offset part of a customer's electricity consumption and includes a consumer warning that states that any electricity generation exceeding consumption at the customer's location will result in excess generation being charged to the customer unless the customer uses an electric meter that allows net metering.

The act prohibits EDCs from requiring a customer using a portable solar generation device to:

1. get the company's approval before installing or using it;
2. pay a fee or charge related to the system, except any charges the system incurs through its use; or
3. install additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the system.

Under the act, EDCs are not liable for damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device. The act specifies that it does not exempt any portable solar generation device from requirements under the State Building Code, the Fire Safety Code, the State Fire Prevention Code, or any applicable local ordinance or regulation.

The act requires provisions to ensure safe installation of portable solar generation devices to be considered (1) jointly by the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner's approval in State Building Code amendments adopted after October 1, 2026, and (2) by the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee in State Fire Safety Code amendments adopted after October 1, 2026.

§ 11 — AGRIVOLTAICS INCENTIVE PROGRAM STUDY

Requires DEEP to study an incentive program for agrivoltaics projects and report on it to the legislature by January 1, 2027

The act requires the DEEP commissioner, in consultation with the agriculture commissioner, to study the feasibility of implementing an incentive program for agrivoltaics projects in the state. Agrivoltaics are generally solar facilities on agricultural land.

Under the act, the study must consider potential benefits and consequences of these projects and make recommendations on:

1. nameplate capacity (size) restrictions for solar facilities;
2. limiting program participation to land in productive agricultural use before program participation;
3. system configuration to preserve agricultural operations;
4. the allowable percentage of a parcel that may be used for solar equipment instead of agricultural use;
5. preserving core forest (unfragmented forest land at least 300 feet from the boundary between forestland and nonforest land, as the DEEP commissioner determines); and
6. a permitting process and incentives for these projects.

DEEP must submit a report on the study to the Energy and Technology and Environment committees by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 12 — INCIDENT REPORTS FROM ELECTRIC GENERATION OR STORAGE FACILITIES

Requires (1) Siting Council certificate holders for electric generation or storage facilities to report major and minor incidents to the council and (2) the council to annually report on them to the Energy and Technology Committee

The act generally requires any person (including entities) who has a Siting Council certificate to operate an electric generation or storage facility to report any major or minor incident at the facility in a form and way set by the council. Under the act, they must report a major incident within five days after it occurs, and a minor incident within 30 days after it occurs.

The act exempts from these requirements facilities that are generating sources under Title V of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 or DEEP regulations that generally set more stringent air pollution limits.

The act requires the Siting Council, starting on July 1, 2028, to annually give the Energy and Technology Committee a report detailing any reports on major and minor incidents the council received in the prior year.

Under the act, a “major incident” is any event at an electric generation or storage facility that (1) requires an emergency shutoff of electricity flowing to or from it due to a hazardous condition at the facility, (2) requires local emergency services personnel to respond to the facility, or (3) causes injury requiring hospitalization. A “minor incident” is an unanticipated or unplanned shutdown of the facility that does not require local emergency services personnel to respond. It excludes a shutdown for scheduled or routine maintenance or as a preventative safety measure.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 13 — EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING AND CONTACT PERSON

Allows the Siting Council to require applicants to provide emergency service training to local emergency services personnel; requires the council to require applicants to designate an emergency contact person and post the person’s contact information at the facility

The act allows the Siting Council to require, as a condition of approving an electric generation or storage facility, that the applicant provide emergency services training specific to the proposed facility to local firefighters or other emergency services personnel (those in any municipality where the facility will be located). The applicant must pay for the training.

If the council imposes this requirement, the act requires the applicant to notify the local chief executive officer and fire marshal about the training, as ordered by the council. The chief executive officer or fire marshal must respond to the notice in writing within 60 days after receiving it and indicate whether firefighters or other emergency services personnel in the municipality request the training. If so, the applicant must arrange for the training to be given within 60 days after the request.

The act also requires, as a condition for Siting Council approval, an applicant to (1) designate an emergency contact person for the facility, (2) give the person’s contact information to the council and the chief executive officer and the local fire official of the municipality where the facility is located, and (3) post a sign with the emergency contact person’s contact information at each facility entrance. Additionally, current certificate holders must take these steps by January 1, 2027.

Under the act, an “emergency contact person” is a person (including an entity or an organization), designated by an applicant or certificate holder, with authority to act on the applicant’s or certificate holder’s behalf in an emergency at the electric generation or storage facility.

If the emergency contact person or their contact information changes, the act requires the applicant or certificate holder, within 30 days after the change, to (1) give written notice about it to the council and the local chief executive officer and fire official and (2) update each sign with the contact information at the facility.

The act requires the emergency contact person to be available to respond (at the facility or by phone or other electronic means) to any emergency at the facility within one hour after it occurs. If they fail to timely respond, any firefighter or other emergency services personnel who tried to contact them must file a written report with the council detailing the lack of response.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 14 — PURA WORKING GROUP ON RESUMING ENERGY GENERATION SERVICE

Requires PURA to convene a working group to review processes on resuming energy generation service after a service shutoff at a generation or storage facility and report to the legislature by February 1, 2027

The act requires PURA’s chairperson, by November 1, 2026, and in consultation with the DEEP commissioner and

Siting Council, to convene a working group within PURA to review and assess any processes on resuming electric generation services after a service shutoff at an electric generation or storage facility that exceeds five days. The review and assessment must consider:

1. any existing statutory, regulatory, or contractual processes governing resuming electric generation services after an extended shutoff;
2. the adequacy of coordination among electric generation facility owners or operators, EDCs, regional transmission organizations, and state agencies;
3. potential risks to public safety or electric grid reliability associated with extended shutoffs and subsequent service resumptions; and
4. any recommendations for statutory, regulatory, or procedural changes to improve transparency, coordination, and safety when service resumes.

Under the act, the working group consists of:

1. PURA's and the Siting Council's chairpersons or their designees;
2. the DEEP commissioner or her designee;
3. the Consumer Counsel or her designee;
4. a local fire marshal from a municipality where at least two electric generation or storage facilities are sited;
5. at least one representative from an EDC;
6. at least one owner or operator of an electric generation facility subject to the Siting Council's jurisdiction;
7. an employee of a higher education institution in the state with expertise in electrical engineering or any field related to electricity generation, transmission, or distribution; and
8. any other interested party the chairperson deems appropriate.

The act requires PURA's chairperson, by February 1, 2027, to submit a report on the working group's efforts and recommendations to the Energy and Technology and Public Safety and Security committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 15 — SMART SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM

Requires DAS to implement a smart solar permitting platform by July 1, 2028, to automatically review applications to build residential solar, alone or in combination with energy storage projects; requires municipalities to allow applications to be submitted through the DAS platform or an alternative automated solar permitting platform; sets related reporting requirements

The act requires the DAS commissioner to implement a smart solar permitting platform by July 1, 2028, to automatically review applications to build residential solar projects, alone or in combination with energy storage systems, and instantly release a building permit if the project complies with the State Building Code. A smart solar permitting platform is (1) the web-based SolarAPP+ platform developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Laboratory of the Rockies or (2) a similar web-based platform the commissioner selects. It must review permit applications for residential solar photovoltaic systems, which are equipment and devices that generate solar energy, have a nameplate capacity of up to 25 kw, and are installed on a single-family or multi-family home's roof.

Under the act, DAS must administer the platform in a way that allows it to:

1. be used by DAS, municipalities, and licensed architects, professional engineers, and contractors;
2. automatically evaluate an application to construct a residential solar facility or energy storage system to determine if the (a) facility complies with the State Building Code and (b) application complies with regulations DAS adopts under the act;
3. instantly release a building permit for compliant applications;
4. process a permit application for at least 75% of residential rooftop solar facilities that weigh less than four pounds per square foot, provide electrical power to detached single- and multi-family homes, and comply with State Building Code requirements for installation on an existing residential structure;
5. accept applications at any time, unless the platform is unavailable due to maintenance or a system upgrade;
6. use digital signatures, stamps, seals, or certifications on submitted applications and supporting documents needed to issue a permit;
7. provide customer service to help users navigate the platform; and
8. periodically update the platform, as needed, to conform to building code changes or other applicable state laws.

Municipalities must allow applications to be submitted through the DAS platform or through an alternative automated solar permitting platform that also meets the act's requirements. Those that allow permits through the DAS platform must revise their permitting fees by January 1, 2029, to reflect any reduction in cost or resources to permit residential solar energy

systems.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Alternative Automated Solar Permitting Platforms

The act allows municipalities to coordinate with their regional councils of governments to select and implement an alternative automated solar permitting platform, including issuing requests for proposals, invitations to bid, or other solicitations. Municipalities using an alternative platform must enable access to it by January 1, 2029, and cannot require applicants to submit documentation or information that is not required under the DAS platform.

Within 60 days after a municipality implements an alternative platform, it must submit a compliance report to DAS, in a form and way the commissioner prescribes. The report must include the date of compliance, the software used for compliance, and documentation that the alternative platform meets the above requirements for the DAS platform.

Under the act, any municipality that implements an alternative platform must also report annually to the DAS commissioner, starting by July 1, 2029. The commissioner may set guidelines for annual reports, but the act requires them to at least include:

1. how many permits the municipality released for residential solar facilities through the alternative platform and through other means,
2. the relevant characteristics of facilities approved through the alternative platform and through other means, and
3. documentation that the alternative automated solar permitting platform also meets the above requirements for the DAS platform.

If the commissioner determines that the information in the compliance report or the annual report is insufficient to verify the requirements, the municipality must give access to its alternative platform to allow the commissioner to determine whether it complies.

DAS must post any compliance reports and annual reports on its website.

Other Application Requirements

The act requires the DAS commissioner to prescribe the form and format for permit applications, including supporting documentation; specifications; requirements for digital signatures, stamps, seals, or certifications; and other information exchanged through the DAS platform.

The commissioner must also require that any application and supporting documentation submitted through these platforms be prepared and submitted by a licensed architect, professional engineer, or contractor.

Waived Requirements and Sanctions

The act requires the DAS commissioner to waive any requirement for physical signatures, stamps, seals, certifications, or notarization imposed by statute, regulation, or local ordinance to allow the permitting platform to process applications, as long as the application has a digital signature, stamp, seal, or certification.

The act prohibits anyone exchanging information through the DAS platform or an alternative platform from being penalized for failure to comply with a statute, regulation, or local ordinance that requires information to be submitted in a physical form, such as that it be:

1. in a particular form or of a particular size;
2. submitted with multiple copies;
3. physically attached to another document;
4. an original document; or
5. signed, stamped, sealed, certified, or notarized.

The prohibition applies to licensing sanctions, civil penalties, fines, permit disapprovals, revocations, or other sanctions.

§ 16 — SITING COUNCIL MORATORIUM ON APPROVING SOLAR FACILITIES IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES AND DEEP REPORT

Generally prohibits the Siting Council, until July 1, 2027, from approving solar facilities in certain municipalities that already have council-approved solar facilities on a certain proportion of their total land area; requires the DEEP commissioner to report on various solar-siting issues

Moratorium

The act prohibits the Siting Council from granting a certificate for a solar facility, or approving one by declaratory ruling, if it finds that the facility is in a municipality (1) where more than 5.5% of the municipality's total land area has solar installations and related solar infrastructure or (2) that is contiguous with and to the north of a municipality described above and has solar installations and solar related infrastructure on more than 2% of its total land area. These percentages are calculated by total parcel size, apply to installations and infrastructure that the council previously approved, and exclude council-approved solar installations on a brownfield or landfill.

To calculate the percentage of land area covered by the solar facilities, the total parcel size of the installations and related infrastructure in the municipality, as determined by the computer-assisted mass appraisal system maintained by the Geographic Information Systems Office in the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), is divided by the municipality's total acreage.

The act ends the prohibition on July 1, 2027, and specifies that it does not apply to facilities proposed to be sited on land zoned for commercial or industrial use by the municipality as of January 1, 2024.

DEEP Report on Solar Facility Sites

The act requires the DEEP commissioner to prepare a report recommending specific criteria for equitably distributing solar facility sites in the state. In preparing the report, the commissioner must consult with:

1. the commissioners of agriculture and economic and community development;
2. the presidents of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Connecticut Council of Small Towns, and Connecticut State Building Trades Council;
3. the executive director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments;
4. a training director of a registered affiliate of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council;
5. the OPM secretary;
6. the chairpersons of the Siting Council, Council on Environmental Quality, and PURA;
7. the consumer counsel; and
8. two Connecticut-based conservation organizations, one with expertise in forest management and the other with expertise in agrivoltaics and farmland soils.

The act allows the DEEP commissioner, within available appropriations, to hire a consultant to help prepare the report, but the consultant cannot own or operate a facility subject to the Siting Council's jurisdiction.

Under the act, the report must have evaluations of, and recommendations on, the following:

1. the location of solar facilities previously approved by the council, with a focus on measuring and explaining the distribution and concentration of solar facilities across the state;
2. how the council can further minimize conflicts between solar development and other land use priorities, particularly in municipalities with greater concentrations of solar development;
3. an assessment of PA 17-218's effectiveness at protecting core forest and prime farmland resources in the solar facility siting process (see BACKGROUND);
4. the existence of project labor agreements between the solar facility developers and the Connecticut State Building Trades Council;
5. the potential economic impacts that solar facility development projects may have, including how many direct and indirect jobs would be created in a community and the surrounding region;
6. how project developers can show that contractors and subcontractors have a registered apprenticeship program approved by the state, with a curriculum that includes training for solar and other Class I renewable energy source construction;
7. how a developer can attest that contractors and subcontractors (a) have no history of stop work orders, wage violations, or licensing violations pending with a federal or state agency and (b) have not been cited for any wage or licensing violations by a federal or state agency over the preceding five years; and
8. any policy recommendations resulting from these evaluations.

The act requires the DEEP commissioner, by November 30, 2026, to post a draft report on DEEP's website for public review and comment. And before submitting a final report, she must hold one or more public comment periods and integrate any public comment she deems appropriate and useful into the final report. Under the act, the final report is due to the Energy and Technology, Environment, Government Administration and Elections, Judiciary, and Labor and Public Employees committees by February 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 17 & 18 — SITING COUNCIL TRANSMISSION PROJECT DECISIONS

Specifies that the Siting Council's jurisdiction includes combinations of electric transmission lines and substations or switchyards that meet certain criteria related to future generation sources

By law, developers must get a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need from the Siting Council before starting projects to build or modify certain facilities, such as transmission lines, electric substations, and switchyards that may have a substantial adverse environmental effect in the state.

The act further specifies that the Siting Council's jurisdiction includes the transmission lines (and their associated equipment), electric substations and switchyards, or combinations of them, whether expanding an existing facility or installing a new one, that are designed to (1) accommodate the interconnection of one or more future sources of any generation type that is not yet subject to an interconnection agreement (generally, a contract between the generator and the electric grid operator) or (2) relieve transmission system constraints to facilitate delivery or power from the future generation source.

Existing law prohibits the council from granting a certificate unless it makes certain findings about the project, including that there is a public need for the facility and the basis of that need. A public need exists when a facility is necessary for the reliability of the state's electric power supply.

The act requires the council, when determining whether a public need exists for the projects described above, to consider whether the project addresses anticipated future electric grid reliability needs, including the need for additional generation on the electric grid to maintain resource adequacy.

Under the act, any future reliability needs the council identifies in these proceedings must be supported by (1) an ISO-New England study or finding, (2) the state's IRP, or (3) an advisory opinion by the DEEP commissioner stating that the facility is in the best interest of the state's ratepayers. The commissioner's advisory opinion may, without limitation, be based on:

1. availability of funding from sources other than the state's ratepayers;
2. collaborative efforts with one or more other states that will provide a net benefit to Connecticut's ratepayers; or
3. whether the proposed project will eliminate, or otherwise limit, the need for other transmission system upgrades that would be a cost to Connecticut ratepayers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 19 — SHARED CLEAN ENERGY GAS REBATE

Removes the selection deadline for SCEF gas rebates

Prior law generally required each gas company (the Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, the Southern Connecticut Gas Company, and Eversource) to have a program that gives rebates to customers that use natural gas for a shared clean energy facility (SCEF) (for example, a fuel cell) selected to participate in the SCEF program by December 31, 2023. The act removes the selection deadline, requiring the companies to provide these rebates regardless of when the SCEFs are selected to participate in the program. (PA 26-76, § 32, also removes this deadline.)

By law, the rebate equals the retail delivery charge for transporting natural gas to the SCEF, and a gas company may recover the costs of providing the rebates through its decoupling mechanism, authorized under existing law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Brownfields

By law, a brownfield is any abandoned or underutilized site where redevelopment, reuse, or expansion has not occurred due to pollution or potential pollution in the buildings, soil, or groundwater that requires investigation or remediation to

redevelop, reuse, or expand the property.

Comprehensive Energy Strategy

The law requires DEEP to prepare a CES every four years. Among other things, the CES must identify energy policies and long-range energy planning objectives and strategies appropriate to achieve the state's GHG reduction goals, a sound economy, the least-cost mix of energy supply sources to meet these goals, and ways to reduce energy demand, considering various factors like consumer price impacts, fuel supply security and diversity, and public health and safety.

Distressed Municipalities

"Distressed municipality" is a designation under state law generally used to target funds to fiscally and economically distressed municipalities. The Department of Economic and Community Development annually designates distressed municipalities, generally based on high unemployment and poverty, aging housing stock, and low or declining rates of job, population, and per capita income growth. Municipalities generally receive a grace period of at least five years after they no longer meet criteria during which they are still considered a distressed municipality under the law.

Environmental Justice Communities

By law, an environmental justice community is a (1) U.S. census block group in which at least 30% of the population consists of non-institutionalized, low-income people with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level or (2) distressed municipality.

Integrated Resources Plan

The law requires DEEP, in consultation with the EDCs, to review the state's energy and capacity resource assessment and approve an IRP to procure energy resources to meet customer requirements in a way that minimizes costs over time and maximizes benefits consistent with state environmental goals and standards. DEEP must report on the IRP every two years to the Energy and Technology and Environment committees.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals

The state's Global Warming Solutions Act requires the state to reduce GHG emissions from all sources to a level at least:

1. 10% below 1990 emission level by 2020,
2. 45% below the 2001 emission level by 2030,
3. 65% below the 2001 emission level by 2040, and
4. 80% below the 2001 emission level and an economy-wide net-zero level by 2050.

It also requires the state to reduce GHG emissions from electricity supplied to electric customers in the state to zero by 2040.

Microgrids and Critical Facilities

A microgrid is a group of interconnected loads and DERs within clearly defined electrical boundaries that act as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid and may operate in both grid-connected or island mode.

A critical facility is a hospital, police or fire station, water or sewage treatment plant, public shelter, correctional facility, television or radio station production and transmission facility, municipality's commercial area, municipal center, or any other facility or area DEEP identifies as critical.

PA 17-218

Among other things, this act requires the DEEP commissioner and the Siting Council to consider the impact of certain proposed energy-related projects on the environment, prime farmland, certain forest land, or agriculture, before allowing them to proceed.

Specifically, for Siting Council decisions on certain solar facilities on prime farmland, the act requires the Department of Agriculture to represent in writing that the project will not materially affect the land's status as prime farmland. The act

requires DEEP to do the same for proposed projects on forest land. The act allows the departments to consult with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and soil and water conservation districts when evaluating these solar facility projects.

“Prime farmland” is soil defined by USDA as best suited to produce food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. In general, these lands have an adequate and dependable water supply, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks (7 C.F.R. § 657.5).

System Efficiency and Utilization Goals

The law sets as state goals (1) maximizing the efficiency and use of the electric transmission and distribution systems and (2) ensuring that any ratepayer-funded programs are cost-effective and focused on affordability, reliability, and decarbonization. It also allows (1) PURA to set specific goals and metrics aligned with these state goals, through its programs and utilities regulation, and (2) allows DEEP to do the same, aligned with these same state goals, through its IRP.

PA 26-131—HB 5247

Energy and Technology Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING A TEST BED TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act creates a process for state agencies to administer pilot test programs to test the effectiveness of certain technologies, products, or processes (“projects”) at reducing operating costs. The act creates an application process for small contractor or minority business enterprise applicants to submit projects for consideration, and allows an agency to temporarily use any project that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner evaluates and recommends, subject to certain criteria. Under the act, if an agency implements a pilot test program, the project applicant must pay any costs associated with the agency acquiring and using the project.

The act also establishes a (1) process for procuring projects that a pilot test program has shown to promote operational cost reduction, including a waiver of competitive bidding or proposal requirements, and (2) way for agencies to ask the DAS commissioner to evaluate and recommend projects that have been tested by a municipality and shown to promote operational cost reduction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

APPLICATIONS

Until January 1, 2027, the act allows the governor to direct the DAS commissioner, within available appropriations and in consultation with Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (CI), to create and administer an online portal to facilitate programs to pilot test projects in any state agency to determine whether they may reduce the agency’s operational costs. The portal must be available on the DAS website.

Under the act, anyone who wants to participate in a pilot test program must apply to the DAS commissioner through the online portal, and the commissioner must set the application process. The application must include an assessment of the test project’s viability for a pilot program, which must be done by an independent consulting firm or a market research firm that (1) specializes in technologies, products, or processes similar to those described in the application and (2) is classified as a research and development services provider under DAS industry code 6000 or a marketing research and public opinion polling provider under the North American Industry Classification System code 541910.

Under the act, any applicant selected to participate in a pilot test program can only participate in one program for one state agency.

DAS EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Within 90 days after receiving the application, the DAS commissioner, in consultation with CI, must evaluate the project and recommend it for an agency pilot program if it meets the criteria described below and the commissioner finds the recommendation is warranted.

Under the act, the commissioner, in consultation with CI, must recommend that an agency have a pilot test to temporarily use a project if she finds that the project would (1) promote operational cost reduction, (2) be feasible in the state agency’s operations, and (3) not have any detrimental effect on the operations. The pilot test’s purpose is to validate the project’s effectiveness in reducing operational costs.

However, the act expressly prohibits the commissioner from recommending a project unless the business that manufactures or markets it shows that:

1. using it will not adversely affect safety;
2. it is presently available for commercial sale and distribution or has potential for commercialization within two years after the pilot test program concludes;
3. it was not developed by a business that is eligible to participate in an existing state statutory program administered by CI for testing new or experimental technologies, products, or processes;
4. if the test project or any related intellectual property is patented, the business maintains the associated documentation on it; and
5. the business is a DAS-certified small contractor or minority business enterprise (see BACKGROUND).

DAS Report

The act requires the DAS commissioner to evaluate the effectiveness of any pilot test held under the act and submit a report on its findings to the Energy and Technology Committee by October 1, 2030.

TEST PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The act allows the commissioner of each state agency to administer a program for pilot testing projects that promote operational cost reduction.

Under the act, if the DAS commissioner recommends that a state agency start a pilot test program for a project, the agency may temporarily use it in the agency's operations. The agency's commissioner determines the project's length, which must be between 30 and 60 days. The agency may accept delivery of the test project and begin the program, regardless of the laws on state purchases.

The act requires the applicant to pay any costs associated with the agency acquiring and using the project. Under the act, acquiring the project for the program is not a purchase under the state procurement laws. The applicant must maintain records related to the test program as the DAS commissioner requires. Proprietary information derived from the test program is exempt from the state's Freedom of Information Act.

POST-TESTING PROCUREMENT

Under the act, if the agency's commissioner determines that the pilot test program sufficiently shows that the project promotes operational cost reduction, he or she may ask the DAS commissioner to (1) procure the test project for any agency to use and (2) make the procurement under a law that generally allows the DAS commissioner to waive competitive bidding or proposal requirements. If the DAS commissioner grants a request to procure a project for an agency, she must make information about the procurement available to all state agencies on the DAS website.

MUNICIPAL TEST PROJECTS

The act also allows a state agency commissioner to identify a project that (1) meets the criteria the DAS commissioner must use to review other applications and (2) has been tested by a municipality and shown to promote operational cost reduction. The agency commissioner may file a request to test the project with the DAS commissioner through the online portal. Within 30 days after receiving the request, the DAS commissioner, in consultation with CI, must evaluate the project and make a recommendation using the same criteria described above. If the DAS commissioner recommends the project, the agency must begin a pilot test program under the same implementation and procurement provisions described above.

BACKGROUND

Small Contractors and Minority Business Enterprises

By law, a "small contractor" is generally a:

1. contractor or subcontractor that (a) maintains its principal place of business in the state and (b) is registered as a small business in the federal database maintained by the U.S. General Services Administration, as required to do business with the federal government, or
2. nonprofit entity that (a) maintains its principal place of business in the state, (b) had gross revenues of \$20 million or less during its most recent fiscal year, and (c) is independent (generally not reliant on another entity to operate).

“Minority Business Enterprises” are generally small contractors with majority ownership by women, minorities, or people with disabilities. The owner must have (1) managerial and technical competence, (2) experience directly related to his or her principal business activities, and (3) the power to direct the enterprise’s management or policies (CGS § 4a-60g(a)).

PA 26-60—sHB 5332
Environment Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN BOATING REGULATIONS

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes to Connecticut's boating laws, including:

1. requiring anyone operating a recreational motorboat to prohibit people in the boat from sitting on the boat's gunwale (top edge or rim) with their legs hanging outside or standing on the gunwale while the boat is underway at greater than slow-no-wake speed (the slowest speed necessary to maintain steering control without creating a wake);
2. prohibiting personal watercraft (such as jet skis) and jetted articulated vessel owners from knowingly allowing anyone, rather than only people younger than 16 as under prior law, to operate their boat without the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)-issued certificate required to do so;
3. prohibiting owners from allowing their boat, other than a boat registered in Connecticut, another state, or with the federal government, on state waters unless the owner's current and valid contact information is legibly printed on or attached to the boat in a way DEEP prescribes (generally, smaller boats, such as kayaks, do not require registration and would be subject to this provision);
4. amending motorboat and waterskiing restrictions on North Stonington's Wyassup Lake;
5. increasing the minimum and maximum fines that generally may be imposed for abandoning a boat; and
6. allowing state and municipal law enforcement agencies to recover a broader range of costs for removing abandoned boats.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

WYASSUP LAKE

Prior law limited operating motorboats on Wyassup Lake to the period from the Saturday before Memorial Day to September 15 annually. The act removes this restriction, allowing motorboats to be operated year-round, but imposes other restrictions during this period. Specifically, under the act, from the Saturday before Memorial Day through September 15 annually, motorboats may be operated on Wyassup Lake at speeds above eight miles per hour between 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and waterskiing is permitted.

However, regardless of these conditions, the act prohibits waterskiing at any time between the islands within the lake and its east shore.

ABANDONED BOATS

The act increases, from between \$300 and \$500 to between \$750 and \$1,000, the minimum and maximum fines that generally may be imposed for abandoning a boat. Existing law allows any party with standing to recover unpaid expenses resulting from a boat abandonment from the person who abandoned it. The act also explicitly allows state and municipal law enforcement agencies with standing to recover associated environmental remediation costs and costs related to the boat's recovery, including legal or court costs.

Generally, someone seeking to recover costs associated with removing an abandoned boat must file a notarized notice of abandoned vessel with DEEP and pay a \$20 filing fee. The act specifies that the notarization and the filing fee are not required if the party seeking to recover costs is the state, a municipality, or a state or municipal law enforcement agency.

PA 26-61—sHB 5334
Environment Committee
Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner to use any FY 27 funds that are available for preserving riparian areas to hire an employee to train inland wetland commissions on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA), including on preserving riparian areas.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-65—HB 5525

Environment Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING A RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

SUMMARY: This act outlines certain rapid response actions and associated timeframes to eradicate, contain, or control hydrilla or other aquatic invasive plant species introduced into an ecosystem or waterbody, while the infestation remains localized. It also requires the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station's Office of Aquatic Invasive Species (OAIS), in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), to develop a state rapid response plan for hydrilla.

Under the act, OAIS must set rapid response qualification criteria for (1) newly discovered aquatic invasive species and (2) hydrilla, including satellite populations, discovered within the last three years. OAIS must list qualifying species on the agency's website and notify DEEP when it adds a new species.

The act also requires OAIS, in consultation with DEEP, to develop a publicly accessible statewide aquatic invasive species management plan. To do so, OAIS may consult other entities, including the state's Invasive Plants Council, through a public comment period.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

RAPID RESPONSE ACTIONS AND TIMEFRAMES

The act requires OAIS to identify new introductions of aquatic invasive plant species, including hydrilla. In doing so, OAIS must (1) map the extent and location of these populations and (2) document the presence and location of relevant threatened or endangered species within a scientifically determined radius set in consultation with DEEP's Natural Diversity Data Base program. OAIS must also determine how sensitive any identified threatened or endangered species is to proposed herbicide treatments and other containment or eradication methods. The act allows OAIS to coordinate and conduct rapid response actions for any new population in a Connecticut waterbody.

Under the act, any rapid response actions for newly introduced aquatic invasive plant species must be timed, based on best available science, to occur before or during key reproductive periods to minimize their establishment and secondary spread.

The act requires (1) DEEP to expedite permitting for rapid response actions for aquatic invasive species that OAIS identifies as qualifying, as well as hydrilla, and (2) the Department of Public Health to coordinate with DEEP to specify conditions for permits to treat aquatic invasive species in a public supply watershed or within 200 feet of a public water supply well. It also exempts any rapid response herbicide treatment from existing provisions requiring two individual notices to privately owned lake or pond waterfront property owners. Instead, the act requires that notice be made by telephone, personal notification, or conspicuous posting on a home's entry door at least 24 hours before the treatment.

HYDRILLA RAPID RESPONSE PROTOCOL

The act requires OAIS, in consultation with DEEP, to also develop a state rapid response protocol for hydrilla. The protocol must define the roles, responsibilities, and response actions for OAIS and DEEP. The protocol must establish a coordinated framework for interagency response that identifies lead and supporting functions and outlines next steps to contain or eradicate hydrilla. The steps may include (1) public education and outreach, (2) containment strategies, (3) treatment methods and associated timelines, and (4) any additional actions DEEP and OAIS determine are necessary.

Under the protocol, DEEP must issue expedited permits for rapid responses, and OAIS must be authorized to coordinate or conduct treatment within the same season the expedited permitting occurs. Additionally, OAIS must monitor the protocol's progress and track outcomes in a specific population and waterbody. The protocol may also serve as a template for responding to future introductions of other aquatic invasive species.

PA 26-75—sSB 148

Environment Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO AQUACULTURE-RELATED STATUTES AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN FARMING-RELATED PROGRAMS

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Changes notice requirements for areas closed to shellfishing; eliminates an obsolete law authorizing DoAg to appoint shellfish police

[§§ 8-19 & 22 — FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM](#)

Makes various changes to DoAg's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to conform with current practices and align with program modernizations, including a transition to electronic benefits and expansion of eligible benefit redemption locations

[§ 19 — FARM TRANSITION GRANT PROGRAM](#)

Eliminates the requirement that the DoAg commissioner adopt regulations to administer the farm transition grant program

[§§ 20-22 — OBSOLETE PROGRAMS REPEAL](#)

Repeals DoAg's defunct (1) Connecticut Quality Seal program and (2) Apple Marketing Order program

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on the (1) dairy modernization grant program; (2) forest land values; and (3) agricultural land preservation program are effective July 1, 2026, and the farm investment tax credit program

provision is applicable to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2028 (PA 26-76, § 70, made the tax credit applicable to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027).

§ 1 — DAIRY MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

Creates a Dairy Modernization Grant Program to help Connecticut's dairy farmers invest in equipment, infrastructure, and operational upgrades; requires DoAg to set the program's parameters

The act creates the Dairy Modernization Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to help Connecticut's dairy farmers invest in equipment, infrastructure, and operational upgrades. Under the act, DoAg must, by January 1, 2027, set the program's parameters, including:

1. eligibility criteria for farmers and projects,
2. rules to prioritize how the department uses program funds,
3. maximum grant amounts,
4. an application process, and
5. definitions for the terms "infrastructure" and "operational upgrades."

§ 2 — FARM INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Expands who qualifies as an eligible farmer under the farm investment tax credit program

PA 25-168 created a refundable corporate and income tax credit program for farmers' investments in eligible machinery, equipment, and buildings to use in specific types of agricultural production. The act expands who qualifies as an eligible farmer under this program to include Connecticut taxpayers whose federal gross income from farming for the income or tax year is at least \$250,000. Under existing law, Connecticut taxpayers can qualify if their federal gross income from farming for the income or tax year is at least two-thirds of their federal gross income from all sources over \$30,000.

§ 3 — DAIRY FARMING SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

Creates a Dairy Farming Sustainability Working Group to develop recommendations to give long-term support to Connecticut's dairy industry

The act creates a Dairy Farming Sustainability Working Group within DoAg to develop long-term support recommendations for Connecticut's dairy industry. The DoAg commissioner must submit the group's recommendations to the Appropriations; Environment; and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees by January 1, 2027.

Support Recommendations

Under the act, the working group's recommendations must consider the following:

1. potential use and efficacy of a reimbursable tax credit program for dairy producers;
2. use of Community Investment Act funds for dairy sustainability;
3. in-state dairy processing capacity; and
4. use and efficacy of property tax exemptions, including mandatory and optional local exemptions, for dairy farmers.

Working Group's Composition

The working group's ex-officio members are the DoAg and Department of Revenue Services commissioners, Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, and Connecticut Farm Bureau executive director, or their designee.

The working group also includes the following members appointed by the DoAg commissioner:

1. at least three dairy industry representatives,
2. one representative from each major Connecticut dairy cooperative,
3. an independent dairy producer, and
4. any other members the commissioner determines are necessary.

§ 4 — PA 490 FOREST LAND VALUES

Requires the OPM secretary to reinstate the October 2025 land use values for forestland until October 1, 2030

By law, the OPM secretary, in consultation with the DoAg commissioner, is required to develop a schedule of unit prices (land use values per acre) for property subject to the PA 490 program (see *Background — PA 490 Land Values*) every five years (CGS § 12-2b). These schedules are made available to the public, and municipalities may adopt them.

The act directs OPM to reinstate the land use value recommended on October 1, 2025, for forestland (\$200 per acre), replacing the 2020 value (\$390 per acre), which was reinstated by the governor on January 19, 2026. The 2025 value will remain in effect until October 1, 2030 (the next valuation date).

Background — PA 490 Land Values

On October 1, 2025, OPM released its PA 490 recommended land use values, which were generally significantly higher than the 2020 recommended land use values. OPM released new recommended land use values on January 5, 2026. However, on January 19, 2026, the governor released a letter to OPM directing OPM, in consultation with DoAg, to take the following actions: (1) revoke the 2025 values and reinstate the 2020 values; (2) notify all municipal tax assessors of the revocation and reinstatement; and (3) convene a working group to recommend alternative measures to improve data collection, review, and valuation processes.

§ 5 — NATURAL GAS RATE STUDY

Requires PURA to study natural gas rates, particularly how demand charges affect commercial and agricultural customers with intermittent peak monthly demand

The act requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to study natural gas rates. The study must include any applicable demand charges for commercial and agricultural natural gas customers who have intermittent peak monthly demand to determine if, due to the demand charge, a significant number of these customers are charged rates that do not fairly reflect their use. If PURA determines that the demand charges unfairly increase rates for these customers, it must make detailed recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 15, 2027, on how the charges can be recalculated or otherwise applied to these customers.

Background — Related Act

Special Act 26-4 imposes the same study requirements on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner.

§ 6 — AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Removes the cap on the state's per acre contribution to individual landowners applying for the agricultural land preservation program and the requirement that the contribution for the joint purchase of development rights with municipalities increase accordingly

Existing law requires the DoAg commissioner, in consultation with the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, to adopt regulations implementing a program for acquiring development rights to agricultural land. The act removes a requirement that (1) these regulations include a \$20,000 per acre cap on the state's contribution to individual landowners applying for the program and (2) the contribution for the joint purchase of development rights with municipalities increase accordingly.

§§ 7 & 22 — SHELLFISHING

Changes notice requirements for areas closed to shellfishing; eliminates an obsolete law authorizing DoAg to appoint shellfish police

The act (1) changes the notice requirements for areas closed to shellfishing and (2) eliminates an obsolete law authorizing DoAg to appoint shellfish police.

By law, DoAg must classify areas for shellfish taking and may restrict or prohibit shellfishing from areas that fail to meet specified standards to minimize health risks. The act eliminates the requirement that DoAg post notices about shellfishing area closures in local newspapers and instead requires the department to post these notices on its website. By law, the department must also (1) file the notices with local municipal clerks and health directors in affected towns, cities, or boroughs, and (2) post signs on or near affected areas. The act specifies that the notices to municipal clerks and health directors may be filed in writing or electronically.

The act similarly eliminates the requirement that the commissioner notify the general public about shellfishing area closures due to a health emergency by publishing the notice in a local newspaper. It instead requires him to notify any applicable shellfish commission in the affected area. By law, he must also notify the local health authority about the closure. The act also makes technical changes.

Lastly, the act eliminates DoAg's authority to appoint and commission shellfish police to patrol privately owned oystering areas at the request of specified entities, including oyster businesses, associations, and property owners. In practice, environmental conservation officers serve this function through a memorandum of understanding with DoAg.

§§ 8-19 & 22 — FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

Makes various changes to DoAg's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to conform with current practices and align with program modernizations, including a transition to electronic benefits and expansion of eligible benefit redemption locations

The act makes various changes to the DoAg Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). By law, the FMNP generally gives (1) people eligible for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and (2) low-income people aged 60 or older funds to buy eligible Connecticut-grown fresh produce and chicken eggs. Under the act, FMNP participants may also use program benefits to buy honey.

The act makes many minor, technical, and conforming changes. Among other things, it changes specific FMNP statutory definitions and terminology to align with program modernizations, including a transition to electronic benefits and expansion of eligible benefit redemption locations, and DoAg's current practices. The act also eliminates a statutorily defined benefit amount of five \$3 vouchers issued to each program participant in a distribution period and instead requires DoAg to annually set the benefit amount each FMNP participant will get based on the federal and state allocation for the given program year.

Transition to Electronic Benefits

The act makes changes to FMNP statutes to reflect the modern use of electronic benefits rather than paper vouchers, including replacing references to "vouchers" with "benefits."

To align with DoAg's current practice of coupling FMNP benefit distribution with WIC benefit distribution, made possible by the transition to electronic benefits, the act also changes the definition of a "local WIC agency" to be an entity that contracts with the Department of Public Health to administer the WIC program and distribute WIC benefits to participants (rather than an entity contracting with DoAg to distribute FMNP vouchers, as under prior law). Correspondingly, it eliminates obsolete procedures for the WIC agency to verify a program participant's identity when distributing paper vouchers. The act also reduces, from four years to three years, the period that local WIC agencies must generally keep FMNP-related records.

The act also eliminates the requirement for authorized vendors to have a DoAg-issued certified vendor number and use a certified vendor identification stamp on deposited benefit vouchers, and it eliminates a process for vendors to deposit any vouchers they accepted. Similarly, it eliminates the requirement for program participants to countersign a voucher before using it.

Expanded Benefit Redemption Locations and Vender Certification Process

The act replaces “authorized farmers’ market” with “authorized benefit location” in FMNP statutes to reflect an expansion of approved benefit redemption locations to include farm stands and mobile markets, in addition to farmers’ markets. It also replaces “vendors” with “farmers.”

The act also makes changes to the requirements a vendor must meet to become certified to accept FMNP benefits. Under existing law, to become certified a vendor must attend a training on FMNP rules and procedures. The act adds the requirement that vendors also complete an annual online learning module and get a passing score on a knowledge test. Existing law also requires vendors to submit a completed application and crop plan before becoming certified to accept benefits. The act specifies that they must do so using a form and process DoAg creates. Lastly, the act eliminates the requirement for vendors to submit to DoAg a signed (1) receipt of a vendor certification handbook and (2) certified vendor agreement before accepting FMNP benefits.

The act also eliminates a process for the DoAg commissioner to determine whether to authorize a farmers’ market to accept FMNP benefits based on how many vendors apply to participate in the market. In practice, this process was made obsolete by the benefit redemption location expansion and transition to a system that allows individual vendors to accept FMNP benefits. Correspondingly, the act eliminates the obsolete law making it a violation for vendors to cash vouchers for a noncertified market, as this is not possible under the modern benefit redemption system.

§ 19 — FARM TRANSITION GRANT PROGRAM

Eliminates the requirement that the DoAg commissioner adopt regulations to administer the farm transition grant program

The act eliminates the requirement that the DoAg commissioner adopt regulations to administer the farm transition grant program, a competitive matching program to help Connecticut farmers diversify operations, build infrastructure, and develop new products. In practice, the department issues annual program guidance to administer the program instead.

§§ 20-22 — OBSOLETE PROGRAMS REPEALED

Repeals DoAg’s obsolete (1) Connecticut Quality Seal program and (2) Apple Marketing Order program

The act repeals two obsolete DoAg programs: the (1) Connecticut Quality Seal Program, which ensured quality and authenticity of Connecticut-produced products, and (2) Apple Marketing Order program, which promoted the sale of apples and apple products and related market research in the state. In practice, both programs’ goals were largely incorporated into DoAg’s active CT Grown campaign.

PA 26-90—sSB 452

Environment Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF LIGHTER-THAN-AIR BALLOONS

SUMMARY: This act makes changes to the law on the release of helium or other lighter-than-air gas filled balloons (“balloons”) into the atmosphere.

The act prohibits individuals, nonprofit organizations, firms, and corporations, including the state and its political subdivisions, from knowingly releasing, or organizing or intentionally causing the release of, balloons into the atmosphere. Prior law allowed these individuals and entities to release up to nine balloons within a 24-hour period. By law, a violation of the balloon release ban is an infraction with a fine of \$75.

Starting January 1, 2027, the act also requires any retailer that sells these balloons, or offers them for sale, to attach weights to them so they cannot rise into the atmosphere. The retailer must do so before giving the balloons to a customer. Failure to do so subjects the retailer to a Department of Consumer Protection civil penalty of \$20 per violation.

Under the act, a “retailer” is any firm, partnership, association, or corporation that uses universal product coding in totaling its customer’s purchase but does not include carnivals. By law, carnivals are transient enterprises that offer portable mechanical amusement rides or devices for public amusement and entertainment purposes but exclude any enterprise that leases inflatable devices for private residential use.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-101—sHB 5333*Environment Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF STRIPED BASS FISHING IN THE STATE, A WORKING GROUP CONCERNING THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FISH PASSAGES**

SUMMARY: This act makes numerous changes in laws related to wildlife in Connecticut.

Specifically, the act limits striped bass fishing to catch and release between December 1 and March 31 annually. It also makes it an infraction to violate any regulation on striped bass taking (killing, fishing, or other means of trapping) and imposes fines for violations.

The act also changes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) traditionally non-harvested species conservation program by:

1. expanding it to (a) implement the state's most recent federally approved wildlife action plan (see BACKGROUND) and (b) include provisions on wildlife health, monitoring climate change, and biodiversity conservation (§ 3);
2. eliminating a requirement for the DEEP commissioner to annually report to the Environment Committee on the program and instead creating a working group to determine how the program should be funded and implemented; and
3. requiring any money donated to the state for the program to be deposited into the General Fund and allocated to the program, as existing law requires for any revenue from DEEP's program to sell wildlife stamps and other artwork or publications (§ 5).

Lastly, the act allows any person to petition the DEEP commissioner to require a safe, timely, and effective fish passage be installed at any hydroelectric dam that is not subject to federal regulations. (PA 26-124, § 15, amended this provision to require at least 10 people, rather than any single person, submit such a petition.) The act sets a process the DEEP commissioner must follow if she receives a petition and actions she must take if she determines a dam does not have an adequate fish passage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provisions on striped bass fishing infractions and fish passages are effective upon passage, and the provision creating the working group is effective July 1, 2026.

§§ 1 & 2 — STRIPED BASS FISHING

The act makes it an infraction to violate any regulation on striped bass taking, including the act's new provision limiting striped bass fishing to catch and release between December 1 and March 31 annually. The act imposes a fine of (1) \$150 for a first offense, (2) \$350 for a second offense, and (3) \$500 for subsequent offenses.

People fined for these violations must generally follow the law's procedure for infractions (for example, they can pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance). However, if a municipal law enforcement officer issues an infraction in Derby, Milford, Orange, Shelton, or Stratford, the fine must be paid to the municipality where the infraction occurred.

§ 4 — TRADITIONALLY NON-HARVESTED SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

The act requires the Environment Committee's co-chairpersons, in consultation with the committee's ranking members and the DEEP commissioner, to jointly select, by July 31, 2026, two co-chairpersons for the conservation program working group.

By August 15, 2026, the working group's co-chairpersons must select the group's members, which must include at least the following 14 people:

1. one representative each from DEEP, the Department of Transportation, and the Office of Policy and Management;
2. three representatives of conservation advocacy organizations that work on wildlife-related issues, one of whom must have fisheries aquatic expertise and one of whom must have avian expertise;
3. one representative of a land conservation organization;
4. two state college or university faculty members, as recommended by the DEEP commissioner;
5. one representative from a council of governments;
6. one water utilities representative;
7. one representative of an organization representing Connecticut recreational businesses;
8. one representative of the Connecticut Farm Bureau or its designee; and
9. one Connecticut-certified forester.

The act requires the working group's co-chairpersons to hold the group's first meeting by August 30, 2026, and the group must report its findings and recommendations, including any proposals for legislation, to the Environment Committee by January 15, 2027. The group ends on this date or when it submits its report, whichever is later. Under the act, the Environment Committee's administrative staff must serve in that capacity for the working group.

§ 6 — FISH PASSAGES

The act allows any person to petition the DEEP commissioner to require a safe, timely, and effective fish passage be installed at any hydroelectric dam that is not subject to federal regulation. (Currently, three such dams exist in the state.) Under the act, a fish passage is considered safe, timely, and effective if it meets or exceeds the Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative's existing standards. (PA 26-124, § 15, amended this act to require that at least 10 people, rather than any single person, submit such a petition.)

Within 180 days after receiving a petition, the commissioner must (1) determine if a safe, timely, and effective passage exists upstream and downstream of the dam and associated reservoir for migratory fish at all life stages and (2) publish notice of her tentative determination and a draft order for any action to ensure an adequate passage, if applicable (see below), on DEEP's website. The commissioner must allow at least 30 days for public comment on the tentative determination, and DEEP must hold a public hearing before making a final determination on the petition. Under the act, the entity that owns or controls the applicable dam is deemed a party to the hearing.

If the DEEP commissioner determines a dam does not have an adequate fish passage, she must issue an order to the entity that owns or controls the dam prescribing conditions to ensure a safe, timely, and effective fish passage both upstream of the reservoir and downstream of the dam. The order may require, among other things, (1) constructing, rebuilding, and operating fishways; (2) removing any artificial obstructions; and (3) maintaining minimum water flows. If the commissioner determines an existing fish passage structure is ineffective or harmful to aquatic life, she must also include conditions for remediating the harm, including removing or reconstructing the structure.

The act also excludes these dams and makes technical changes to existing procedures that allow (1) 10 or more property owners above a dam or obstruction that existed on October 1, 1982, to petition DEEP regarding fishways and (2) DEEP to require fishways when certain permit applications are filed for actions related to one of these dams or obstructions.

BACKGROUND

Wildlife Action Plan

States must submit wildlife action plans to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to receive certain federal grant funding for wildlife programs. States must review and revise these plans every 10 years and submit them for federal approval. Connecticut's most recent wildlife action plan was approved in 2025 and, among other things, identifies species and habitats in need of conservation and priority conservation issues and actions for the next 10 years.

PA 26-107—sSB 147

Environment Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY ON THE NEED FOR EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS AND INCLUDING AEROSOL PAINTS UNDER THE PAINT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act (1) expands the existing architectural paint extended producer responsibility (EPR) program and plan to include aerosol coating products and (2) requires producers of those products to either participate in an approved paint stewardship plan that includes aerosol coatings by that plan's implementation date or be banned from selling those products in Connecticut. Among other things, the paint EPR expansion:

1. requires, by July 1, 2028, all producers of aerosol coating products to join a representative organization, and that organization to submit to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner for approval, an EPR plan (or updated plan) that includes all paint products (architectural paint and aerosol coating products);
2. extends the time the DEEP commissioner has to decide on an EPR plan (or an update under the act) from two months to three months after submission;
3. extends the implementation time for an approved EPR plan (or update) after approval from two months to six

months;

4. permits approved EPR plans to remain in effect until any plan updates are implemented;
5. requires that updates to the paint stewardship assessment only be submitted as part of a paint EPR plan or update, instead of every two years as under prior law;
6. bans producers, distributors, and retailers from selling or offering for sale any architectural paint product to consumers in Connecticut if the product's producer does not participate in the paint EPR;
7. beginning when an approved paint EPR program including aerosol coatings is implemented, bans producers, distributors, and retailers from selling or offering for sale any paint product to consumers in Connecticut if the product's producer does not participate in the updated paint EPR program;
8. requires producers or the stewardship organization to provide educational materials on paint products, rather than only architectural paint; and
9. authorizes DEEP, beginning July 1, 2027, to charge a yearly fee of up to \$50,000 to the representative organization that implements an approved paint EPR plan for administering and enforcing the paint EPR program (the fee must include all fees charged annually by the commissioner to the representative organization).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PAINT EPR EXPANSION

The act broadly expands an existing architectural paint EPR program to cover “paint products,” which are architectural paints and aerosol coating products, but not health or beauty products.

Under the act, “aerosol coating products” are any pressurized coating products that (1) contain pigments or resins dispensed by propellant and (2) are packaged and sold in disposable aerosol containers for handheld application or for use in specialized equipment for ground traffic or marking applications. They do not include any paint thinner, paint remover, graffiti remover, or caulking compound that contains no appreciable level of opaque fillers or pigments.

Under the act and existing law, “architectural paint” is any interior and exterior architectural coatings sold in containers of five gallons or less, not including industrial, original equipment, or specialty coatings.

Paint EPR Plan

Under prior law, architectural paint producers were responsible for managing the paint EPR program by establishing and participating in a paint stewardship representative organization. The organization had to develop and submit a plan to DEEP on minimizing public sector involvement in managing unused and unwanted architectural paint. The act requires, by July 1, 2028, all aerosol coating product producers to join the representative organization and that organization to submit to DEEP a plan, or an update to an existing plan, to cover all paint products, including unused and unwanted products (postconsumer paint).

Under the act, a “producer” is any paint product manufacturer that sells, offers for sale, distributes, or contracts to distribute, paint products (instead of just architectural paint producers as under prior law).

DEEP Determination and Plan Implementation

Under prior law, the DEEP commissioner had to approve plans, and decide on submitted plans, within two months of submission. The act (1) extends this timeline to three months and (2) additionally applies this authority to plan updates.

Under prior law, plans must have been implemented within two months of approval. The act (1) extends this timeline to six months, (2) includes the implementation of plan updates, and (3) requires currently approved plans to remain in effect until any new plan update is implemented.

Paint Assessment Proposals

Prior law required the stewardship organization, in every odd year, to propose a uniform paint stewardship assessment for all architectural paint sold in Connecticut. Under prior law and the act, the assessment is an amount added to the purchase price to cover the stewardship organization's cost of collecting, transporting, and processing postconsumer paint. The act instead requires (1) that an updated assessment be only proposed as part of a new plan or update to an existing plan, instead of every two years, and (2) the assessment to cover all paint products. The act otherwise maintains the existing independent review and implementation process for the assessment.

Organizational Participation

Under prior law, producers, distributors, and retailers could not sell, or offer for sale, an architectural paint product in Connecticut if the product's producer was not a member of the stewardship organization. The act instead requires that they participate in an approved paint EPR program, instead of being an organizational member. Additionally, beginning when a paint EPR program that includes aerosol coatings is implemented, the act requires all producers, distributors, and retailers of paint products to participate in the approved paint EPR program to sell those products in Connecticut.

The act also specifies that a retailer or distributor does not violate the prohibition if the producer or paint brand was listed on DEEP's website under the law when the paint was ordered from the producer or its agent. Under prior law, the provision only applied to architectural paint.

By law and under the act, DEEP may seek civil enforcement of the paint EPR program.

Educational Materials

By law, producers or the stewardship organization must give consumers educational materials on the paint stewardship assessment and EPR program. The act further specifies that these materials must at least cover available end-of-life management options for all paint products, rather than just architectural paint. As under existing law, the organization must also give samples of these materials to DEEP.

PA 26-112—sSB 318

Environment Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE

SUMMARY: This act expands the state veterinarian's authority to issue orders for preventing disease spread among animals and poultry by allowing her to issue them for any disease, rather than just for those that are contagious and infectious. It correspondingly allows her to protect the public from this broader category of disease.

The act also requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner to (1) study how the need for companion animal placement affects domestic violence victims and (2) create a working group to study the state's animal population control program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the working group provision is effective upon passage.

COMPANION ANIMAL PLACEMENT STUDY

The act requires the DoAg commissioner, in consultation with the Office of Victim Services, to study how the need for companion animal placement affects domestic violence victims and submit a report on the study and any recommendations to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2027.

Under the act, the study must:

1. include resources currently available for domestic violence victims to find temporary or permanent placements;
2. identify at least one contact person for victims in Connecticut who need to place their companion animal in another person's care due to a domestic violence situation; and
3. examine the feasibility of establishing a phone number or other electronic communications line accessible 24 hours a day for victims who need to place their companion animal in another person's care.

ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

The act requires the DoAg commissioner, by July 1, 2026, to create a working group to study the state's animal population control program, which funds spaying or neutering for dogs and cats. The group must make recommendations about the program, including ways to increase and stabilize its funding, and the commissioner must submit them to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2027.

The working group's members include the following:

1. the DoAg commissioner or his designee;
2. the Connecticut Humane Society's executive director or his designee;
3. an animal welfare organization representative, appointed by the commissioner;
4. a Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association representative;

5. an animal control officers' organization representative; and
6. any other members the commissioner determines are needed.

PA 26-124—sHB 5153

Environment Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RELATED STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act makes various unrelated changes to environmental statutes, including:

1. expanding eligibility for Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA) and Charter Oak open space grants (§§ 1 & 2);
2. changing the requirements for prioritizing rebates and vouchers issued under the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate (CHEAPR) program (§ 3);
3. modifying Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) funding requirements when giving grants for zero-emission school buses and related infrastructure (§ 4);
4. removing Connecticut from the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Compact (§§ 5 & 16);
5. amending the definition of “muzzleloader” in the context of deer management (§ 6);
6. allowing DEEP to authorize corporate entities to take resident Canadian geese (§ 7);
7. modifying the eligibility requirements for certain people to hunt on Sundays (§ 8);
8. expanding DEEP’s authority to issue general permits (§ 9);
9. specifying that, for DEEP water discharge permits and regulations, “discharges from public or private drinking water treatment systems” includes potable water system maintenance or sampling wastewater, including (a) potable water storage tank or water line draining for maintenance or hydrostatic testing purposes, (b) raw or treated water from process sampling points, including on-line process analytical instrumentation, (c) raw or treated water from equipment leakage and bleed-off, and (d) periodic hydrant flushing (§ 10);
10. expanding the authority of the DEEP commissioner, state forest fire warden, and governor to limit activities across the state in specified ways to prevent wildfires (§§ 11-14);
11. allowing 10 or more people, rather than any single person, to petition the DEEP commissioner to require that a fish passage be installed at certain dams (§ 15); and
12. making technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the (1) section on DEEP general permits is effective July 1, 2026, and (2) sections on muzzleloaders, Canadian geese, Sunday hunting, and wildfire prevention are effective October 1, 2026.

§§ 1 & 2 — OSWA GRANTS

Land Near EJCs

Under existing law, DEEP may award OSWA grants to certain municipalities and land trusts to restore or protect open space land they already own. Specifically, it may award them for open space already owned by (1) distressed municipalities; (2) targeted investment communities; (3) municipalities, if the open space is in an environmental justice community (EJC); and (4) nonprofit land conservation organizations, if the land is in a distressed municipality, targeted investment community, or EJC. The act expands eligibility to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations whose open space is immediately adjacent to an EJC.

By law, an EJC is (1) any U.S. census block group, as determined by the most recent census, for which at least 30% of the population are not institutionalized and have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level or (2) a distressed municipality.

Grant Eligibility Exemption for Public Use Land

Under existing law, land that is already committed for public use (encumbered by a conservation easement) is ineligible for OSWA grants or the Charter Oak open space grant program (which may award grants to municipalities to buy land to be preserved as open space or as water supplies), with some exceptions. The act expands these exceptions, making it easier for certain encumbered lands to be eligible for a grant.

Under prior law, land that was already encumbered by a conservation easement was an exception (and not considered

already committed to a public use) if the easement resulted from a federally funded land conservation program, municipal conservation grant program, or private conservation program, and met other criteria. The act expands eligibility to all conservation easements that meet these other criteria, rather than only those that resulted from federal, municipal, or private programs.

Prior law's eligibility criteria required that:

1. the prior encumbrance was executed after the grant agreement's execution;
2. any nonfederal holder of prior easements subordinated its interest in the land to DEEP's interest when the grant easement was recorded;
3. federal, municipal, or private grant funds were used as matching funds; and
4. the DEEP commissioner determined, based on all relevant information, that transfer of the other conservation easement and the acquisition constituted one concurrent acquisition of property or property interest.

The act removes the requirements that the (1) grants funds be used as matching funds and (2) prior encumbrance was executed after the grant agreement's execution. The act instead requires the prior encumbrance to be executed or reserved at least six months before the application deadline for the OSHA grant round.

Lastly, the act requires nonfederal holders of encumbrances to subordinate their land interest to DEEP's interest in a way that satisfies the DEEP commissioner.

§ 3 — CHEAPR REBATE ELIGIBILITY

By law, the CHEAPR program gives rebates and vouchers to residents, municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, and tribal entities that buy or lease new or used battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles, and fuel cell electric vehicles. DEEP sets the CHEAPR rebate and voucher amounts administratively.

Prior law required DEEP to prioritize the rebates or vouchers to residents (1) of EJC's, (2) with household incomes at or below 300% of the federal poverty level, or (3) who participated in specified state and federal assistance programs. Prior law also required that the rebate or voucher amounts for EJC residents be at least triple the standard amount.

The act eliminates the priority for EJC residents and their increased rebate amount. The act instead requires the rebate or voucher amounts for income-qualified residents be at least double the standard amount. Under the act, in consultation with the CHEAPR advisory board, the DEEP commissioner may prioritize rebates or vouchers to non-income-qualified EJC residents over other non-income-qualified residents.

§ 4 — ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Prior law required the DEEP commissioner to administer a grant program to give matching funds needed for municipalities, school districts, and school bus operators to maximize federal grant funding to buy zero-emission school buses and electric vehicle charging or fueling infrastructure.

The act eases this obligation by requiring DEEP to give an unspecified portion of the funds needed for the above entities to maximize any federal funding or other funding or financing for those purposes (PA 26-63 § 24 contains a similar provision, except it also changes the communities that get priority for the grant, among other things).

§§ 5 & 16 — CONNECTICUT RIVER ATLANTIC SALMON COMPACT REPEAL

The act repeals a statute creating the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Compact and, in doing so, removes the state from the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. The compact was a collaboration between the federal government, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont to promote the restoration of the Anadromous Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River Basin. Congressional authorization for the commission expired in 2023 and the commission is now defunct. It has since been replaced by the Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative, which Connecticut has joined.

§ 6 — MUZZLELOADER DEFINITION

The act expands the definition of "muzzleloader," which is used in DEEP regulations on deer hunting and permits. It removes the requirement that a rifle or shotgun must use powder and wadding to be considered a muzzleloader. Unchanged by the act, they must be at least .45 caliber, unable to fire a self-contained cartridge, use a projectile, and be loaded separately at the muzzle end.

§ 7 — CORPORATE CANADIAN GEESE TAKING

By law, the DEEP commissioner may authorize municipalities, homeowner associations, or nonprofit land-holding organizations to take (kill) resident Canadian geese at any time or place using any method that is consistent with professional wildlife management principles. The act extends this authorization to include corporate entities, which must follow the existing authorization process.

§ 8 — SUNDAY HUNTING REVISIONS

Prior law required anyone who hunted on private property on Sundays to get written permission and carry it on them while they hunted. The act exempts people who hunt with a private land turkey hunting permit or a Connecticut Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp issued without a fee from having to do so. It also specifies that only people who hunt deer or turkey on Sundays must get and carry written permission.

§ 9 — DEEP GENERAL PERMITS

The act expands DEEP's authority to issue general permits, generally allowing DEEP to issue one for any activity for which it may issue an individual permit. To issue these general permits under the act, DEEP must (1) determine that the activity both separately and cumulatively causes minimal environmental effects and (2) include this determination in the general permit's public notice.

Existing law already prohibits DEEP from issuing general permits for certain types of solid waste facilities and the act specifies it does not authorize DEEP to do so either. These facilities include (1) resources recovery facilities, (2) biomedical waste facilities, (3) solid waste disposal areas, or (4) municipal solid waste composting facilities. By law, permits issued for solid waste activities must be consistent with the requirements of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

§§ 11-14 — WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

The act expands the authority of the DEEP commissioner, state forest fire warden, and governor to limit activities across the state in specified ways to prevent wildfires. First, the act bans open brush burning within 100 feet of a woodland or grass land area when the commissioner identifies the forest fire risk as high or very high. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, this is also banned when she finds the fire risk is extreme. By law, the DEEP commissioner must generally allow open brush burning on residential properties, municipal landfills and recycling centers, and transfer stations except in certain circumstances (for example, when there is a heightened fire risk, or the municipality prohibits it).

Second, the act allows the state forest fire warden to ban open flames on all or any part of land the commissioner controls (for example, state parks), if the DEEP commissioner finds it necessary. The act also allows the forest fire warden, if there is an emergency, to extend the deadline for volunteer fire department chiefs to submit reimbursement requests for their services. By law, chiefs must submit them to the warden within one month after the department provides services. The act allows the warden to extend the deadline to four months.

Additionally, prior law allowed the governor, during an extreme drought or other hazardous conditions that increased forest fire risk, to (1) close to the public all sections of woodland and brush land in the state for a time period he sets and (2) ban any open-air fire in any or all areas of the state. The act allows the governor to take either or both actions rather than requiring him to do both simultaneously, as prior law required. The act also increases the range of the fines for violating either of these restrictions, from between \$5 and \$100 to between \$500 and \$1,000. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, a person may also be imprisoned for up to six months for a violation.

§ 15 — FISH PASSAGES

The act repeals a provision of PA 26-101, § 6, that would have allowed any person to petition the DEEP commissioner to require that a safe, timely, and effective fish passage be installed at any hydroelectric dam that is not subject to federal regulation. (Currently, three such dams exist in the state.) Instead, the act allows 10 or more people to submit such a petition.

PA 26-129—sHB-5521*Environment Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING STERILE CULTIVARS, APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF CERTAIN MATERIALS AS FILL AND THE REVISION OF CERTAIN HOUSING-RELATED STATUTES.**

SUMMARY: This act makes the following unrelated changes to state environmental, parking, and housing laws:

1. requires the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) to report to the legislature about the safety of sterile cultivars and distributing Japanese barberry;
2. revises application content requirements for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) large-scale beneficial filling pilot program;
3. makes a minor change to the law on off-street parking minimums; and
4. sunsets the majority leaders' roundtable group on affordable housing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the change to off-street parking minimums is effective October 1, 2026, and the conforming changes to the Council on Housing Development take effect July 1, 2026.

§ 1 — REPORT ON STERILE CULTIVARS AND JAPANESE BARBERRY

The act requires CAES to submit a report to the Environment Committee by January 15, 2027, on the safety of (1) using, planting, importing, transporting, selling, and purchasing sterile cultivars (plants specifically bred or engineered to produce few or no viable seeds) and (2) distributing Japanese barberry in Connecticut.

Under the act, CAES must have a public comment period as part of its report preparation. The report may include recommendations about the cultivars and barberry, including legislative recommendations.

§ 2 — BENEFICIALLY RECLAIMED MATERIALS

As existing law allows, DEEP operates a pilot program for using beneficially reclaimed materials (for example, asphalt, brick, crushed recycled glass, or street sweepings) as fill materials to help reclaim or redevelop environmentally impaired or underutilized land.

Prior law required someone seeking authorization under the program to get zoning approval or other necessary permits from each municipality in which the beneficially reclaimed material will be used before submitting their application. Applicants had to submit a written copy of each approval with their application. The act instead requires them to either (1) submit these documents with their application or (2) include a reasonable estimate of when they will have them. Additionally, existing law requires that applicants comply with the state environmental justice law's public participation and community benefit agreement process. The act requires that applications have proof that this occurred.

§ 3 — MINOR CHANGE TO OFF-STREET PARKING LAW

The act makes a minor change to the law on off-street parking minimums, passed as part of the 2025 November Special Session housing legislation (codified in CGS § 8-3n).

Specifically, the act aligns the provision on setting parking minimums in conservation and traffic mitigation districts with the provision broadly limiting the minimums for developments with fewer than 17 dwelling units. Under prior law, the exception to the broadly applicable limitation on setting parking minimums generally allowed municipalities to set minimum parking requirements for developments with fewer than 16 units in conservation and traffic mitigation districts. Under the act, this exception applies to developments with fewer than 17 dwelling units.

§§ 4 & 5 — SUNSETTING THE MAJORITY LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE GROUP

The act sunsets the majority leaders' roundtable group on affordable housing on June 30, 2026.

It also makes conforming changes in the law on the Council on Housing Development. Specifically, instead of having the roundtable group's chairs (the Senate and House majority leaders) each appoint a member to the council, the act requires the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker to each make an appointment. Created as part of the 2025 November Special Session housing legislation, the council advises and helps the Office of Responsible Growth's coordinator review regulations, develop guidelines, and establish programs on housing growth in the state.

PA 26-148—sSB 457*Environment Committee**Judiciary Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S BOTTLE BILL**

SUMMARY: This act makes changes to the state's beverage container redemption law ("bottle bill"). (The state's bottle bill generally requires a deposit to be charged on each beverage container at the time of purchase, which is then refunded to the consumer when it is redeemed at a retailer or redemption center.) Principally, the act:

1. more broadly prohibits collecting or charging a refund value on beverage containers not purchased in Connecticut and makes willful, high-volume violations a class A or B misdemeanor or class D felony, depending on the volume of containers; and
2. requires the reduced handling fees for certain redemption centers imposed under PA 26-2 to be discontinued starting on July 1, 2027, or when the redemption center uses specified scanning technology to redeem beverage containers at its facility, whichever comes first, rather than requiring that they be discontinued starting July 1, 2027, only for redemption centers that use the technology.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision on redemption center handling fees is effective upon passage.

PENALTIES

Under existing law, dealers (those who engage in the sale of beverages in beverage containers in Connecticut, but not redemption centers) cannot collect or charge a refund value on containers purchased outside of Connecticut. The act sets penalties for any person who purchases containers outside of Connecticut and then willfully and in volume collects or charges a refund value on them. Specifically, willfully collecting or charging a refund value on containers purchased outside of Connecticut, or directing another to do so, is subject to the following graduated penalties that vary based on the number of containers for which a refund value was collected or charged in a calendar year:

1. 5,000 to 19,999 containers is a class B misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#));
2. 20,000 to 30,999 containers is a class A misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)); and
3. 40,000 or more containers is a class D felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

The act specifies that this does not apply to a common or contract carrier, or warehouse worker, that is lawfully transporting or storing beverage containers as merchandise. It also does not apply to the employees of those carriers or workers that act within the scope of their employment.

REDEMPTION CENTER HANDLING FEE

By law, distributors generally must pay dealers and redemption center operators, in addition to the container's refund value (the 10-cent deposit), a handling fee of at least 2.5 cents for each container of beer, hard seltzer, hard cider, or other malt beverage, and 3.5 cents for each container of mineral water, soda water, or similar carbonated soft drink or other non-carbonated beverage returned for redemption.

PA 26-2 reduces, beginning April 1, 2026, the per container handling fee paid to certain large volume redemption centers by up to one cent. The reduction applies to redemption centers that (1) annually process an average of 50 million or more beverage containers and (2) do not use automated barcode or universal product code scanning to redeem all beverage containers.

The act instead ends the reduction July 1, 2027, or when a redemption center uses that technology for redeeming all beverage containers, whichever is earlier.

Unchanged by the act, for determining if the reduction applies, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Revenue Services, must confirm the average beverage container processing volume of redemption centers. Existing law requires redemption centers to quarterly report on how many containers they redeem.

PA 26-68—sSB 1

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE, SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[§§ 1-9 — FY 27 APPROPRIATIONS](#)

Adjusts FY 27 appropriations for state agency operations and programs for nine of the state's appropriated funds

[§ 10 — PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATION FUND](#)

Requires that the fund's balance at the end of FY 26 remain in the fund

[§ 11 — FY 27 EARMARK FOR STATE LIBRARY GRANTS](#)

Shifts the funding source for an FY 27 earmark for State library grants

[§ 12 — FY 27 EARMARKS FOR SDE GRANTS](#)

Shifts the funding sources for, and makes various other changes to, FY 27 earmarks for SDE grants; adds earmarks for various purposes

[§§ 13-15, 18-51, 477 & 481-483 — CARRYFORWARDS AND TRANSFERS](#)

Carries forward certain agencies' unspent funds and requires that they be used in FY 27 or FY 28 for specified purposes

[§ 16 — YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION GRANTS FOR FY 26](#)

Reserves \$410,000 of the Judicial Department's FY 26 appropriation for youth services prevention for grants to five specified organizations

[§ 17 — SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMMING GRANTS](#)

Requires school-based mental health programming grants in FYs 26 and 27 to be made in support of the specified school districts rather than to the districts themselves

[§§ 52 & 53 — REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANTS](#)

Requires OPM to distribute regional performance incentive program grants to two specified COGs for FY 27

[§ 54 — SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE SHARING GRANTS TO WATERBURY, MANCHESTER, AND VERNON](#)

Provides additional FY 27 supplemental revenue sharing grants to Waterbury (\$3 million), Manchester (\$800,000), and Vernon (\$500,000)

[§ 55 — DELAY OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION PROVISION](#)

Would have delayed until July 1, 2027, PA 26-42, § 9, which established procedures for voters to have absentee ballot applications automatically sent to them (PA 26-76, §§ 37-39, repeals and replaces PA 26-42, § 9, and repeals this act's provision delaying implementation).

[§§ 56 & 57 — CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AGREEMENTS](#)

Modifies requirements for CMDA when it enters into agreements for PILOTs

[§ 58 — CLARIFYING CHANGE TO HOUSING COMMISSIONER'S POWERS](#)

Clarifies the housing commissioner's general powers

§ 59 — EXTENDING CERTAIN LANDLORD-TENANT LAWS TO THIRD PARTY AGENTS

Extends existing limitations on fees and payments that landlords may require from prospective tenants to third parties acting on behalf of landlords or the state; extends existing requirements on tenant screening reports to the same third parties

§§ 60 & 61 — TAX ON NURSING HOMES AND INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES

Repeals the 6% tax on nursing home and ICF revenue scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2026, and instead retains the current user fee on these facilities

§ 62 — PIZZA STATE LICENSE PLATES

Requires DMV to issue Pizza State commemorative license plates to increase public awareness of the state's pizza-making tradition and to provide funding to Connecticut Foodshare

§ 63 — ADDITIONAL DESPP DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED

Authorizes the DESPP commissioner to appoint an additional deputy commissioner

§ 64 — HISPANIC-AMERICAN VETERANS OF CONNECTICUT ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTION

Decreases the frequency of OPM's distribution of funds from the HAVOCT account from quarterly to annually

§ 65 — OPM ENERGY POLICY

Removes an obsolete provision that generally gave OPM responsibility for determining state energy policy

§ 66 — NEGLECTED CEMETERIES ACCOUNT

Requires the DPH commissioner to, beginning by October 31, 2026, quarterly certify to OPM the (1) amount of fees collected for certified marriage and death certificates and (2) neglected cemetery account's balance

§ 67 — REMOVES CHRO FROM DOL

Removes CHRO from DOL

§§ 68-161 — OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY ELIMINATION

Eliminates OHS and generally transfers its powers, duties, and functions to DPH, OPM, DSS, and OHA; makes related minor changes

§§ 162 & 163 — VOLUNTARY DELIVERY OR SURRENDER OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION TO POLICE FOR HOLDING

Modifies PA 26-41 by (1) reducing, from two years to one year, the maximum time period that DESPP and local police departments must hold firearms and ammunition that are delivered or surrendered to them for holding and (2) adjusting when DESPP must promulgate a related return form

§ 164 — ADRIAEN'S LANDING

Specifies conditions under which soil and groundwater pollution can be managed in place to satisfy environmental remediation requirements in Adriaen's Landing; requires CRDA to (1) make a protocol on disturbing contaminated soil and (2) annually inspect polluted sites managed under the conditions the act prescribes

§ 165 — OPIOID ANTAGONISTS

Allows any person to give someone a non-legend opioid antagonist to treat or prevent an opioid overdose and gives them immunity for doing so; exempts non-legend opioid antagonist distributors from needing a permit

§§ 166 & 170 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY BONDS

Makes numerous changes related to bonds issued by the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority, including authorizing revenue bonds to benefit a participating corporation involved with certain airport projects

§§ 166, 168, 169, 171 & 172 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Modifies the appointments of Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority's board of directors after a building permit is issued for a passenger terminal facility that meets certain requirements; generally (1) requires affirmative votes from at least 10 board members for certain actions and (2) expands the authority's powers and duties; defines "airport project" and makes related conforming changes

§ 167 — PILOT PAYMENTS RELATED TO TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT

Requires annual PILOT payments of \$4.4 million to East Haven and \$2.9 million to New Haven, once a passenger terminal facility on the East Haven side of Tweed-New Haven Airport is open and operating

§ 173 — TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Requires DECD to establish an airport development zone surrounding Tweed New Haven Airport if East Haven or New Haven submits, or the two jointly submit, a proposal to do so

§ 174 — LATE PAYMENT INTEREST WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITIES

For certain common interest communities, allows municipalities and WPCAs to waive late payment interest that has accrued on their property tax and sewer use bills

§ 175 — MUNICIPAL SPENDING CAP HOLD HARMLESS

For FY 27, allows municipalities to exceed the statutory spending cap without having their municipal revenue sharing grant amount reduced as a result

§ 176 — SPRB COMPENSATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Increases the compensation rates and annual limits for SPRB members; narrows the prohibition on persons holding state or municipal positions from serving on the board

§ 177 — EXECUTIVE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SCHEDULES

Specifies that executive branch boards and commissions that compensate their members on a per diem basis generally may not set a meeting schedule that would cause them to overspend their appropriated funds

§ 178 — LOCAL BUDGET AND TAX ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO INCREASED AID

Authorizes municipalities and regional boards of education to amend their adopted budgets and adjust tax levies if they receive more state aid for FY 27 than projected (PA 26-130 amended this to place certain conditions on these amended budgets)

§ 179 — COMBINED PUBLIC BENEFITS CHARGE REPORT

Delays, from October 1, 2026, to January 15, 2027, the deadline for OCC to submit a report about the combined public benefits charge on electric bills

§ 180 — AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSING IN NEWTOWN

Requires DOT to allow Newtown to build an at-grade rail crossing, meeting certain conditions, on the Housatonic Railroad

§ 181 — STATE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFIED SERVICE EXEMPTIONS

Exempts certain positions from the state employee classified service (amended by PA 26-76, § 69)

§ 182 — CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS OF EMPLOYEES WITH ACCESS TO TAX RECORDS

Changes who must perform criminal history checks for state employees with access to federal tax information

[§§ 183-185 — UNLICENSED INDIVIDUALS OR FACILITIES](#)

Allows DPH to impose civil penalties on people who provide professional services without a required DPH license or certificate; similarly allows DPH to impose civil penalties, and sets criminal penalties, for someone who opens, manages, or operates a health care facility without a required DPH license or certificate

[§ 186 — DISPOSAL OF ABANDONED BODIES OR REMAINS](#)

Allows DPH to appoint an embalmer to dispose of an abandoned dead body or abandoned cremated remains after a funeral director or embalmer has voluntarily or improperly relinquished control of the body or remains in violation of state law

[§ 187 — ELECTRONIC DEATH RECORDS](#)

Requires DPH, upon request, to issue death records electronically regardless of when the death occurred (with the SSN generally redacted)

[§ 188 — TECHNICAL CHANGE](#)

Makes a technical change

[§§ 189-191 — FOOD CODE](#)

Makes minor and clarifying changes to laws related to the state's food code

[§ 192 — MEDICAL ORDERS FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT PROGRAM](#)

Provides that under the state's program, a MOLST is invalid unless it is completed on a DPH form and executed in line with statutory and regulatory requirements; allows PAs to make the determination that a patient's condition is advanced enough to qualify for the program; requires that the program's regulations allow providers to give patients a copy of or access to the order rather than the original

[§ 193 — HIV/AIDS SERVICES FUNDING](#)

Allows DPH's contracted program for HIV PrEP and PEP drug assistance to also fund associated lab testing and related costs

[§ 194 — CONSENT ORDERS](#)

Explicitly allows DPH to enforce compliance with laws, regulations, permits, and orders through an agreed settlement or consent order

[§ 195 — NON-CHARGE FOR EMPLOYEES PAID BENEFITS THROUGH THE SHARED WORK PROGRAM](#)

Reinstates a UI tax non-charge for employers using a shared work program during an extended benefit period or a high unemployment period

[§ 196 — DOL UNEMPLOYMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH REIMBURSING EMPLOYERS](#)

Allows the DOL commissioner to negotiate and compromise with reimbursing employers who owe payments to the unemployment system under certain circumstances

[§§ 197-200 — EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD REPEAL](#)

Eliminates the Employment Security Advisory Board and makes conforming changes

[§ 201 — SECURITY SCREENINGS AS WORKED HOURS](#)

Specifies that "hours worked" in state laws on overtime pay includes time employees spend in employer-required security screenings

[§ 202 — WORKPLACE HEAT SAFETY TASKFORCE](#)

Creates a taskforce to study workplace heat safety

[§§ 203 & 204 — PER DIEM RATE FOR BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS MEMBERS AND COMPENSATION FOR BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION MEMBERS](#)

Increases the (1) per diem rate for members of the State Board of Labor Relations and (2) compensation for members of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration

[§ 205 — TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY STUDY](#)

Extends, from July 1, 2026, to October 1, 2026, the deadline for the comptroller to submit his TNC study report

[§ 206 — DOUBLE UTILITY POLES](#)

Amends a provision in PA 26-12 to require electric distribution companies that have equipment on a utility pole, but do not own the pole, to transfer the equipment within 45 days after receiving notification about removal and replacement work on the pole

[§ 207 — GREYFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM CHANGES \(REPEALED\)](#)

Limits the greyfield revitalization program to East Hartford and the Capital City Economic Development District and expands the program's scope to include greyfield renovation (repealed by PA 26-76, § 58)

[§ 208 — CLAY ARSENAL WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM](#)

Requires the CWO to establish the Clay Arsenal Workforce Readiness Program to connect Hartford's Clay Arsenal neighborhood's residents with employment, training, and career advancement opportunities; requires the CWO to annually report to the General Assembly on the program

[§§ 209 & 210 — TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATION SUBSCRIBER FEE TOWARDS FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF ACCOUNT](#)

Requires certain telephone and telecommunication companies to report and remit the monthly five cent firefighters cancer relief account fee when they file a sales and use tax return; requires the DRS commissioner, rather than the state treasurer, to deposit the fees into the firefighters cancer relief account; specifies that the fee is not included in gross receipts for sales tax purposes

[§§ 211-214 — UCONN HEALTH CENTER MEDICAID REVENUE DIVERSION](#)

Requires DSS to divert a specified amount of federal Medicaid revenue to support UCHC-JVI's operational costs; allows DSS to establish receivables for anticipated FY 27 hospital tax revenue; appropriates \$1.5 million to DSS in FY 27 to allow for the expansion of UCHC's Medicaid physician supplemental payment and correspondingly reduces its Operating Expenses appropriation

[§§ 215 & 216 — COST NOTIFICATION FOR INFUSION AND INJECTION SERVICES](#)

Requires hospitals, health systems, health carriers, and utilization review companies to notify patients in writing that infusion and injection services provided at hospital-based off-campus infusion centers may cost more than those provided at non-hospital-based infusion centers

[§ 217 — INSURANCE DEPARTMENT STUDY](#)

Directs the Insurance Department, in consultation with OHA, to study cost-lowering methods for outpatient infusions and injections performed at hospital-based off-campus infusion centers, patient protections for certain stop-loss insurance policies, and surprise billing for ground ambulance services

[§ 218 — ANTI-STEERING CLAUSES](#)

Specifies that health carriers and health plan administrators may use utilization management to encourage enrollees to use certain hospitals or health systems

[§ 219 — ALLOWING BRIDGEPORT TO IMPOSE HIGHER MILL RATE ON VEHICLES](#)

Allows Bridgeport to set its mill rate for motor vehicles at a rate that is equal to or higher than the one it sets for other types of property, if it is under the statutory cap

[§ 220 — TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS DURING CODIFICATION](#)

Requires the Legislative Commissioners' Office to make necessary technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes when codifying the act

[§ 221 — STATE VIRTUAL CURRENCY INVESTMENT](#)

Under certain conditions, allows the state to invest in (1) regulated securities made up of virtual currency or (2) companies, entities, or funds with virtual currency investments

[§ 222 — HAZARDOUS DUTY DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS INJURED IN AN ASSAULT](#)

Extends state employee hazardous duty disability benefits to health care providers employed at state-operated health care facilities or institutions if they are assaulted while performing their duties

[§§ 223 & 268 — FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA TAX CREDIT](#)

Extends, to the 2026 and 2027 income years, the increased redemption rate for film and digital media tax credits claimed against the sales tax

[§§ 224 & 225 — LOCAL OPTION HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION](#)

Allows municipalities to provide a \$50,000 property tax exemption for taxpayers' primary residences that are single-family homes or units in common interest communities or condominiums

[§§ 226-246 — HEALTH CARE FACILITY CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROGRAM](#)

Starting in July 2027, replaces the health care facility CON program with a new CON program within DPH, with final decision-making authority vested in a panel of the DPH and DSS commissioners and OPM secretary or their designees; in doing so, makes several changes compared to the existing process, such as eliminating required CON approval for service terminations and creating a separate process to oversee certain hospital service line pauses or terminations

[§ 247 — WORKER RETENTION](#)

Permits terminated contractors to take disciplinary actions against an employee under certain circumstances

[§ 248 — HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ACCOUNT REPORTS](#)

Requires DSS to annually report on hospital supplemental payment account deposits and the use of the account's funds

[§ 249 — PAYROLL TAX WORKING GROUP](#)

Creates a working group to study and make recommendations on establishing a payroll tax program

[§§ 250 & 251 — INNOCENCE PROJECT REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT](#)

Creates the "innocence project revolving loan account" for the judicial branch to use to issue loans to claimants who may qualify for wrongful incarceration compensation from the state

[§ 252 — SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDUM NOTIFICATIONS BY SCHOOLS](#)

Explicitly authorizes school superintendents to give parents and legal guardians written notice about an upcoming referendum about the school district

§ 253 — DELAY OF UNDERSIZED AND OVERSIZED LOBSTER SALES

Delays the effective date, from upon passage to July 1, 2027, of a provision in PA 26-12 that generally allows food service establishments and licensed seafood dealers, under certain conditions, to sell lobsters that do not meet existing size requirements

§§ 254 & 255 — REFUNDABLE SALES AND USE TAX CREDIT FOR PEOPLESBANK ARENA FACILITY MANAGER

Creates an up to \$10 million refundable sales and use tax credit for the PeoplesBank Arena's facility manager if it contracts with UConn to host a certain number (at least 20) UConn athletic events each academic year at the arena for an agreed upon period of time (almost 20 years)

§ 256 — VOLATILITY CAP THRESHOLD

Increases the volatility cap threshold for FY 26 by \$813.7 million, from \$4,728.6 million to \$5,542.3 million, and resets it for FY 27 at \$5,002.5 million

§§ 257 & 258 — TRANSFER OF FY 26 GENERAL FUND REVENUE TO FY 27

Modifies the amount of FY 26 General Fund resources the state comptroller must transfer to be accounted for as FY 27 General Fund revenue

§ 259 — GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO THE FEDERAL CUTS RESPONSE FUND

Transfers \$50 million of FY 26 General Fund resources to the Federal Cuts Response Fund

§ 260 — GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS TO THE MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING FUND

Decreases, by \$13.1 million for FY 26 and \$15 million for FY 27, the required transfers from the General Fund to the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund

§ 261 — HOUSING TRUST FUND TRANSFER

For FYs 26 and 27, suspends the requirement that the state comptroller transfer to the Housing Trust Fund conveyance tax revenue that exceeds \$300 million each fiscal year, annually adjusted for inflation

§ 262 — EXPANSION OF SALES TAX FREE WEEK

Increases the exemption amount for "sales tax free week" from \$100 to \$300 and adds backpacks and cleated shoes to the list of items that can be bought tax-free during this week

§ 263 — ICHRA TAX CREDIT

Establishes a tax credit for two income years against certain state business taxes for qualified small businesses (those with fewer than 50 employees) that offer employees an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement

§ 264 — CHANGES TO THE TAX ON CANNABIS SALES AND FUNDING FOR THE SOCIAL EQUITY AND INNOVATION ACCOUNT

Replaces the tax rates and bases on retail sales of cannabis plant material, cannabis edible products, and other cannabis with a single tax rate and base; increases the amount of cannabis tax revenue directed to the social equity and innovation account for FYs 27 and 28 and correspondingly decreases the amount directed to the General Fund

§§ 265 & 266 — CORPORATION BUSINESS TAX CHANGES

Decouples the state corporation business tax from the federal bonus depreciation deduction for qualified production property, starting with the 2026 income year; delays, by one year, conforming the state corporation business tax to recent changes in the federal deduction for domestic research and experimental expenditures and disallows the retroactive application of these changes for the 2022 to 2025 income years; generally exempts corporation business taxpayers from penalties and interest on any additional tax due to these changes

[§ 267 — RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES](#)

Creates an income tax credit for qualifying small businesses that incur eligible R&D spending in Connecticut and requires DECD to administer a voucher system for the credit; caps the maximum amount of these credits that DECD can reserve each tax year at \$1.5 million per business and \$25 million in total

[§§ 269, 270 & 465 — FY 27 MUNICIPAL AID TO LEDYARD AND MONTVILLE](#)

Shifts the funding source for municipal aid grants to Ledyard and Montville in FY 27 from unspecified Other Expenses to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund

[§ 271 — INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR FAMILY CAREGIVER EXPENDITURES](#)

Creates a nonrefundable income tax credit of up to \$2,000 for income-eligible family caregivers who incur eligible expenditures to care for and support an eligible family member

[§ 272 — SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR NONELECTRONIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES](#)

Creates a sales and use tax exemption for nonelectronic school supplies

[§ 273 — SOURCING INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX REVENUE TO MUNICIPALITIES](#)

Adds insurance premiums taxes to the list of state taxes that DRS must track and record by municipality, starting with FY 26

[§ 274 — CONNECTICUT WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY GAP PLAN](#)

Requires OPM to submit a plan to the General Assembly that includes a formula for a surcharge against employers that maintain a productivity gap

[§ 275 — ADDITIONAL FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT](#)

Creates an additional film and digital media production tax credit for certain eligible production companies that film in Bridgeport, Hartford, or New Haven

[§ 276 — TRANSFER OF FY 26 SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND REVENUE TO FY 27](#)

Transfers \$100 million of FY 26 STF revenue to FY 27

[§ 277 — INCOME TAX EXEMPTION FOR U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS](#)

Creates an income tax deduction for income received by the U.S. Public Health Service's commissioned corps

[§§ 278-288 — REVENUE ESTIMATES](#)

Modifies previously adopted revenue estimates for FY 27

[§§ 289-303, 352 & 354 — NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE CAPITAL PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND OTHER PROGRAMS](#)

Authorizes new state GO bonds for FY 27 for various state capital projects, grants, and other programs

[§§ 304, 314, 316, 323, 325, 326, 330-332 & 334-336 — BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PREVIOUSLY ENACTED PROGRAMS AND GRANTS](#)

Increases bond authorizations for various existing grants and purposes by authorizing new bonding for these purposes in FY 27

[§§ 305-308, 314, 317, 320, 321, 325, 327, 328, 330 & 333 — UCONN RELATED BOND CHANGES](#)

Cancels and adds various bond authorizations for specified programs and projects related to UConn, including the UConn 2000 infrastructure program

[§ 309 — ALLOWABLE USES OF CHFA BOND AUTHORIZATION](#)

Expands the allowable uses of an existing bond authorization for CHFA

[§§ 310 & 311 — OPM BOND CANCELLATION](#)

Cancels a \$75 million bond authorization to OPM for state matching funds for projects and programs allowed under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

[§ 312 — CHANGE TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GRANT PROGRAM](#)

Modifies a bond-funded DoAg grant program for capital improvements by making food systems eligible

[§§ 313, 318 & 322 — CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM](#)

Modifies a bond-funded DEEP grant program for purchasing or leasing zero-emission school buses and electric vehicle charging or fueling infrastructure

[§ 315 — CHANGES TO DAS CAPITAL PROJECT](#)

Modifies a bond-funded DAS capital project by specifying what types of projects it includes

[§ 319 — CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM](#)

Modifies a bond-funded DPH grant program for water bottle filling stations at certain schools by making municipalities eligible and expanding allowable grant uses to include automated external defibrillators

[§ 324 — CHANGES TO STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM](#)

Modifies the purpose of a bond-funded nursing student loan subsidy program and changes the program's administrator

[§ 329 — CHANGES TO DEEP GRANT PROGRAM](#)

Modifies a bond-funded DEEP grant program for renovations and expansion of, and equipment for, solid waste facilities to instead support solid waste reduction strategies

[§§ 337 & 338 — DAS AND CSCU REPORTING CHANGES](#)

Changes the frequency of certain reporting by DAS and CSCU so that they are done twice per year instead of quarterly

[§ 339 — CTECS FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN REPORTING](#)

Requires CTECS to additionally submit its five-year capital plans to the Education Committee

[§§ 340, 341 & 344 — SUPPLEMENTAL GRADUATE LOAN PROGRAM AND CHESLA BONDS](#)

Creates the Supplemental Graduate Loan Program to give loans to eligible graduate students and authorizes \$30 million in GO bonds for the program; increases, from \$300 million to \$750 million, the aggregate amount of outstanding CHESLA bonds that may be secured by special capital reserve funds

[§ 342 — GRANTS PROGRAM FOR WAR OR VETERANS' MEMORIALS OR MONUMENTS](#)

Requires DECD to administer a grant program for capital expenditure projects to place or maintain war or veterans' memorials or monuments; authorizes \$2 million in GO bonds

[§ 343 — AGING-IN-PLACE GRANT PROGRAM](#)

Creates a grant program to help certain homeowners make accessibility modifications so they can stay in their primary residences

§§ 345 & 346 — “HOMES FOR CT” LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

Makes several changes to the “Homes for CT” loan program, including modifying the interest rate used to set the cap on what participating lenders may charge

§ 347 — TOWN AID ROAD GRANTS

Expands the purposes for which towns may use TAR grants, allowing them to buy certain equipment

§ 348 — FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LOAN PROGRAM ASSISTANCE AND STATE SPECIAL TAX OBLIGATION BONDS

Allows certain state transportation bonds issued under a federal program to mature at any time allowed under the federal program, but not longer than the useful life of the projects being financed

§ 349 — COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 BOARD

Allows certain board members to vote by proxy and changes the cap on the total cost of the board’s recommended projects

§ 350 — CHANGES TO DECD’S CONCENTRATED POVERTY GRANT PROGRAM

Allows certified community development corporations to be funded for eligible projects under a DECD grant program seeking to reduce the effects of concentrated poverty; sets a 90-day deadline for DECD to review and evaluate program applications

§ 351 — WORKFORCE HOUSING OPTIONS

Requires the housing commissioner and CHFA executive director to seek and report on a partnership with municipalities or hospitals to increase workforce housing options

§ 353 — WINDHAM TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SITE

Requires the OPM secretary to evaluate certain alternative sites proposed by local officials and state legislators for replacing or relocating the Windham Technical High School; prohibits OPM from proceeding with final site selection unless the evaluation shows that no alternative site located closer to the existing school is both feasible and capable of meeting certain criteria

§§ 355 & 356 — HOSPITAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES

Requires hospitals to (1) have written financial assistance policies with certain components, (2) include related information with their billing statements and on their websites, and (3) deem patients enrolled in certain public assistance programs as having met the income requirements for their financial assistance programs (PA 26-76 repeals this latter provision)

§§ 357-362 — HOSPITAL PROVIDER TAX CHANGES

Changes the hospital provider tax in several ways, including lowering the tax rate on inpatient hospital services in phases, modifying how the tax rate on outpatient hospital services is calculated, and requiring children’s general hospitals to pay the tax starting July 1, 2026; diverts revenue from this tax to a new dedicated account for supplemental payments to hospitals

§ 363 — MEDICAID SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS

Creates several supplemental payment pools and sets a payment schedule for each pool; sets requirements for various DSH payments, payment adjustments, and upper payment limits

§§ 364-369 — HEALTH CARE COST GROWTH AND QUALITY BENCHMARKS AND SPENDING TARGETS

Transfers from OHS to OPM existing law's requirements to develop benchmarks for health care quality and cost growth and primary care spending targets; makes several changes to this process, such as (1) establishing annual cost growth benchmarks for certain calendar years, a hospital payment growth methodology and benchmark, and factors to consider in assessing compliance and (2) allowing the development of a cost growth benchmark plan to achieve compliance

§ 370 — MEDICAID VALUE-BASED WORKING GROUP

Creates a Medicaid Value-Based Payment Working Group to collaboratively design, evaluate readiness for, and recommend scalable, voluntary, value-based payment models for the Medicaid population

§§ 371-373 — PREVAILING WAGE LAW CHANGES

Delays, until January 1, 2027, the effective date of a provision in PA 26-12 that generally requires the benefit portion of the prevailing wage to be determined at the journeyman rate

§ 374 — DOL STUDY OF WORKERS' RIGHTS

Requires the labor commissioner to study the rights of certain workers

§§ 375 & 387 — EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

Requires OEC to annually develop a proposed spending plan for released Early Childhood Education Endowment funds; makes minor changes to the law on fund transfers

§ 376 — WATERBURY 2025-26 SCHOOL DAYS NOTWITHSTANDING

Allows the Waterbury school board to reduce the number of actual school sessions for the 2025-26 school year to 176 days

§ 377 — CHARTER SCHOOL PLANNING GRANTS

Requires SDE to use a portion of its FY 27 charter school appropriation to give planning grants to three specified charter schools

§ 378 — GRANTS FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Extends to FY 27 the requirement to proportionately reduce grants for health services provided to private school students under state law

§ 379 — MAGNET SCHOOL FUNDING

Reduces FY 27 funding designated for magnet schools not operated by a local or regional board of education

§ 380 — ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING CONTRACTS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Permits OHE, with OPM approval, to enter into contracts with higher education institutions to commit funds for Roberta B. Willis needs-based scholarships

§ 381 — TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Starting in FY 27, requires SDE to administer a teacher apprenticeship program within available appropriations

§ 382 — OHE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT NEW PROMISE PROGRAMS

Requires OHE to create a program to support establishing new promise programs

§§ 383 & 384 — PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTERS

Creates a new SDE grant to establish parent training and information centers; repeals the law creating OEO (which in practice, has not been established)

§§ 385, 386 & 485 — STUDENT LOAN OMBUDSMAN

Transfers the Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman from DOB to the Office of Higher Education; requires the ombudsman to report to the legislature on the office's 2025 and 2026 activities

§§ 388 & 389 — REVIEWING BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCIAL CONDITION AND ADDING A MEMBER TO MARB

Creates a process for school boards to ask SDE for a fiscal intervention and oversight plan; requires (1) MARB to review the plan and (2) the OPM secretary and SBE to approve the plan before a school board implements it; requires school boards with a plan to meet with MARB to discuss compliance; adds the SDE commissioner to MARB

§§ 390-395 – SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Provides supplemental education funding for towns, choice school operators (magnet, charter, and vo-ag operators), and SDE administration; funds these grants with General Fund appropriations and a Probate Court Administration Fund transfer; requires an increase in ECS funding for FY 28

§ 396 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PRIORITY LIST GRANT COMMITMENTS

Authorizes school construction state grant commitments totaling \$150.6 million toward total estimated project costs of \$305.6 million

§ 397 — THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM GRANT REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Lowers the total reimbursement percentage cap on eligible costs a school board may receive for school construction grants from 100% to 95%; creates a new bonus of an additional 20% for any school district that has increased enrollment by 20% or more over a 10-year period

§§ 398-403 — SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS ADVISORY COUNCIL RENAME AND RESPONSIBILITY REVISION

Renames the School Building Projects Advisory Council as the School Safety and Security Infrastructure Advisory Council and revises its responsibilities

§ 404 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDOWED HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

Authorizes the DAS commissioner to waive the school construction grant requirements to provide grants to the state's three endowed high schools and academies

§§ 405-441 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, AND MODIFICATIONS

Exempts school construction projects in 26 towns and three regional school districts from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to qualify for state reimbursement, receive a higher reimbursement rate, or have their project reauthorized, among other things (commonly referred to as "notwithstandings")

§ 442 — SAGA BENEFITS

Sets a standardized \$269 monthly cash benefit for SAGA beneficiaries, thereby eliminating prior law's payment reduction for certain transitional people

§ 443 — MEDICAID PREFERRED DRUG LIST AND ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS

Adds antiretroviral drugs to the Medicaid preferred drug list, allowing the state to negotiate supplemental rebates with drug manufacturers for these drugs

§ 444 — PERIODIC REVIEW OF MEDICAID PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Authorizes the DSS commissioner to periodically review available data on the clinical effectiveness of certain Medicaid-covered outpatient prescription drugs

§ 445 — WAGE INCREASES FOR NURSING HOME EMPLOYEES

Specifies that for nurses, the wage increases for nursing home employees authorized under PA 25-168 are only for those who solely provide direct patient care

§§ 446 & 447 — NURSING HOME MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

For nursing homes, establishes an enhanced Medicaid performance payment for improving their quality-based metrics, paid from a pool of \$10 million each year; requires DSS to phase in PDPM; establishes enhanced payments for homes with payor mixes of more than 75% Medicaid residents; allows DSS to recalculate Medicaid reimbursement rates outside of the normal schedule under certain circumstances

§ 448 — MEDICAID RATE INCREASE FOR FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

Requires DSS to amend the Medicaid state plan to increase reimbursement rates for licensed family planning clinics, give at least \$500,000 in Medicaid state share funds to do so, and use funds appropriated for family planning services for FY 27 for this purpose

§ 449 — MAPOC MEMBERSHIP

Adds a health care worker labor organization member to MAPOC

§ 450 — MEDICAID RATE REVIEWS

Requires DSS, when reviewing Medicaid rates, to include rates required to be studied under the recent Medicaid rate study with (1) no corresponding Medicare rate or (2) average five-state benchmark; requires Medicaid behavioral health services rates to include medication administration by licensed home health agencies to people with psychiatric conditions under certain care plans

§ 451 — EXCEPTION FOR ENTITIES PURSUING SMALL-HOUSE STYLE NURSING FACILITY

Waives certain requirements on per-room bed limits for nursing homes developing a new small-house style facility

§ 452 — UCONN HEALTH CENTER MEDICAID REPORT

Requires UConn Health Center to report on payer mix, increased access to specialists for Medicaid enrollees, and efforts to increase the proportion of Medicaid days

§ 453 — CONNECTICUT OPTION STUDY AND TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PLAN

Allows OPM to study the feasibility of establishing a Connecticut Option program with the goal of reducing health insurance premiums; authorizes OPM to direct state agencies to pursue federal approval for the Connecticut Option program under certain circumstances; requires OPM to design a plan for transitional health care premium assistance to offset 2027 Access Health CT premium and cost-sharing increases

§§ 454 & 455 — BASIC HEALTH PROGRAM

Requires DSS to seek approvals to establish a BHP, or continue Covered Connecticut as a state-funded program, if CMS fails to renew the federal waiver currently supporting Covered Connecticut; sets related planning and reporting requirements

§ 456 — STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR CONNECTICUT OPTION PROGRAM AND BHP

Requires OPM to hold stakeholder engagement meetings to develop the Connecticut Option program or the BHP

§ 457 — SAFETY NET MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

Establishes a safety net mitigation working group to advise on, monitor, and coordinate the state's response to significant federal changes impacting safety net programs

§ 458 — “MEDICAL FRAILITY” ASSESSMENT

Requires the DSS commissioner to identify parameters for an effective “medical frailty” assessment, if needed to verify exemptions from work and community engagement requirements under SNAP and Medicaid

§ 459 — LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF MEDICAID STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Generally extends legislative review requirements to cover any proposed SPA to provide medical assistance through a Medicaid managed care organization

§§ 460 & 461 — FORMULARY REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERIC DRUGS AND BIOSIMILAR PRODUCTS

Requires health benefit plans to make certain generic drugs and biosimilar products available on formularies with lower cost sharing relative to the respective reference product already on the formulary

§ 462 — COVERED CONNECTICUT

Allows, rather than requires, Covered Connecticut to cover dental and nonemergency medical transportation services, removes references to OHS, and allows DSS to make changes needed for federal waiver approval

§ 463 — RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INSPECTIONS

Requires DOH to use \$250,000 of its FY 27 RAP appropriation for housing unit inspections

§ 464 — ONE-TIME MUNICIPAL GRANT PAYMENTS

Appropriates approximately \$100 million in FY 26 for one-time grant payments to municipalities and carries forward any unspent funds to FY 27 for the same purpose; requires each municipality to report to OPM on its use of the grant

§ 466 — YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION GRANTS

Specifies how a portion of the funds appropriated to the Judicial Department in FY 27 for youth services prevention must be distributed

§ 467 — ELECTION-RELATED FUND TRANSFER

Makes a one-time transfer of \$3.25 million from the Citizens' Election Fund to the secretary of the state in FY 27 for municipal early voting grants and a public information campaign

§§ 468 & 469 — LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF PCA AND CHILDCARE MOUS

Gives legislative approval to recent MOUs with the PCA and childcare provider unions

§ 470 — FINISH LINE SCHOLAR PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

Requires completion of an associate's degree to be eligible for the Finish Line Scholar Program and modifies BOR's reporting requirements

§§ 471-475 — FY 26 DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS AND REDUCTIONS

Makes deficiency appropriations for FY 26 in the General Fund and STF and reduces appropriations in the General Fund, STF, and Insurance Fund

§ 476 — LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES

Requires OLM to apply to legislative employees the same terms, including a 2.5% general wage increase, for FY 27 as required under a collective bargaining agreement with other state employees

§§ 478-480 — RESERVED AMOUNTS FROM FY 26 AND FY 27 LINE ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

Earmarks certain amounts from line items in agency budgets

§ 484 — REPORTING ON THE DESPP-SCSU SOCIAL WORK AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

Requires the DESPP commissioner, POST, and the SCSU president to annually report to the legislature on the status of the DESPP-SCSU social work and law enforcement project

§§ 486 & 487 — GOVERNOR’S GUARD ACCOUNTS

Renames the “Governor’s Guards account” as the “Governor’s Foot Guards account” and establishes subaccounts in the Governor’s Guards horse account for each horse guard company

§ 488 — PILOT PAYMENTS FOR MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT LAND

Requires PILOT payments for Mashantucket Pequot reservation land to be based on all land taken into trust by the federal government, rather than only those lands included within the 1983 settlement boundary

§ 489 — LEGISLATIVE INTERN STIPEND

Codifies a \$500 stipend for legislative interns

§ 490 — FEDERAL CUTS RESPONSE FUND

Increases, by \$50 million, the FY 26 appropriation from the Federal Cuts Response Fund to OPM

§§ 1-9 — FY 27 APPROPRIATIONS

Adjusts FY 27 appropriations for state agency operations and programs for nine of the state’s appropriated funds

The act changes FY 27 appropriations for state agency operations and programs for nine of the state’s appropriated funds, as shown in the table below. Across the funds, the changes reduce total net FY 27 appropriations by approximately \$492.6 million.

Changes in FY 27 Net Appropriations by Fund

§	Fund	FY 27 Net Appropriation		
		Prior Law	Act	Change
1	General Fund	\$25,361,911,684	\$24,874,524,791	(\$487,386,893)
2	Special Transportation Fund	2,405,174,959	2,409,981,298	4,806,339
3	Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund	52,541,796	54,291,796	1,750,000
4	Banking Fund	36,595,890	33,470,890	(3,125,000)
5	Insurance Fund	120,109,550	116,462,754	(3,646,796)
6	Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	37,519,262	38,365,138	845,876
7	Workers’ Compensation Fund	27,437,125	27,174,687	(262,438)
8	Tourism Fund	18,709,502	20,723,422	2,013,920
9	Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund	559,409,674	551,799,145	(7,610,529)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 10 — PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATION FUND

Requires that the fund’s balance at the end of FY 26 remain in the fund

By law, any balance in the Probate Court Administration Fund on June 30 that exceeds 15% of its authorized expenditures in the coming fiscal year is automatically transferred to the General Fund. The act overrides this requirement for FY 26 by requiring that any balance in the fund as of June 30, 2026, remain there.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 11 — FY 27 EARMARK FOR STATE LIBRARY GRANTS

Shifts the funding source for an FY 27 earmark for State library grants

The FY 26-27 biennial budget act (PA 25-168) reserved (earmarked) \$500,000 from the State Library's "Other Expenses" line item appropriation in FYs 26 and 27 for grants to three specified organizations. This act requires the FY 27 earmark for these grants to come from the State Library's appropriation for Various Grants, rather than Other Expenses.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 12 — FY 27 EARMARKS FOR SDE GRANTS

Shifts the funding sources for, and makes various other changes to, FY 27 earmarks for SDE grants; adds earmarks for various purposes

The FY 26-27 biennial budget act earmarked specified amounts from the State Department of Education's (SDE) Other Expenses line item appropriation in FYs 26 and 27. This act requires the FY 27 earmarks to come from SDE's appropriation for Various Grants, rather than Other Expenses, (except as described below) and additionally:

1. increases, from \$20,000 to \$70,000, the amount earmarked for a grant to Girls on the Run Greater Connecticut;
2. eliminates the earmarks for a (a) \$5,000 grant to the Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee of Greater Middletown and (b) \$10,000 grant to Newington Public Schools for diverse library circulation materials;
3. requires the \$75,000 earmarked for a grant to Bridgeport's Board of Education for the Bridgeport Public Schools Debate League to instead be given to the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County for the same purpose (PA 26-76, § 67, instead requires this grant to be made to the United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut for the same purpose.);
4. requires half of the \$50,000 grant to Sound Waters to be used for job training instead of summer camp;
5. requires the \$750,000 earmarked for a teacher residency program in FY 27 to be reserved from SDE's appropriation for the Teacher Residency RESC Alliance, rather than Other Expenses, and specifies that the grant must go to a teacher residency program operated by the RESC Alliance; and
6. adds earmarks for additional grants, shown in the table below.

Additional Amounts Reserved From FY 27 Line Item Appropriations to SDE

\$	Grant Recipient	Amount
12(ww)	DT Cares	\$75,000
12(xx)	African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities	150,000
12(yy)	CIAC/CAS	200,000
12(zz)	Athlife	100,000
12(A)	Goodwin University Magnet Schools	500,000
12(B)	Big Brothers Big Sisters	125,000
12(C)	CAS	150,000
12(D)	Bethel High School All Sports Booster Club	30,000
12(E)	Plainville Public Schools	80,000
12(F)	Waterford Public Schools	100,000
12(G)	Scotland Elementary School Extended School Year Program	75,000
12(H)	Parent Leadership Training Institute	75,000
12(I)	Rocky Hill Board of Education to enclose library and art spaces at West Hill School	80,000
12(J)	Newington Board of Education for Nor'easter Academy	100,000
12(K)	Middletown Public Schools for school security	250,000

(PA 26-76, §§ 11, 12 & 67, makes additional changes to these SDE earmarks.)
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 13-15, 18-51, 477 & 481-483 — CARRYFORWARDS AND TRANSFERS

Carries forward certain agencies' unspent funds and requires that they be used in FY 27 or FY 28 for specified purposes

Funds Carried Forward for FY 27

The act carries forward unspent balances from FY 26 appropriations and requires that they be used for other purposes in the same agency, as listed in the table below.

Funds Carried Forward for FY 27¹

§	Agency	FY 26 Purpose	FY 27 Purpose	Amount
13	Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)	Other Expenses	Grant to CFAL for Digital Inclusion for literacy training	Up to \$100,000
14	DECD	Other Expenses	Grant to RESC Alliance	Up to \$250,000
15	SDE	Other Expenses, for a grant to Free Agent Now	Same as FY 26	\$200,000
18	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Glastonbury for parks and recreation	Up to \$500,000
19	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to PARC, Inc. in Plainville	Up to \$50,000
20	DECD	Various Grants, for Newington projects	Newington projects: town pools project planning (up to \$15,000), fire department planning (up to \$30,000), animal shelter planning (up to \$20,000), and Lucy Robbins Welles Library renovation planning (up to \$20,000)	Up to \$85,000
21	DECD	Various grants, for a grant to A Little Compassion	Grant to Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau	Up to \$10,000
22	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Stratford Veterans Museum	Up to \$50,000
23	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)	Other Expenses	Grant to Sustainable CT	Up to \$250,000
24	Office of Policy and Management (OPM)	Other Expenses	Grant to Hartford for outdoor recreation	Up to \$1,000,000
25	State Library	Other Expenses	Grant to Middletown for Russell Library	Up to \$50,000
26	DEEP	Other Expenses	Reimbursement to Hartford for work performed at Batterson Park	Up to \$4,730,000
27(a)	Judicial Department	Legal Aid, for the Right to Counsel program	Same as FY 26	\$1,750,000
29	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Southend Senior Center in Hartford	Up to \$200,000

§	Agency	FY 26 Purpose	FY 27 Purpose	Amount
30	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Parkville Senior Center	Up to \$200,000
31	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Wethersfield Senior Center	Up to \$200,000
32	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Hartford Communities That Care for musical instruments and instruction	Up to \$90,000
33	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to SAND Elementary School in Hartford for musical instruments and instruction	Up to \$90,000
34	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Kennelly School in Hartford for musical instruments and instruction	Up to \$90,000
35	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Naylor School in Hartford for musical instruments and instruction	Up to \$90,000
36	DECD	Various Grants	Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative for recruitment ambassadors	Up to \$250,000
37	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Clay Arsenal CDC	Up to \$525,000
39	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Naugatuck American Legion	Up to \$200,000
41	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Working Cities Challenge/Middletown Works ²	Up to \$1,150,000
42	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Milford Founders Walk	Up to \$600,000
44	Judicial Department	Other Expenses	Grant to Middletown Racial Justice	Up to \$20,000
45	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Manchester for parks and recreation	Up to \$1,000,000
46	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Bolton for parks and recreation	Up to \$250,000
48	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Middletown Board of Education	Up to \$150,000
49	Department of Social Services (DSS)	Other Expenses	Grant to Effective School Solutions	Up to \$1,500,000
50	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Connecticut AI Alliance for an AI symposium grant	Up to \$90,000
51	SDE	Other Expenses	Grant to Burns Latino Academy for musical instruments and instruction	Up to \$25,000 ³
477	Legislative Management	Statues	Removal of the John Mason statue from the State Capitol building	Up to \$100,000
481	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)	Social Work Law Enforcement Training Partnership	Same as FY 26	\$850,000
482	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to American Legion Post 17 in Naugatuck	Up to \$200,000

¹ PA 26-76, §§ 10, 21, 86, 104 & 108, include additional carryforwards for FY 27.

² PA 26-76, § 68, instead requires that the grant be made to Working Cities Challenge and requires \$150,000 of it to be used for Middletown Works.

³ PA 26-76, § 88, increases the maximum amount of this carryforward to \$90,000.

Funds Carried Forward to FY 28 (§ 27(b))

The act requires up to \$2.5 million of the Judicial Department's FY 27 appropriation for Legal Aid that is made available to the Right to Counsel program be carried forward to FY 28 for the same purpose.

Funds Carried Forward and Transferred for FY 27 (§§ 28, 38, 40, 43, 47 & 483)

The act carries forward to FY 27 and transfers the amounts shown in the table below for specified grants and programs.

Funds Carried Forward and Transferred

§	From	To	Purpose	Amount
28	Office of Early Childhood (OEC): Early Care and Education	OEC: Care4Kids TANF/CCDF	Family child care provider agreement	Unspent balance
38	DESPP: Other Expenses	DESPP: Various Grants	Grant to Bridgeport for its police department drone program	Up to \$500,000
40	SDE: Other Expenses	SDE: Various Grants	Grant to Effective School Solutions	Up to \$450,000
43	Judicial Department: Youth Services Prevention	DECD: Various Grants	Grant to My Architecture Workshops	Up to \$100,000 ¹
47	Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU): Charter Oak State College	CSCU: Various Grants	AI Academy	\$500,000
483	Department of Children and Families: Various Grants	Department of Housing: Various Grants	Grant to Thames River Community Services	Up to \$250,000

¹ PA 26-76, § 87, increases the maximum amount of this carryforward from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 16 — YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION GRANTS FOR FY 26

Reserves \$410,000 of the Judicial Department's FY 26 appropriation for youth services prevention for grants to five specified organizations

The act reserves \$410,000 of the Judicial Department's FY 26 appropriation for youth services prevention for grants to the following organizations:

1. \$75,000 to Dominican American Coalition of Connecticut, Inc.;
2. \$30,000 to Intempo Organization, Inc.;
3. \$200,000 to My Architecture Workshops, Inc.;
4. \$50,000 to Second Change Re-entry Initiative Program (SCRIP); and
5. \$55,000 to Tri-Town Youth Services.

(PA 26-76, § 100, (1) eliminates the \$200,000 grant to My Architecture Workshops, Inc. and (2) requires that any unspent funds released to the remaining four grantees carry forward until they are fully spent.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 17 — SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMMING GRANTS

Requires school-based mental health programming grants in FYs 26 and 27 to be made in support of the specified school districts rather than to the districts themselves

PA 26-1, § 9, earmarks a portion of the Department of Social Services' FY 26 and FY 27 appropriations for Other Expenses for grants to the Newington, Wethersfield, Cromwell, Rocky Hill, and Middletown school districts for specified school-based mental health programming. This act requires the grants to be made in support of these school districts rather than to the districts themselves.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 52 & 53 — REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANTS

Requires OPM to distribute regional performance incentive program grants to two specified COGs for FY 27

For FY 27, the act requires the OPM secretary to distribute the following regional performance incentive grants: (1) \$250,000 to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (COG) for a pilot program to consolidate public service answering points and (2) \$800,000 to the Capitol Region COG for CTFastrak east expansion. (PA 26-76, § 47, changes the purpose of the South Central Regional COG grant to a study on public service answering points consolidation.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 54 — SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE SHARING GRANTS TO WATERBURY, MANCHESTER, AND VERNON

Provides additional FY 27 supplemental revenue sharing grants to Waterbury (\$3 million), Manchester (\$800,000), and Vernon (\$500,000)

For FY 27, the act requires additional supplemental revenue sharing grants to be made from the General Fund to Waterbury (\$3,000,000), Manchester (\$800,000), and Vernon (\$500,000).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 55 — DELAY OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION PROVISION

Would have delayed until July 1, 2027, PA 26-42, § 9, which established procedures for voters to have absentee ballot applications automatically sent to them (PA 26-76, §§ 37-39, repeals and replaces PA 26-42, § 9, and repeals this act's provision delaying implementation).

Effective July 1, 2026, PA 26-42, § 9, established procedures for voters to automatically receive absentee ballot applications for each election, primary, or referendum held in the municipality where they are eligible to vote. This act would have delayed this until July 1, 2027 (PA 26-76, §§ 37-39, repeals and replaces PA 26-42, § 9, and repeals this act's provision delaying implementation).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 56 & 57 — CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AGREEMENTS

Modifies requirements for CMDA when it enters into agreements for PILOTs

The act makes changes related to the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA) and the agreements it makes with developers or property owners for payments in lieu of real property taxes (PILOT). By law, CMDA is a quasi-public agency authorized to stimulate economic development and transit-oriented development in development districts by, among other things, developing property and managing facilities. A “development district” is an area encompassing a transit station or downtown in which zoning regulations create a “housing growth zone” to facilitate housing development.

By law, CMDA may negotiate and, with the OPM secretary's approval, enter into an agreement with a private developer, owner, or lessee of a building or improvement in a development district providing for a payment to CMDA in lieu of real property taxes. Under prior law, these agreements were required as a condition of any private right of development within a district. The act removes this requirement. It also requires CMDA to get the host municipality's consent before entering into these PILOT agreements.

The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 58 — CLARIFYING CHANGE TO HOUSING COMMISSIONER'S POWERS

Clarifies the housing commissioner's general powers

The act makes a minor change to clarify that the housing commissioner's general powers include those related to planning and constructing housing projects. Another law, passed in 2025, explicitly allows the commissioner to develop

housing projects on land the state owns or otherwise controls, sell or lease these projects, and provide for their management (CGS § 8-37r(e)).

By law, a “housing project” is broadly defined and includes various actions related to providing housing for low- and moderate-income households.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 59 — EXTENDING CERTAIN LANDLORD-TENANT LAWS TO THIRD PARTY AGENTS

Extends existing limitations on fees and payments that landlords may require from prospective tenants to third parties acting on behalf of landlords or the state; extends existing requirements on tenant screening reports to the same third parties

The act extends certain limitations on landlord-imposed fees and payments and tenant screening reports to third parties acting on behalf of landlords or the state. Prior law only applied these requirements to landlords.

Since 2023, state law generally prohibits landlords from requiring prospective tenants to pay any fees, charges, or payments for reviewing, processing, or accepting a rental application, or make any other payments before or at the start of tenancy, with certain exceptions (for example, (1) security deposits, (2) advance payments for first month’s rent, (3) deposits for a key or other special equipment, and (4) fees for a tenant screening report). The act applies this prohibition to third parties acting on behalf of landlords or the state.

Existing law also limits the fee a landlord may charge for a tenant screening report to \$50 (adjusted for inflation). Landlords that charge a prospective tenant a fee for a report must give the tenant a (1) copy of it or, if the landlord may not provide a copy, information that allows the tenant to request one from the entity that made the report and (2) receipt or invoice from the entity that made the report. The act extends these requirements to third parties acting on behalf of landlords or the state.

(By law, a “tenant screening report” is a credit report, criminal background report, employment history report, rental history report, or any combination of these that a landlord uses to determine a prospective tenant’s suitability.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 60 & 61 — TAX ON NURSING HOMES AND INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES

Repeals the 6% tax on nursing home and ICF revenue scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2026, and instead retains the current user fee on these facilities

The act repeals provisions in the FY 26-27 biennial budget act that, as of July 1, 2026, would have ended the quarterly user fee on nursing homes and intermediate care facilities (ICFs) for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and instead generally imposed a quarterly 6% tax on their revenue as of that date. In doing so, it retains the quarterly user fee on these facilities of (1) \$16.13 for municipally owned nursing homes and facilities with more than 230 beds, (2) \$21.02 for all other nursing homes, and (3) \$27.76 for ICFs. The amount due from each facility is determined by multiplying the user fee by the facility’s resident days for the calendar quarter.

The act similarly eliminates provisions in the budget act that require:

1. the DSS commissioner to seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to (a) exempt certain continuing care retirement communities licensed on or before July 1, 2017, from the nursing home tax and (b) impose a 4.6% tax on nursing facility service revenue received by municipally owned nursing homes and nursing homes licensed for more than 230 beds;
2. the tax to cease and the user fees to be reimposed if CMS determines that the tax is impermissible; and
3. these facilities to include the amount of their nursing facility and ICF service revenue on their quarterly provider tax returns to the Department of Revenue Services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except a conforming change to provider tax returns is effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to calendar quarters starting July 1, 2026.

§ 62 — PIZZA STATE LICENSE PLATES

Requires DMV to issue Pizza State commemorative license plates to increase public awareness of the state's pizza-making tradition and to provide funding to Connecticut Foodshare

Starting July 1, 2026, the act requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner to issue Pizza State commemorative license plates that (1) are designed to increase public awareness of the state's pizza-making tradition and (2) provide funding for Connecticut Foodshare. It requires the commissioner to determine the plate design and prohibits using them for a purpose other than as official registration marker plates.

Under the act, the Pizza State license plate fee is \$65, in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fees. The commissioner must deposit (1) \$15 of this fee into a DMV-controlled account to cover the costs of producing, issuing, renewing, and replacing these license plates, and (2) \$50 of the fee into the Pizza State commemorative account that the act correspondingly establishes as a separate, nonlapsing account. DMV must distribute the money in this account annually to Connecticut Foodshare.

The act allows the DMV commissioner to provide for the Pizza State license plate image's reproduction and marketing on clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementoes, or other products or programs he finds suitable for supporting the Pizza State commemorative account. It requires any money the commissioner receives from this marketing to be deposited into the account. The act also allows the commissioner to receive and deposit private donations into the account.

The act prohibits charging additional fees for (1) renewing this license plate or (2) transferring an existing registration to or from a registration with a Pizza State plate. However, the DMV commissioner may allow Pizza State plate registrants to make an additional, voluntary \$15 donation at the time of registration renewal, which must be deposited into the Pizza State commemorative account.

DMV may charge a higher fee for license plates with low numbers or (1) the numbers and letters from a previously issued license plate or (2) letters instead of numbers, in addition to the fees set for these registrations by law. The act requires all Pizza State license plate-related fees, except those designated for DMV's administrative costs, to be deposited in the Pizza State commemorative account.

The act also allows the DMV commissioner to adopt regulations setting standards and procedures for issuing, renewing, and replacing Pizza State license plates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 63 — ADDITIONAL DESPP DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED

Authorizes the DESPP commissioner to appoint an additional deputy commissioner

The act expands, from two to three, the number of deputy commissioners the DESPP commissioner is authorized to appoint. By law, these deputies must help administer the agency under the DESPP commissioner's direction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 64 — HISPANIC-AMERICAN VETERANS OF CONNECTICUT ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTION

Decreases the frequency of OPM's distribution of funds from the HAVOCT account from quarterly to annually

The act decreases, from quarterly to annually, the frequency of OPM's required distribution of funds from the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut account to Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut (HAVOCT), Inc.

By law, this account is a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account created to receive a portion of the fees for commemorative license plates in recognition of "The Borinqueneers" (the primarily Puerto Rican members of the 65th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army who served with distinction). After receiving the distribution, HAVOCT must use the funds to provide bilingual services and help to Connecticut veterans and armed forces members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 65 — OPM ENERGY POLICY

Removes an obsolete provision that generally gave OPM responsibility for determining state energy policy

The act removes an obsolete provision that made OPM responsible for all aspects of state staff planning and analysis for determining and evaluating energy policy. Since 2011, the law has generally given the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) jurisdiction over the state's energy policy planning and regulation (CGS § 22a-2d).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 66 — NEGLECTED CEMETERIES ACCOUNT

Requires the DPH commissioner to, beginning by October 31, 2026, quarterly certify to OPM the (1) amount of fees collected for certified marriage and death certificates and (2) neglected cemetery account's balance

By law, a certified marriage or death certificate generally costs \$20, and any fee the Department of Public Health (DPH) receives for death certificates must be deposited into the General Fund's neglected cemetery account. (Generally, money in this account is used to make grants for municipal maintenance of certain neglected cemeteries.)

The act requires, beginning by October 31, 2026, the DPH commissioner to quarterly certify to the OPM secretary the (1) amount of fees collected for certified marriage and death certificates in the previous quarter and (2) neglected cemetery account's balance as of the last day of the previous quarter.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 67 — REMOVES CHRO FROM DOL

Removes CHRO from DOL

Previously, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) was within the Department of Labor (DOL) for administrative purposes only, meaning that DOL could provide it with administrative and clerical support, send required notices or orders on its behalf, provide staff, and include its budgetary requests in the department budget (CGS § 4-38f). The act removes CHRO from DOL, so that it operates independently.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 68-161 — OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY ELIMINATION

Eliminates OHS and generally transfers its powers, duties, and functions to DPH, OPM, DSS, and OHA; makes related minor changes

The act eliminates the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and generally transfers its powers, duties, and functions to DPH, OPM, DSS, and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA). It eliminates certain OHS functions without transferring them to another agency (such as eliminating the Health Care Cabinet, which was within OHS). It also makes numerous related minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Transferred Functions

The act makes DPH, DSS, OHA, and OPM the successor agencies to OHS for the functions, powers, and duties under various laws and programs, as shown in the table below.

Successor Agencies to OHS

Agency	OHS Functions Transferred to it Under the Act
DPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Systems Planning Unit • Health care facility certificate of need (CON) program
OPM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Health Information Exchange ("Connie") • All-Payer Claims Database

Agency	<i>OHS Functions Transferred to it Under the Act</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, publication, and modification of health care cost growth and quality benchmarks (PA 26-76, § 96, repeals certain duplicative provisions related to this transfer) • Contracts, memoranda of understanding, or agreements related to funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021
DSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital financial health reporting
OHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital community benefit program reporting

Under the act, for purposes of the above-transferred functions (other than ARPA funding), OHS orders, decisions, agreed settlements, and regulations (collectively, “orders or regulations”) in force on July 1, 2026, continue in force and effect as orders or regulations under the relevant successor agency until amended, repealed, or superseded.

When any of OHS’s orders or regulations conflict with those of the successor agency, the latter agency may implement policies and procedures consistent with law while in the process of adopting regulations, as long as the agency publishes notice of intent to adopt regulations on its website and the eRegulations System within 20 days after implementation. The policies or procedures are valid until the regulations are adopted.

Under the act, a reference to OHS or its commissioner in any (1) 2026 Public or Special Act or (2) existing statute related to these functions that is amended this year, is deemed to refer to the successor agency or its head, as applicable.

Additionally, the act transfers various other functions from OHS to these agencies or their executive heads (or in one case, another agency), as shown in the table below.

Additional OHS Functions Transferred to Other Agencies

<i>Transferee Agency (or Agency Head as Applicable)</i>	<i>Brief Summary</i>
DPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with the attorney general, authority to approve the sale of nonprofit hospitals to for-profit purchasers • Agency to whom physician group practices (or in some cases, their affiliated hospitals or hospital systems) must send certain information, including (1) notice of material change transactions and (2) reports of the practice’s activities or related matters • Agency to whom hospitals or hospital systems must report on their affiliations with each other • Authority to impose civil penalties if a hospital, health system, or hospital-based facility charged facility fees in violation of legally permissible limits (and related requirements for hospitals and health systems to report on facility fees) • Entity to whom certain hospitals must report patient-identifiable inpatient discharge data and emergency department data (the act makes related minor and clarifying changes) • Requirement to adopt regulations setting uniform debt collection standards for hospitals • Agency to whom sponsors must submit certain information about drug or biologics filings with the federal Food and Drug Administration • Authority to conduct annual studies on pharmaceutical manufacturers of certain pipeline drugs; related reporting requirements for manufacturers • In consultation with certain other agencies, duty to annually prepare a list of up to 10 outpatient drugs that are provided at substantial state cost or critical to public health; related reporting requirements for manufacturers and authority to impose penalties for violations

<i>Transferee Agency (or Agency Head as Applicable)</i>	<i>Brief Summary</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency housing the Community Health Worker Advisory Body (the act also makes a minor change to membership)
DSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty to develop an annual summary and analysis of hospital community benefit reporting, while the act gives overall oversight of that program to OHA (PA 26-76, § 76, removes this provision, clarifying that OHA is the agency assuming these functions from OHS) Authority to seek a federal waiver to advance the Covered Connecticut program's purposes
OPM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty to (1) specify subgroup race and ethnicity categories for use by state entities collecting demographic data for health care or public health purposes and (2) conduct reviews of demographic changes and health data and reevaluate the standard categories (along with certain other officials and stakeholders) Administration of the consumer health information website (and related reporting duties) Requirement to implement the state health information technology plan (and overall coordination of the state's health IT initiatives) Authority to appoint an unclassified individual from the office to serve as a health information technology officer Authority to monitor the development of accountable care organizations and patient-centered medical homes and the adoption of alternative payment methodologies
Department of Revenue Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency to whom pharmaceutical manufacturers or wholesale distributors must give 180 days' advance notice before withdrawing certain prescription drugs from sale

Under existing law, domestic insurers and HMOs pay an annual assessment to the Insurance Department to cover the expenses of certain agencies and programs. The act requires the assessment to cover the costs of OPM, rather than OHS, that are appropriated from the insurance fund, and makes related conforming changes. Similarly, the act requires hospitals to pay an assessment to DPH, rather than OHS, to cover the costs of the Health Systems Planning Unit's operations.

Eliminated Functions

The act eliminates the Health Care Cabinet, which was previously within OHS. Under prior law, the cabinet advised the governor on various issues related to the state's health care system.

The act also eliminates certain other functions that were previously performed by OHS or its commissioner. For example, it (1) removes the commissioner or her designee from certain committees, councils, or other bodies; (2) removes OHS from the list of entities that must consult or collaborate with other agencies on specified matters; and (3) eliminates the requirement for OHS to annually study and report on how certain laws (such as limitations on removing drugs from formularies) impact the costs of health insurance plans.

It also eliminates the requirement that DSS, in seeking a section 1115 waiver for federal funds to support the Covered Connecticut program, consult with OHS and the insurance commissioner.

§§ 162 & 163 — VOLUNTARY DELIVERY OR SURRENDER OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION TO POLICE FOR HOLDING

Modifies PA 26-41 by (1) reducing, from two years to one year, the maximum time period that DESPP and local police departments must hold firearms and ammunition that are delivered or surrendered to them for holding and (2) adjusting when DESPP must promulgate a related return form

PA 26-41, § 10, allows anyone to deliver or surrender any firearm or ammunition they possess to DESPP or a local police department for holding for at least 14 days and establishes a process for returning these items to transferors and destroying those that are not returned after a period of time. Under PA 26-41, the maximum period that DESPP and local police departments must hold these firearms and ammunition before they may be destroyed is two years. This act (PA 26-68) makes several corresponding changes to reduce that period to one year, including to a provision requiring DESPP to give notice about PA 26-41.

PA 26-41, § 11, relatedly requires the DESPP commissioner, by October 1, 2027, to promulgate and make available on the department's website a form for requesting the return of firearms and ammunition delivered or surrendered under the act. This act moves up the due date for this requirement to October 1, 2026, which matches the date that someone can first turn over firearms or ammunition to the departments for holding under the acts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provisions on DESPP giving notice and creating a return request form are effective upon passage.

§ 164 — ADRIAEN'S LANDING

Specifies conditions under which soil and groundwater pollution can be managed in place to satisfy environmental remediation requirements in Adriaen's Landing; requires CRDA to (1) make a protocol on disturbing contaminated soil and (2) annually inspect polluted sites managed under the conditions the act prescribes

The act specifies conditions under which environmental remediation requirements can be satisfied by managing soil and groundwater pollution in place (meaning without removing the contaminated soil or groundwater) when an environmental use restriction is issued on land within Adriaen's Landing, which is a 33-acre area in Hartford that includes the convention center.

It also requires the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) to (1) create a protocol for disturbing polluted soil or groundwater managed under these conditions and (2) annually inspect these portions of Adriaen's Landing.

Lastly, the act specifies that it does not prohibit someone from exercising an existing right to dig, excavate, or disturb soil within Adriaen's Landing as long as it is done in a way that (1) protects human health and the environment and (2) is consistent with the act's provisions so as to not create a condition reasonably expected to pollute Connecticut's waters.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Conditions for Managing Pollution in Place

Specifically, the act allows soil and groundwater pollution within Adriaen's Landing to be managed in place if:

1. each owner of a parcel affected by the pollution records an affidavit of facts on Hartford's land records indicating that (a) there is polluted soil, groundwater, or both on or under the parcel and (b) anyone who disturbs the soil or groundwater for any reason must return the soil to the approximate location and depth where it was removed or properly dispose the soil or groundwater as state and federal law requires;
2. the owner sends notice, including a copy of the affidavit described above, to all governmental authorities and public service companies that are reasonably expected to own, use, or maintain electric, natural gas, sewer, steam, or other utility infrastructure on, over, or under the portion of Adriaen's Landing where soil or groundwater pollution will be managed in place; and
3. any membrane, layer, or other barrier, if present, that isolates the polluted soil or groundwater is (a) identified in the required affidavit and (b) not removed, breached, or otherwise damaged without prior approval from CRDA.

The act prohibits CRDA from unreasonably withholding the approval described above. If any membrane, layer, or other barrier is removed, breached, or otherwise damaged, the act requires the person responsible to (1) implement measures to mitigate pollution exposure or migration risks and (2) repair or replace the membrane, layer, or barrier as soon as reasonably practicable.

CRDA Protocol

The act requires CRDA, in consultation with DEEP, to make a protocol on disturbing polluted soil or groundwater on or under an Adriaen's Landing site that is managed under this act's provisions. The protocol must specify a process for providing notice if a disturbance occurs and best practices for managing affected soil or groundwater. The act requires CRDA to post the protocol on its website. Additionally, the protocol must be identified in the affidavit required as a condition of managing in place polluted soil or groundwater within Adriaen's Landing.

Annual Inspections

The act requires CRDA to perform, or cause to be performed, annual inspections of any Adriaen's Landing site where soil or groundwater pollution is managed under this act's provisions. The inspection must be performed by a licensed environmental professional and include a (1) physical inspection to determine compliance with any issued environmental remediation requirements and (2) review of records to verify compliance with any related recordkeeping or monitoring requirements. If the inspection finds conditions not in compliance with any issued requirements, CRDA must notify DEEP and propose a schedule for correcting the conditions.

§ 165 — OPIOID ANTAGONISTS

Allows any person to give someone a non-legend opioid antagonist to treat or prevent an opioid overdose and gives them immunity for doing so; exempts non-legend opioid antagonist distributors from needing a permit

The act allows anyone (for example, an individual, governmental entity, or business) to give someone a non-legend (over-the-counter) opioid antagonist (such as Narcan) to treat or prevent an opioid drug overdose and gives them immunity from civil and criminal liability for doing so. It also exempts anyone who distributes these medications for free from needing a non-legend drug permit to do so. Existing law already generally immunizes anyone who, in good faith, believes someone is having an opioid-related drug overdose and administers an opioid antagonist to them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 166 & 170 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY BONDS

Makes numerous changes related to bonds issued by the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority, including authorizing revenue bonds to benefit a participating corporation involved with certain airport projects

Revenue Bonds for Participating Corporations

The act allows the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority to issue revenue bonds (bonds to be repaid using the authority's revenue sources) to benefit a participating corporation if the bondholders agree that the authority is not liable to repay the bonds except from its revenues or assets pledged for the bonds. Under the act, a participating corporation is a business entity, quasi-public authority, or government entity involved with the authority for certain airport projects.

The act specifies that an authority resolution authorizing bonds can pledge the authority's full faith and credit; a participating corporation's full faith and credit; revenues of a financing project or revenue-producing contract with a participating corporation; federally guaranteed security; or any other property, revenue, funds, or money legally available to the authority.

The act permits lease agreements with participating corporations and pledging or assigning lease, loan, or sale agreements with a corporation to benefit holders of bonds related to a financing project.

Other Changes

The act allows the authority's board of directors to:

1. authorize bonds for longer than 30 years and
2. adopt a resolution delegating authority to its chairperson or vice-chairperson or the authority's executive director or another officer to take certain actions related to bonds (set their sale date, receive bids or proposals, sell bonds, and take other actions), subject to board approval. (PA 26-76, § 93, allows, instead of requires, these actions taken under delegated authority to be subject to board approval.)

The act also adds numerous other provisions relating to authority bonds, covering topics such as:

1. issuing bond anticipation notes;
2. specifying bonds as securities in which state and local officials, insurance companies, and various types of banks and fiduciaries can properly invest;
3. paying bonds in lawful U.S. money, rather than any payment medium;
4. fixing and using for bonds authority rates, rents, fees, and charges;
5. using authority revenues for bonds;
6. issuing bonds with interest that is federally taxable or that are eligible for federal tax credits or exemptions;
7. refunding bonds; and
8. making other minor and technical changes to bonding procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 166, 168, 169, 171 & 172 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Modifies the appointments of Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority's board of directors after a building permit is issued for a passenger terminal facility that meets certain requirements; generally (1) requires affirmative votes from at least 10 board members for certain actions and (2) expands the authority's powers and duties; defines "airport project" and makes related conforming changes

The act modifies the appointments of Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority's board of directors 30 days after the local building official and fire marshal issue a building permit for a passenger terminal facility, meeting certain requirements, on the East Haven side of the Tweed-New Haven Airport. It also generally (1) requires affirmative votes from at least 10 board members for certain actions, such as building a new facility, and (2) expands the authority's powers and duties.

Additionally, the act defines the term "airport project" for the laws governing Tweed-New Haven Airport and makes related conforming changes to laws specifically on the authority's (1) exemption from state and local taxes (§ 171) and (2) required annual report (§ 172).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Board of Directors Appointments (§ 168)

The act modifies the appointments of Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority's board of directors 30 days after the local building official and fire marshal issue a building permit for a passenger terminal facility on the side of the Tweed-New Haven Airport next to East Haven. (PA 26-76, § 91, clarifies that the facility must be on the East Haven side of the airport.) The facility must be designed to support scheduled and charter commercial airline flights, including at least 2,100 parking spaces.

Until the permit is issued as described above, the appointments remain unchanged, meaning the board consists of 15 members with the New Haven mayor appointing eight, the East Haven mayor appointing five, and the South Central Regional Council of Governments (COG) appointing two. Among the 13 mayoral appointments, six must be New Haven or East Haven residents and the two COG appointments must be residents of the following municipalities: Bethany, Branford, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Milford, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, or Woodbridge.

Thirty days after building permit issuance, the act increases the East Haven mayor's appointments from five to seven and eliminates the COG appointments, while retaining the New Haven mayor's eight appointments and the residency requirement for all mayoral appointments. Any COG-appointed member currently serving continues to do so until the additional East Haven mayoral appointments are made. (PA 26-76, § 91, specifies that the terms of these COG-appointed members terminate at this time.)

As under existing law, all of the mayoral-appointed board members are special directors vested with the additional powers set in the authority's bylaws.

Specified Actions That Require 10 Affirmative Board Votes (§§ 168 & 169)

Under both existing law and the act, eight board members are a quorum and an affirmative vote of a majority at a meeting is sufficient for board actions. The act specifies that this does not apply where the laws on the authority's powers and duties or the board's adoption of written procedures require otherwise.

Starting immediately after building permit issuance (see above) and regardless of other state laws, the act also requires affirmative votes from at least 10 board members for the following actions, unless the actions are required to comply with

applicable federal law (including mandatory grant conditions of the Federal Aviation Administration), the airport operating certificate, safety or security directives, or any action needed for safe airport operations:

1. construction of any new facility, or the structural conversion of any existing airport facility, to provide or enable freight and cargo services;
2. any expansion project that increases the operational capacity, passenger capacity, or gate or landing position capacity, or increases use of airport facilities within East Haven, excluding any project that is part of, and consistent with, the terminal expansion project the authority approved before permit issuance (including all associated supporting infrastructure needed to complete the expansion project);
3. any addition, material modification, or closing of airport entrances or exits;
4. any lease agreement or renewal relating to general aviation services, including adding any fixed base operations;
5. any amendment or renewal to a lease or other agreement for private operation or management of the airport that would impact (a) cargo or freight operations, the construction of a facility, or modification of existing facilities to accommodate the operations; (b) community benefits, including mitigation payments from the private operator; (c) parking operations at the West Terminal and access to the terminal; and (d) additional property acquisitions;
6. the repeal or reduction of noise mitigation or abatement measures the board previously approved; and
7. any extension of the airport's Runway 2-20 exceeding 6,635 linear feet.

The act also eliminates prior law's prohibition on expanding the existing paved runway length of Runway 2-20 of 5,600 linear feet.

(PA 26-76, §§ 89 & 91, (1) adds to the above list of actions any amendments to the authority's bylaws and (2) specifies that authority bylaws are not considered procedures.)

Authority's Powers and Duties (§§ 166 & 169)

The act expands the authority's statutory powers and duties. Specifically, the act gives the authority the following powers and allows it to exercise them in its own name to:

1. own, operate, lease, assign, pledge, sell, or dispose personal property for airport purposes, including securities, rights, and privileges in contract or at law, insurance, security, and trade fixtures;
2. fix, revise, charge, and collect rates, rents, fees, and charges for using (or services provided by) a "financing project" (see below) or a portion of one, and to contract with any person in relation to the project (PA 26-76, § 92, specifies that the authority can also contract with any participating corporation);
3. make loans to any "participating corporation" (legal business entity, quasi-public authority, or government entity) for providing financing for a project based on an agreement between the authority and the corporation;
4. acquire and agree to acquire any federally guaranteed security and pledge, or use the security in the authority's best interest to secure or repay its bonds, notes, or other obligations, or to agree to make a loan to a participating corporation to acquire any federally guaranteed security;
5. enter into any contract or series of contracts that the authority deems necessary or appropriate related to the authority's bonds, notes, or other obligations;
6. accept from any public agency insurance, loans, or grants for a financing project or any portion of one, and to receive loans, grants, or other assistance, including money, property, or services, from any source as long as the assistance is used only for the purposes for which it is granted;
7. invest any funds not needed for immediate use or payouts in reserve funds; federally guaranteed securities; state investments, including the Short-Term Investment Fund or Medium-Term Investment Fund; or other securities, obligations, or investments described in a trust agreement or resolution providing bond fund issuances; and
8. charge and equitably allocate administrative costs and expenses the authority incurs exercising its powers and duties among participating corporations.

Under existing law, among other things, the authority generally has the power to (1) issue and sell bonds and use the proceeds for airport capital improvements and (2) acquire property for airport purposes. The act expands these powers by allowing the authority to also (1) use bond proceeds for financing projects and fund or refund these projects and (2) lease and sell property for airport purposes.

The act also allows the authority to undertake a financing project for two or more participating corporations jointly and structure the financing as a single project or as related components of it. In these cases, the laws governing Tweed-New Haven apply to and for the benefit of the authority and the participating corporations.

Under the act, a "financing project" is an airport project's leasing, licensing, or operation and any other activity or property for which the authority is authorized to issue bonds or provide financing under the laws governing Tweed-New Haven. (PA 26-76 specifies that these projects also include airport projects (§ 89). It also further expands the authority's

powers by allowing it to (1) manage, maintain, supervise, and operate any improvements or additions to the airport and (2) operate the authority, subject to applicable federal law and regulations (§ 92).)

Airport Projects. Existing law generally authorizes the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority to contract with private people and businesses to build, rebuild, enlarge, or change airport projects. Under the act, these projects (which were undefined in prior law) include any acquisition, disposition, demolition, remediation, construction, renovation, repair, replacement, expansion, environmental remediation, or other real property development or improvement related to an airport facility or its access. This includes:

1. acquiring off-airport land required by a permitting agency;
2. for a runway, taxi lane, hanger, depot, apron, mezzanine or baggage handling, administration, maintenance, storage, utilities, or parking;
3. furniture, fixtures, equipment, communication, navigation, safety infrastructure, and systems and other personal property reasonably needed in connection with these developments; and
4. associated interest, reserve fund deposits, and other financing costs and charges needed or incident to developing, financing, completing, and placing in operation any airport project, entirely authority-owned or suitable for authority use, according to the authority's purposes.

The act also specifically defines "cost" in relation to airport projects, which generally includes all or part of the cost of various related activities, such as land acquisition, construction, demolition, environmental remediation, certain machinery and equipment, and engineering, financial, and legal services.

§ 167 — PILOT PAYMENTS RELATED TO TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT

Requires annual PILOT payments of \$4.4 million to East Haven and \$2.9 million to New Haven, once a passenger terminal facility on the East Haven side of Tweed-New Haven Airport is open and operating

Regardless of any state law, the act requires the state treasurer to make certain payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) grants, after the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary certifies that a passenger terminal facility on the side of the Tweed-New Haven Airport next to East Haven is open (see above) and operating. The treasurer must do so annually until the facility stops operating. The PILOT payments are (1) \$4.4 million to East Haven and (2) \$2.9 million to New Haven.

The treasurer must make these payments on the state's behalf and they are in addition to any PILOT grants East Haven or New Haven otherwise receive.

(PA 26-76, § 90, (1) requires the treasurer to begin making the PILOT payments after the OPM secretary certifies that East Haven has approved a building permit for the facility (rather than after the facility has opened and is operational), but not before July 1, 2027, and (2) clarifies that the facility must be located on the East Haven side of the airport.)

(The act also authorizes new general obligation bonds for certain airport-related grants to East Haven, New Haven, and the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority; see § 297(a) below.)

§ 173 — TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Requires DECD to establish an airport development zone surrounding Tweed New Haven Airport if East Haven or New Haven submits, or the two jointly submit, a proposal to do so

The act requires the economic and community development (DECD) commissioner to establish an airport development zone (see *Background*) surrounding Tweed New Haven Airport if East Haven or New Haven submits a proposal to do so, or both municipalities jointly submit one. (PA 26-76, § 94, specifies that the proposal must be for census tracts within the municipality that submits it, or within both municipalities if a joint proposal.)

Any proposal must comply with the state's conservation and development plan and identify the following:

1. the geographical scope of the proposed zone, including all census blocks proposed for incorporation, which must (a) match Tweed New Haven Airport's master plan and (b) not extend beyond a two-mile radius of the airport without legislative approval;
2. economic benefits anticipated from establishing the zone, including the (a) types of business and industry to be developed and (b) number of jobs to be created; and
3. anticipated costs of establishing the zone.

The act allows the commissioner to modify the geographic scope of the proposed zone to improve, within his discretion, the balance of anticipated economic benefits and the cost to the state and affected municipalities.

The act also specifies that an airport development zone established under the act's provisions must not include the land on which Tweed New Haven Airport operates, including any land the state owns or controls.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Background — Property Tax Exemptions Available in Airport Development Zones

Businesses located in airport development zones may receive a five-year, 80% property tax exemption for acquiring, building, renovating, or expanding a qualifying manufacturing facility, which includes facilities housing specified business services if the DECD commissioner determines they depend on, or are directly related to, the airport. They may also receive the same partial exemption for acquiring machinery and equipment for these facilities. The state generally reimburses the municipality for half the forgone property tax revenue, depending on available funding.

Background — Advertising in Airport Development Zones

Airport development zones are also among the designated areas where the Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner may approve billboards and advertising signs within 660 feet of the edge of the interstate and other limited access highways in areas owned, managed, or leased by a public authority. By law, these advertisements are subject to DOT approval and related regulations and cannot be built where prohibited by state law, local ordinance, or zoning regulations.

§ 174 — LATE PAYMENT INTEREST WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITIES

For certain common interest communities, allows municipalities and WPCAs to waive late payment interest that has accrued on their property tax and sewer use bills

The act allows municipalities, by a vote of their legislative bodies, to waive some or all of the interest on delinquent property taxes owed by a common interest community that (1) has more than 500 units and (2) is in a Superior Court-ordered receivership. Under the act, municipalities may also refund all or some of the interest the common interest community has already paid.

It similarly allows water pollution control authorities (WPCAs) to vote to waive or refund some or all of the interest on delinquent sewer system use charges that a qualifying common interest community owes or owed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 175 — MUNICIPAL SPENDING CAP HOLD HARMLESS

For FY 27, allows municipalities to exceed the statutory spending cap without having their municipal revenue sharing grant amount reduced as a result

Existing law generally requires OPM to reduce a municipality's municipal revenue sharing grant if the municipality's budget expenditures exceed the statutory spending cap. But the law provides an exception for FY 26, allowing municipalities to exceed the cap without their grant amounts being reduced. The act extends this exception to cover FY 27 as well.

By law, the spending cap is the greater of the inflation rate or 2.5% of the prior fiscal year's "adopted budget expenditures" (spending from a municipality's general fund and any nonbudgeted funds). The reduction is equal to 50 cents for every dollar the municipality spends over the cap.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 176 — SPRB COMPENSATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Increases the compensation rates and annual limits for SPRB members; narrows the prohibition on persons holding state or municipal positions from serving on the board

The act increases the compensation rates and annual compensation limits for State Properties Review Board (SPRB) members. It does so by increasing the (1) per diem rate for all members from \$200 to \$300 and (2) annual maximum a member may collect by \$15,000. Under prior law and the act, the maximum depends on the position the member holds, as shown in the table below.

Annual Maximum Compensation for SPRB Members

	<i>Prior Law</i>	<i>The Act</i>
Chairperson	\$30,000	\$45,000
Member	25,000	40,000

Prior law prohibited people serving on the board from also holding a state or municipal government position. The act narrows this prohibition by applying it only to those holding elected or paid positions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 177 — EXECUTIVE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SCHEDULES

Specifies that executive branch boards and commissions that compensate their members on a per diem basis generally may not set a meeting schedule that would cause them to overspend their appropriated funds

The act generally specifies that no executive branch board or commission that compensates its members on a per diem basis may set a meeting schedule for any fiscal year that would cause it to overspend the amount of funds appropriated for the per diem. However, the board or commission may do so if it gets prior written approval of the proposed schedule from the OPM secretary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 178 — LOCAL BUDGET AND TAX ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO INCREASED AID

Authorizes municipalities and regional boards of education to amend their adopted budgets and adjust tax levies if they receive more state aid for FY 27 than projected (PA 26-130 amended this to place certain conditions on these amended budgets)

The act allows municipalities and regional boards of education that adopted a budget or levied taxes for FY 27 before the state adopted its FY 27 budget to change their budgets and levies if the state's budget provides more state aid than the board or municipality projected.

Under the act, municipalities (by vote of their legislative body or board of selectmen) and boards may (1) amend their budget, in an amount not exceeding the increase in state aid to the board or municipality, and (2) by July 1, 2026, adjust tax levies and any remaining tax installments. (PA 26-130, §15, amended this provision to place conditions on these amended budgets, including that they cannot reduce local education funding below the greater of the (1) amount in the original adopted budget or (2) town's or region's FY 27 minimum budget requirement for education plus the supplemental education funds provided in the budget act (PA 26-68). (Generally, the law's minimum budget requirement prohibits a town from decreasing its education appropriation from one year to the next, with limited exceptions.)

The act's provisions apply regardless of conflicting (1) statutes affecting education and boards of education, municipalities, and property tax levy and collection; (2) special acts; or (3) municipal charters or home rule ordinances.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 179 — COMBINED PUBLIC BENEFITS CHARGE REPORT

Delays, from October 1, 2026, to January 15, 2027, the deadline for OCC to submit a report about the combined public benefits charge on electric bills

The act delays, from October 1, 2026, to January 15, 2027, the deadline for the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), in consultation with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and energy and environmental protection commissioners, to submit a report about the combined public benefits charge on electric bills to the Energy and Technology Committee. By law, the report must describe the line items included in the charge and each line item's enabling authority, purpose, costs, and benefits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 180 — AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSING IN NEWTOWN

Requires DOT to allow Newtown to build an at-grade rail crossing, meeting certain conditions, on the Housatonic Railroad

The act requires DOT to allow Newtown (or its authority or agent) to build an at-grade pedestrian crossing on the Housatonic Railroad. (PA 26-76, § 103, specifies that this requirement applies to building a public, at-grade crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists across the roadway and track of the Housatonic Railroad's Stepney Branch located at approximately Milepost 0.0 in Newtown.)

Under the act, this requirement applies regardless of (1) the state law prohibiting the construction of public, at-grade railroad crossings without the General Assembly's authorization by special act or (2) any other state laws, special acts, or regulations prohibiting the construction of any new at-grade highway railroad crossing.

The crossing must be approved by Newtown's legislative body and the Housatonic Railroad and built according to DOT's recommendations. (PA 26-76, § 103, (1) requires that the Maybrook Railroad Company also approve the crossing and (2) specifies that the Housatonic and Maybrook Railroad companies, and their respective successors, are "owners" of the railroad for the purposes of the state law on owners' liability for land available for public recreation.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 181 — STATE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFIED SERVICE EXEMPTIONS

Exempts certain positions from the state employee classified service (amended by PA 26-76, § 69)

The act exempts certain positions from the state employee classified service, which excuses them from various civil service exams and other hiring and promotion procedures. Specifically, the act exempts positions titled (1) agency legal director, (2) Energy and Environmental Protection office director (legal), and (3) first assistant commissioner of Revenue Services. (PA 26-76, § 69, amends this provision to specify that "agency legal director" does not include the agency legal director of the Department of Revenue Services or the OPM general counsel. That act also removes the position of first assistant commissioner of Revenue Services from being exempted.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 182 — CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS OF EMPLOYEES WITH ACCESS TO TAX RECORDS

Changes who must perform criminal history checks for state employees with access to federal tax information

The act changes who must perform criminal history record checks (background checks) for state jobs with access to federal tax information. For these positions, the act requires state agencies with custody of the information and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) (on behalf of executive branch agencies) to require background checks for (1) job applicants and transferring employees and, (2) at least every five years, each current employee, contractor, and subcontractor. Under prior law, these background checks were done by the employing agency or by DAS if it provided human resources services for the employing agency. Under the act and state law, a state agency is any office, department, board, council, commission, institution, constituent unit of the state system of higher education, technical education and career school or other agency in state government.

As under existing law, an applicant, transferring or current employee, contractor, or subcontractor must:

1. state in writing if he or she has been convicted of a crime or has pending criminal charges, and identify the crime and court for those charges; and
2. be fingerprinted and submit to state and national criminal history record checks.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 183-185 — UNLICENSED INDIVIDUALS OR FACILITIES

Allows DPH to impose civil penalties on people who provide professional services without a required DPH license or certificate; similarly allows DPH to impose civil penalties, and sets criminal penalties, for someone who opens, manages, or operates a health care facility without a required DPH license or certificate

The act allows the Department of Public Health (DPH), after a hearing, to impose a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day against a person who provides professional services without a required DPH license or certificate. This action may be taken, as applicable, by DPH or its licensing boards or commissions.

The act also allows DPH, after a hearing, to impose a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day on anyone who opens, manages, or operates a health care facility without a required DPH license (or certificate for nursing facility management services). (For facilities, PA 26-76, § 78, lowers the maximum daily civil penalty to \$5,000.)

The act also imposes criminal penalties for opening, managing, or operating a health care facility without the required DPH license or certificate. It generally makes this a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, and the act sets a maximum \$5,000 daily fine for this offense. (PA 26-76, § 77, lowers the criminal penalty to a class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to three months in prison, and sets a maximum \$2,000 daily fine for this offense.) But the criminal penalty does not apply to (1) an institution that applied to renew its license within 60 days after the license lapsed, even if the application was incomplete when submitted, or (2) a regulated financial institution taking ownership of a facility after a foreclosure when the operator continues to occupy the property.

Under prior law, the penalty for opening, managing, or operating a health care facility without a required license or certificate was generally \$100 per day. There was previously no overarching penalty for practicing a DPH-regulated profession without a license or certificate, but there are existing criminal penalties for certain professions.

Additionally, the act specifies that DPH (for DPH-regulated professions without a separate licensing board or commission), as well as its licensing boards or commissions as under existing law, can issue a summary order that someone immediately stop an illegal activity under its jurisdiction. Under the act, this authority applies if the person poses an imminent public health or safety risk, pending proceedings on a possible cease and desist order. Existing law also gives DPH specific authority to pursue injunctive relief against facilities operating without the required license or certificate.

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes, including clarifying changes to an existing provision on the penalty for people who own the land or building at which a facility is operating without a required DPH credential.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 186 — DISPOSAL OF ABANDONED BODIES OR REMAINS

Allows DPH to appoint an embalmer to dispose of an abandoned dead body or abandoned cremated remains after a funeral director or embalmer has voluntarily or improperly relinquished control of the body or remains in violation of state law

The act allows the DPH commissioner to appoint a willing licensed embalmer to dispose of an abandoned dead body or abandoned cremated remains. The embalmer may request any records needed to identify the body or remains and, within seven days after the disposition of the body or remains, must notify the commissioner (in the way she requires) about when and how it was done.

Under the act, a body or remains are deemed abandoned when a licensed or formerly licensed funeral director or embalmer voluntarily or improperly relinquishes custody in violation of the law's requirements. This includes when they stop operating a funeral home and do not arrange for the transfer or disposition of the bodies or remains they had custody of at the time.

Existing law sets various requirements for funeral directors and embalmers as to the disposition of dead bodies and cremated remains, including the requirement to carry out the person's documented wishes or, if there is an unresolved dispute over who has the right to custody over the remains, the probate court's final decision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 187 — ELECTRONIC DEATH RECORDS

Requires DPH, upon request, to issue death records electronically regardless of when the death occurred (with the SSN generally redacted)

Prior law set various requirements for death certificates, including that (1) for deaths on or after July 1, 1997, the Social Security number (SSN) be included in an “administrative purposes” section of the certificate that could be disclosed only to certain eligible parties (such as the funeral director, surviving spouse, and state and federal agencies authorized by federal law) and (2) DPH disclose the record, or for deaths since that date, information in it, upon the request of any other person, researcher, or other state or federal agency, with the SSN redacted.

The act removes the 1997 start date from these provisions (in practice, SSNs were not included on state death certificates before this date) and specifically requires DPH, for deaths that occurred at any time, to give any person, researcher, or state or federal agency information from the death certificate electronically upon request. It also requires the SSN to be redacted, removed, or omitted unless the requester is a state or federal agency authorized by federal law to receive it.

The act also makes related minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 188 — TECHNICAL CHANGE

Makes a technical change

The act makes a technical change to terminology.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 189-191 — FOOD CODE

Makes minor and clarifying changes to laws related to the state’s food code

The act makes minor and clarifying changes to laws related to the food code, such as updating terminology and specifying that the DPH commissioner’s authority to adopt regulations to implement food code-related laws includes a law on audits of local health department food protection programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 192 — MEDICAL ORDERS FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT PROGRAM

Provides that under the state’s program, a MOLST is invalid unless it is completed on a DPH form and executed in line with statutory and regulatory requirements; allows PAs to make the determination that a patient’s condition is advanced enough to qualify for the program; requires that the program’s regulations allow providers to give patients a copy of or access to the order rather than the original

By law, DPH oversees a “medical orders for life-sustaining treatment” (MOLST) program. Under this program, a qualifying provider writes a medical order to carry out a patient’s request for life-sustaining treatment when the patient is approaching the end stage of a serious, life-limiting illness or is in a condition of advanced, chronic progressive frailty.

The act specifies that a MOLST is a set of DPH-developed written medical orders, specific to the program, and made by the provider. It provides that a MOLST under the program is invalid unless it is completed on a DPH form and executed in line with statutory and regulatory requirements.

It allows physician assistants (PAs) to make the determination that a patient is in the end stage of a serious, life-threatening disease or in such a condition as described above to qualify for the program. PAs are already allowed to write MOLST orders.

By law, patient participation in the program is voluntary, and to agree to participate, a patient or the patient’s legally authorized representative must sign the MOLST form. Under prior law, DPH’s regulations for the program had to require providers to give patients the original form right after it was signed. Under the act, the regulations instead must require providers to give patients a copy of the order or access to it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 193 — HIV/AIDS SERVICES FUNDING

Allows DPH's contracted program for HIV PrEP and PEP drug assistance to also fund associated lab testing and related costs

By law, DPH must contract for a statewide program providing financial assistance for HIV pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP) medications, as long as minimum funding requirements have been met. The act allows the program to pay for associated lab tests and other related costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 194 — CONSENT ORDERS

Explicitly allows DPH to enforce compliance with laws, regulations, permits, and orders through an agreed settlement or consent order

The act explicitly allows DPH to enforce compliance with applicable laws, regulations, permits, and orders, or ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, through an agreed settlement or consent order. (It appears this allows DPH to resolve cases or complaints against a licensee without holding a formal administrative hearing if the licensee agrees to a settlement or consent order.) For consent orders of cases involving petitions alleging that a health professional cannot practice with skill or safety (such as due to substance abuse), the act requires the approval of the board or commission with jurisdiction over the professional (for example, the state Medical Examining Board or Board of Examiners for Nursing).

Existing law authorizes the department to use consent orders when regulating health professionals and institutions (CGS §§ 19a-14, -491 & -565). Additionally, the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act generally allows contested cases to be resolved by agreed settlement or consent order (CGS § 4-177).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 195 — NON-CHARGE FOR EMPLOYEES PAID BENEFITS THROUGH THE SHARED WORK PROGRAM

Reinstates a UI tax non-charge for employers using a shared work program during an extended benefit period or a high unemployment period

Beginning January 1, 2027, the act reinstates a provision similar to one repealed in 2025 on an unemployment insurance (UI) tax “non-charge” for employers using a shared work program. Under the act, this non-charge applies when the state is in an extended benefit period or high unemployment period (generally, when the unemployment rate exceeds 6.5% for three months). It requires the non-charge to continue until the U.S. labor secretary notifies the state labor commissioner that the extended benefit period or high unemployment period has ended.

PA 25-117, § 5, repealed a similar provision related to the shared work program that (1) required a non-charge when the state’s average unemployment rate was at least 6.5% based on the most recent three months of data published by the Department of Labor (DOL) and (2) permitted a non-charge when the state’s average unemployment rate was at least 8% in the most recent month of DOL-published data.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 196 — DOL UNEMPLOYMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH REIMBURSING EMPLOYERS

Allows the DOL commissioner to negotiate and compromise with reimbursing employers who owe payments to the unemployment system under certain circumstances

The act allows the DOL commissioner, or her duly authorized agent, to negotiate and compromise with reimbursing employers who owe payments to the unemployment system if there is doubt about the employer’s liability for, or the collectability of, the amount in question.

Existing law already allows the commissioner to do this for employers who contribute to the state unemployment fund through unemployment taxes. Generally, reimbursing employers are those, like the state and municipalities, who directly reimburse the unemployment fund for benefits paid to former employees, rather than paying unemployment taxes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 197-200 — EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD REPEAL

Eliminates the Employment Security Advisory Board and makes conforming changes

The act eliminates the Employment Security Advisory Board and makes conforming changes. Under prior law, the board advised the labor commissioner about the policy and operations of the Employment Security Division, which administers the unemployment benefit system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except that the conforming changes take effect July 1, 2026.

§ 201 — SECURITY SCREENINGS AS WORKED HOURS

Specifies that “hours worked” in state laws on overtime pay includes time employees spend in employer-required security screenings

Under state overtime laws, an employee’s “hours worked” includes all time that the employee must be on the employer’s premises, including time that the employee must spend waiting for the employer to provide work to do (see *Background — Connecticut Supreme Court Case on Pre- and Post-Shift Hours*). The act specifies that it also includes time the employee spends in security screenings required by the employer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Connecticut Supreme Court Case on Pre- and Post- Shift Hours

The Connecticut Supreme Court recently ruled that employees must be compensated for time spent in mandatory security screenings on their employer’s premises (*Del Rio et al. v. Amazon.com Services, Inc.*, 354 Conn. 151 (2026)).

§ 202 — WORKPLACE HEAT SAFETY TASKFORCE

Creates a taskforce to study workplace heat safety

The act creates an 11-member taskforce to study heat safety, including (1) best practices to prevent employees’ exposure to the risk of heat illness and (2) other states’ laws and regulations on heat safety standards.

Membership

The task force’s membership must include:

1. the chairpersons and ranking members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, or their designees;
2. the labor commissioner or her designee;
3. a member of an organization that advocates for the prevention of sudden death from exertional heat stroke, appointed by the House speaker; and
4. one member appointed by each of the other five legislative leaders (Senate president pro tempore, House and Senate majority leaders, and House and Senate minority leaders).

All appointed members may be legislators and all initial appointments must be made within 30 days after the act passes. Any vacancies must be filled by the appointing authority.

Requirements

The act requires the Labor and Public Employees Committee chairpersons (or their designees) to serve as the task force’s chairpersons and schedule and hold the first meeting by July 25, 2026. The Labor and Public Employees Committee’s administrative staff must serve in this capacity for the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Labor and Public Employees Committee by January 1, 2027, and the task force ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 203 & 204 — PER DIEM RATE FOR BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS MEMBERS AND COMPENSATION FOR BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION MEMBERS

Increases the (1) per diem rate for members of the State Board of Labor Relations and (2) compensation for members of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration

The act increases the per diem (daily) rate for regular and alternate members of the State Board of Labor Relations from \$150 to \$300 per day. It also increases the compensation that State Board of Mediation and Arbitration members receive for their services. Specifically, the act increases the amount that:

1. each member of a three-member panel receives at the end of a proceeding, from \$325 to \$500;
2. a panel member receives for preparing a written decision, from \$500 to \$1,000;
3. a member receives for proceedings that use only a single member, from \$325 to \$500;
4. each panel member receives at the end of an executive panel session, from \$200 to \$300; and
5. each panel member receives if the proceedings last longer than a day, from \$325 to \$500, for each additional day (by law, proceedings cannot last longer than two days without the labor commissioner's prior approval for each additional day).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 205 — TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY STUDY

Extends, from July 1, 2026, to October 1, 2026, the deadline for the comptroller to submit his TNC study report

PA 25-168, § 228, required the comptroller to study in-state transportation network company (TNC) and third-party delivery company drivers' compensation. This act extends, from July 1, 2026, to October 1, 2026, the deadline for him to report to the Labor and Public Employees Committee on the study.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 206 — DOUBLE UTILITY POLES

Amends a provision in PA 26-12 to require electric distribution companies that have equipment on a utility pole, but do not own the pole, to transfer the equipment within 45 days after receiving notification about removal and replacement work on the pole

PA 26-12, § 44, generally requires a public utility pole's custodian (the telephone or electric distribution company with a duty to maintain the pole) to notify the pole's users (any person or entity that does not own the pole but maintains equipment on it) about any removal and replacement work for the pole. The notified user must transfer its equipment from the existing pole to the replacement pole within a certain amount of time (20 or 45 days), depending on the number of poles involved.

This act generally requires users that are electric distribution companies to transfer their equipment within 45 days after receiving the notice, regardless of how many poles are involved. Under PA 26-12, § 46, and the act, however, users (including electric distribution companies) do not have to meet this requirement if they have not been identified on a list of uncompleted transfers maintained by PURA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027

§ 207 — GREYFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM CHANGES (REPEALED)

Limits the greyfield revitalization program to East Hartford and the Capital City Economic Development District and expands the program's scope to include greyfield renovation (repealed by PA 26-76, § 58)

Existing law allows the economic and community development (DECD) commissioner, in coordination with the Department of Housing commissioner, Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority (now the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)), and the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), to create a greyfield revitalization program to provide (1) grants or loans to facilitate the repurposing of certain commercial retail and office space ("greyfields") and (2) grants to CMDA or CRDA to give grants or loans for the same purpose.

The act limits this program to greyfields in East Hartford and the statutorily designated Capital City Economic Development District and expands the program's scope to include greyfield renovations. PA 26-76, § 58, repeals these

provisions.

By law, a “greyfield” is any previously developed commercial retail or office property that is (1) economically nonviable in its current state and shows conditions that significantly complicate its redevelopment or reuse, as determined by the DECD commissioner, and (2) ineligible for any brownfield remediation and development program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 208 — CLAY ARSENAL WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM

Requires the CWO to establish the Clay Arsenal Workforce Readiness Program to connect Hartford’s Clay Arsenal neighborhood’s residents with employment, training, and career advancement opportunities; requires the CWO to annually report to the General Assembly on the program

The act requires the Chief Workforce Officer (CWO) to establish the “Clay Arsenal Workforce Readiness Program” to connect residents of Hartford’s Clay Arsenal neighborhood with employment, training, or career advancement to employment opportunities.

In establishing the program, the CWO must:

1. create and maintain a listing of available (a) job opportunities; (b) training programs; (c) in-state credentials (such as degrees or certificates from institutions of higher education, private career schools, or certain providers of alternative routes to certification programs); (d) apprenticeships; and (e) employment support services;
2. create and maintain relationships with employers, workforce development groups, education institutions, and community-based organizations in the region to (a) identify workforce needs and hiring opportunities, (b) support the development of training and pipeline programs, and (c) create a process to refer participating residents to employers;
3. assist participating residents in meeting workplace expectations or requirements by (a) assessing their workforce readiness; (b) identifying gaps in required training, education, or support services; (c) facilitating training opportunities; and (d) developing career pathway programs that align with regional employer demand; and
4. give residents employment and training opportunities based on the residents’ skills, interests, readiness, and current employer demand.

Under the act, the CWO may contract with nongovernmental entities that provide workforce development opportunities and training to create and administer the program.

The CWO must, beginning by January 1, 2027, report annually to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on the program. The report must:

1. list participating employers, workforce development groups, education institutions, and community-based organizations and describe the level of support each provides;
2. summarize how coordination among participating entities is structured and implemented;
3. identify program performance outcomes, including participants’ (a) engagement, (b) training enrollment and completion, and (c) job placement; and
4. include recommendations for program improvement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 209 & 210 — TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATION SUBSCRIBER FEE TOWARDS FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF ACCOUNT

Requires certain telephone and telecommunication companies to report and remit the monthly five cent firefighters cancer relief account fee when they file a sales and use tax return; requires the DRS commissioner, rather than the state treasurer, to deposit the fees into the firefighters cancer relief account; specifies that the fee is not included in gross receipts for sales tax purposes

By law, each telephone or telecommunications company providing local telephone service and each provider of (1) commercial mobile radio services and (2) voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) services (generally, phone calls over broadband Internet) must charge each subscriber a five cents per month fee, per service line, for deposit into the firefighters cancer relief account.

Prior law required each fee assessed to be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit into the firefighters cancer relief account by the 15th of each month. The act instead requires providers, beginning July 1, 2026, to report all fees assessed and remit them with their sales and use tax returns and tax payments. The report must include at least (1) the number of lines the fee was assessed on, and (2) as applicable, the total amount of fees collected during the tax period or each taxable

month. The act specifies that the fees cannot be included in the gross receipts on their return (consequently, the fees are not subject to the sales tax).

The act also requires, by August 1, 2026, and monthly thereafter, the revenue services (DRS) commissioner to deposit these fees received into the firefighters cancer relief account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Firefighters Cancer Relief Account

By law, the firefighters cancer relief account generally provides, for eligible firefighters diagnosed with certain cancers and who die or become disabled because of it, (1) wage replacement benefits, (2) retirement and survivor benefits, and (3) certain disability benefits available from the Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

§§ 211-214 — UCONN HEALTH CENTER MEDICAID REVENUE DIVERSION

Requires DSS to divert a specified amount of federal Medicaid revenue to support UCHC-JVI's operational costs; allows DSS to establish receivables for anticipated FY 27 hospital tax revenue; appropriates \$1.5 million to DSS in FY 27 to allow for the expansion of UCHC's Medicaid physician supplemental payment and correspondingly reduces its Operating Expenses appropriation

Starting in FY 26 and in each fiscal year after, the act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS), in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, to divert a specified amount of federal Medicaid revenue from disproportionate share hospital claims at UConn's John Dempsey Hospital. Specifically, DSS must divert an amount the OPM secretary sets, up to a maximum of \$15 million for each hospital the UConn Health Center Joint Venture Initiative (UCHC-JVI) owns and operates at any time during the fiscal year. Under the act, this revenue must be diverted and transferred to UCHC to support UCHC-JVI's operational costs. DSS and UCHC must enter into a memorandum of understanding to implement this transfer.

For FY 27, the act allows DSS, with the OPM secretary's approval, to establish receivables for anticipated hospital tax revenue.

The act also appropriates \$1.5 million to DSS in FY 27 to fund the Medicaid state share to allow for the expansion of UCHC's Medicaid physician supplemental payment. It reduces UCHC's FY 27 Operating Expenses appropriation by this same amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the receivables provision is effective July 1, 2026.

§§ 215 & 216 — COST NOTIFICATION FOR INFUSION AND INJECTION SERVICES

Requires hospitals, health systems, health carriers, and utilization review companies to notify patients in writing that infusion and injection services provided at hospital-based off-campus infusion centers may cost more than those provided at non-hospital-based infusion centers

The act establishes a new patient notification requirement for hospitals and health systems that schedule infusion or injection services at hospital-based outpatient infusion centers located outside the hospital campus. More specifically, these hospitals and health systems must give patients written notification at the time of scheduling that it may cost them more to use these services than if they received them at a non-hospital-based infusion center.

Correspondingly, starting January 1, 2027, the act also requires health carriers (insurers, HMOs, fraternal benefit societies, or hospital or medical service corporations) and utilization review companies, when preauthorizing or pre-certifying infusion or injection services provided at infusion centers, to give the insured written notification that these services provided at hospital-based off-campus outpatient infusion centers may cost more than those provided at non-hospital-based infusion centers. (PA 26-76, § 35, allows these notifications to also be issued electronically.)

This notification requirement applies to individual and group health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut that cover (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 217 — INSURANCE DEPARTMENT STUDY

Directs the Insurance Department, in consultation with OHA, to study cost-lowering methods for outpatient infusions and injections performed at hospital-based off-campus infusion centers, patient protections for certain stop-loss insurance policies, and surprise billing for ground ambulance services

The act directs the Insurance Department, in consultation with the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA), to study the following:

1. potential ways to lower the cost of infusion and injection services provided at hospital-based, off-campus outpatient facilities;
2. appropriate patient protections for stop-loss insurance policies used with self-funded employee health benefit plans; and
3. surprise bills for ground ambulance services.

(PA 26-76, § 41, directs the department to conduct the study if there are available appropriations.) Under the act, the department must report its study results and recommendations to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee by October 1, 2027. The report must include recommendations on:

1. whether to (a) cap infusion center service payment rates at 10% above the Medicare average sales prices (or a different Medicare reimbursement rate) or (b) set them based on data from the state's all-payer claims database and
2. prohibiting infusion centers from charging facility fees.

Under the act, "infusion centers" are sites that offer intravenous infusions and intramuscular or subcutaneous injections of medications, fluids, or biological products for complex medical conditions, such as cancer and autoimmune disorders.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 218 — ANTI-STEERING CLAUSES

Specifies that health carriers and health plan administrators may use utilization management to encourage enrollees to use certain hospitals or health systems

The act specifically allows health carriers and health plan administrators to use utilization management provisions to encourage enrollees to use certain hospitals and health systems (such as centers of excellence) by expanding the definition of anti-steering clauses.

Under existing law, health care providers, health carriers, and health plan administrators cannot include anti-steering clauses in health care contracts. An "anti-steering clause" is any provision (including, under the act, utilization management provisions) in a health care contract that restricts health carriers or health plan administrators from encouraging enrollees to get services from a competing hospital or health system. Utilization management is generally the process by which an insurer manages the use of covered services, including prior authorization or step therapy protocols, among others.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 219 — ALLOWING BRIDGEPORT TO IMPOSE HIGHER MILL RATE ON VEHICLES

Allows Bridgeport to set its mill rate for motor vehicles at a rate that is equal to or higher than the one it sets for other types of property, if it is under the statutory cap

By law, a municipality (or taxing district) may set a mill rate for motor vehicles that is different than its rate for other property types (other personal property and real property) to comply with the motor vehicle mill rate cap. Under the law, its motor vehicle rate must be lower than its rate for other property types. The act provides an exception for Bridgeport, allowing it to set a motor vehicle mill rate that is equal to or higher than its rate for other property types. But it also specifies Bridgeport's motor vehicle mill rate may not be higher than 32.46 mills (the cap in existing law).

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the motor vehicle mill rate cap is a rate set in statute that a municipality's and taxing district's motor vehicle mill rate may not, together or separately, exceed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, and applicable to assessment years starting on and after that date.

§ 220 — TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS DURING CODIFICATION

Requires the Legislative Commissioners' Office to make necessary technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes when codifying the act

The act requires the Legislative Commissioners' Office to make technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes as necessary to codify it, including internal reference corrections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 221 — STATE VIRTUAL CURRENCY INVESTMENT

Under certain conditions, allows the state to invest in (1) regulated securities made up of virtual currency or (2) companies, entities, or funds with virtual currency investments

State law prohibits the state and its political subdivisions from purchasing, holding, investing in, or establishing a reserve of virtual currency.

The act, however, allows the state to invest in regulated securities made up of virtual currency or companies, entities, or funds with virtual currency investments, under certain conditions.

For an investment to occur, the act requires that it be made through a company, entity, or fund regulated by a state or federal regulatory authority or equivalent foreign jurisdiction. It must also comply with (1) all applicable fiduciary, investment, and risk management standards the law requires; (2) the state's investment policy statement that sets standards for investing state trust funds; and (3) any other standards the state treasurer sets for custody, capitalization, or compliance. Lastly, the act specifies that the investment cannot constitute creating a reserve of virtual currency for transactional or treasury purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Virtual Currency

By law, "virtual currency" is a digital unit (1) used as a medium of exchange or form of digitally stored value or (2) incorporated into payment system technology. It includes digital units of exchange that have a centralized repository or administrator, are decentralized without a centralized repository or administrator, or may be created or obtained by computing or manufacturing effort. It does not include digital units used:

1. solely in online gaming platforms with no other market or application or
2. exclusively in a consumer affinity or rewards program that (a) can only pay for purchases with the issuer or another designated merchant and (b) cannot be converted into, or redeemed for, fiat currency (CGS § 36a-596).

§ 222 — HAZARDOUS DUTY DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS INJURED IN AN ASSAULT

Extends state employee hazardous duty disability benefits to health care providers employed at state-operated health care facilities or institutions if they are assaulted while performing their duties

The act requires health care providers who are employed at a state-operated health care facility or institution that provides direct patient care to receive state employee hazardous duty disability benefits if (1) they are injured as a result of being assaulted while performing their duties and (2) the injury is a direct result of the special hazards inherent in their duties. Under the act, a "health care provider" is someone directly employed by a state agency and who is involved in direct patient care.

Existing law also gives these benefits, under similar conditions, to various state employees such as State Police officers, correctional institution employees, and employees of the divisions of Criminal Justice or Public Defender Services.

For employees who qualify for these benefits, the law requires the state to pay all necessary medical and hospital expenses resulting from the injury. In addition, if the employee is totally incapacitated due to the injury, the law requires that he or she receive 100% of their salary at the time of the injury, plus normal salary increases, for up to five years. If the employee is still totally disabled after five years, the benefit generally drops to 50% of their salary for as long as the employee remains totally disabled (State Police officers can receive 65% if they agree to forego other disability retirement and workers' compensation benefits). All other provisions of the workers' compensation law are also available to the employee, as long as they are consistent with this law's provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 223 & 268 — FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA TAX CREDIT

Extends, to the 2026 and 2027 income years, the increased redemption rate for film and digital media tax credits claimed against the sales tax

Existing law allows eligible production companies and certain taxpayers to whom they transfer credits (transferees) to apply film and digital media production tax credits against the sales and use tax at a reduced amount of their face value. The law temporarily increased this amount from 78% to 92% of the credits' value for the 2024 and 2025 income years. The act extends this 92% redemption rate for two additional years, to the 2026 and 2027 income years. (Sections 223 and 268 contain identical provisions. PA 26-76, § 81, repeals § 223).

As under existing law, transferees may claim these credits against the sales and use tax only if there is at least 50% common ownership between the transferee and the eligible production company that sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred the credits. The credits may also be claimed against the corporation business and insurance premiums taxes at full face value and the community antenna television systems tax at a reduced value.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 224 & 225 — LOCAL OPTION HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Allows municipalities to provide a \$50,000 property tax exemption for taxpayers' primary residences that are single-family homes or units in common interest communities or condominiums

The act allows municipalities to adopt a partial property tax exemption for certain primary residences. It requires municipalities that adopt this new exemption to reduce, by \$50,000, the assessed (taxable) value of these single-family homes, common interest community units, and condominiums that are owned by, or held in trust for, one or more eligible taxpayers.

To adopt the new exemption under the act, a municipality's legislative body (or board of selectmen if the body is a town meeting) must vote in favor of it. The municipality may limit eligibility to taxpayers who meet length-of-residency requirements it sets.

To be eligible for this exemption, taxpayers must annually file a form with their assessors declaring that (1) the dwelling is their primary residence, (2) they have no other primary residence, and (3) they have not claimed the exemption for any other residence that year. Taxpayers who do not file this form by November 1 are ineligible for the exemption that assessment year. The act requires OPM to create the form and post it on its website. It allows OPM to require any documents needed to verify information in taxpayers' declaration forms.

Existing law allows municipalities to provide an exemption for certain owner-occupied primary residences. Under it, municipalities may exempt between 5% and 35% of an eligible property's assessed value. The act prohibits municipalities from providing this exemption and the new exemption in the same assessment year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, and applicable to assessment years starting on or after October 1, 2027.

§§ 226-246 — HEALTH CARE FACILITY CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROGRAM

Starting in July 2027, replaces the health care facility CON program with a new CON program within DPH, with final decision-making authority vested in a panel of the DPH and DSS commissioners and OPM secretary or their designees; in doing so, makes several changes compared to the existing process, such as eliminating required CON approval for service terminations and creating a separate process to oversee certain hospital service line pauses or terminations

Existing law requires certain health care facilities to apply for and receive certificate of need (CON) approval when proposing to (1) establish a new facility or provide new services, (2) change ownership, (3) purchase or acquire certain equipment, or (4) terminate certain services. (Other provisions of this act transfer oversight of this existing CON program from the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to the Department of Public Health (DPH), as part of the overall elimination of OHS.)

Starting July 1, 2027, the act sunsets the existing CON program and replaces it with a new process overseen by a panel comprised of the DPH and social services (DSS) commissioners and OPM secretary or their designees. It creates a new CON program within DPH to support the review of CON applications and requires the panel to meet at least monthly to review and decide these applications.

The act's new process differs in various respects from the existing one. For example, it:

1. eliminates required CON approval for service terminations, and creates a separate process to oversee only hospital service line pauses or terminations;
2. makes other changes to when CON approval is required, including by modifying certain exemptions;
3. shortens the list of factors that must be considered in the CON review process;
4. generally requires a public hearing for all CON applications, instead of only a subset as under existing law, but allows the applicant to waive the hearing under certain conditions;
5. requires the panel to create an expedited CON review pathway for certain application categories or subcategories; and
6. expands the circumstances when a CON application for a hospital transfer is subject to a cost and market impact review.

Under the act, the existing CON program continues for applications submitted on or before June 30, 2027. That program is administered by the Health Systems Planning Unit, with the DPH commissioner (previously the OHS commissioner) having independent decision-making authority over CON decisions. For the existing program, the act extends from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2027, an existing CON exemption for increases in the licensed bed capacity for mental health facilities under certain situations.

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

CON Panel and DPH CON Program (§§ 227 & 228)

The act creates a three-person panel, placed within DPH for administrative purposes only, to make final decisions on CON-related determinations under the new process. The panel consists of the DPH and DSS commissioners and OPM secretary or their designees. The DPH commissioner or her designee serves as the panel's chairperson.

Specifically, the panel must make final decisions and rulings on the following (under the act, except where noted):

1. CON applications submitted on or after July 1, 2027;
2. civil penalties and cease and desist orders imposed on or after that date;
3. approvals of policies and procedures effective on and after that date;
4. hospital plans for continued access to care during service terminations on and after that date; and
5. nonprofit hospital sales under existing law's procedures (see *Background — Nonprofit Hospital Sales*).

Starting July 1, 2027, the panel generally must meet monthly to review and decide CON applications that were submitted to the panel at least five days before the meeting. The panel chairperson may call special meetings at other times to review and decide CON applications or any other matter appropriate for panel review under the act. The panel may cancel a monthly meeting if no applications (or other business) have been appropriately submitted to it with at least five days' notice before the scheduled meeting.

The act also creates a CON program within DPH to support the review of CON applications. The DPH commissioner must designate a director to oversee the program. Under the act, starting July 1, 2027:

1. anyone applying for a CON must file the application with DPH's CON program,
2. the program must prepare a report on the application, and
3. the program must make all determinations as to whether a CON is required (subject to the panel's final decision).

The program must also monitor compliance with the act's new CON process and with any panel-issued order or decision, including any associated panel-imposed conditions. In any enforcement action under the act (see below), the program must present the allegations at the panel's public hearing.

The provisions described below apply on and after July 1, 2027, or to CON applications filed on or after that date, as applicable.

CON Requirement and Exemptions (§§ 229, 239 & 243)

The following table compares the activities requiring CON approval under the existing program and the act's new process.

Activities Requiring CON Approval

<i>Existing Law</i>	<i>Act's New Process</i>
Establishment of a new "health care facility" (see below)	Same as existing law

Existing Law	Act's New Process
Transfer of ownership of a health care facility	"Change of ownership or control" of a health care facility (see below)
Transfer of ownership of a large group practice (eight or more physicians) to any entity other than a (1) physician or (2) physician group meeting certain requirements (for example, not affiliated with a hospital)	<p>Change of ownership or control of a large group practice (with the same exceptions)</p> <p>(The act does not carry forward an existing provision that creates a presumption in favor of approving a CON for group practice ownership transfers when the offer was made in response to a voluntary offer for sale)</p> <p>See below for required notice of certain other large group practice transactions</p>
Establishment of a freestanding emergency department	Same as existing law (under act's definition of "health care facility")
Establishment of an outpatient surgical facility	Same as existing law (under act's definition of "health care facility")
Establishment of cardiac services, including inpatient and outpatient cardiac catheterization, interventional cardiology, and cardiovascular surgery	Same as existing law
Acquisition of CT, MRI, PET, or PET-CT scanners, except for replacement under specified conditions	Same as existing law
Acquisition of non-hospital based linear accelerators, except for replacements under specified conditions	Same as existing law (but the act does not carry forward a related notification requirement about replacements)
Increase in a facility's licensed bed capacity, except for certain mental health facilities	<p>Same as existing law, other than the exception (see below)</p> <p>See below for related DPH reporting requirement</p>
Acquisition of equipment using technology that is new to the state	Same as existing law
Increase of two or more operating rooms within a three-year period by an outpatient surgical facility or short-term acute care general hospital	Same as existing law
<p>Termination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hospital inpatient or outpatient services certain outpatient surgical services by outpatient surgical facilities or certain hospitals a short-term acute care hospital's emergency department inpatient or outpatient services offered by state-operated facilities that provide services eligible for Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement 	Not required, but the act creates a new review process for certain hospital service pauses or terminations (see below)

Existing Law	Act's New Process
Under this law, a termination is the combined stop to a service for more than 180 days over a two-year period	

The act's list of exemptions from CON requirements under the new process is generally similar to the existing process. For example, the exemptions include, among several others, (1) nursing homes and certain other long-term care facilities (they are subject to a separate DSS CON process), (2) free clinics, and (3) school-based health centers.

The act adds new exemptions for:

1. a state-operated or nonprofit facility, institution, or provider solely providing behavioral health or substance use disorder treatment services and
2. an association between a group practice and management service organization (MSO) in which the MSO is paid fair market value through a contract rather than being paid through profit or revenue sharing.

The act differs from existing law in some other respects, including the following:

1. specifying that the exemption for Department of Children and Families (DCF)-funded programs only applies if DCF exclusively funds them (as under existing law, psychiatric residential treatment facilities are not exempt);
2. not carrying forward an existing exemption for certain nonprofits that contract with, or are certified or licensed to provide a service for, a state agency for services otherwise requiring CON approval; and
3. not carrying forward an existing exemption for increases in the licensed bed capacity of mental health facilities that meet specified criteria (the act extends the exemption under the existing CON program by one year).

Also, under existing law, a facility seeking to relocate must first show that doing so will not substantially change the population served or the payer mix. If the facility cannot show this, then it must get CON approval. The act instead creates a specific CON exemption for a health care facility's relocation within the same town or within 10 miles of the existing location, as long as the move does not substantially change the facility's patient population or payer mix.

Additionally, the act requires the DPH commissioner, by January 1, 2028, to report to the governor and Public Health Committee any recommendations regarding a CON exemption for temporary increases in a hospital's licensed bed capacity due to an admissions surge that cannot be met by the hospital's existing licensed bed capacity.

"Health Care Facilities" Definition. Under the existing CON law, "health care facilities" are hospitals; specialty hospitals; freestanding emergency departments; outpatient surgical facilities; state-operated facilities that provide services eligible for Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement; central service facilities; mental health facilities; substance abuse treatment facilities; any other facilities requiring a CON; and any of these facilities' parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, or joint ventures, or any combination of them.

The act specifies that the term includes hospitals' satellite locations.

It also includes within the term outpatient surgical facilities that are established by acute-care hospitals, in addition to those that are independently licensed as under existing law. (While existing law does not include the former in the "health care facility" definition, it requires CON approval to establish either type of outpatient surgical facility.)

"Change of Ownership or Control" Definition. For the existing CON program, ownership transfers requiring CON approval are those transfers that impact or change the facility's (or other applicable group practice's) governance or controlling body, including all affiliations, mergers, or any sale or transfer of the facility's net assets.

The act instead requires CON approval for a "change of ownership or control" of a health care facility or certain group practices (see above). This is any change in the entity's ownership, beneficial ownership, or control, specifically including:

1. a corporate merger;
2. an acquisition, by direct or indirect purchase in any way, of at least 25% of a health care entity's assets, equity, or voting shares;
3. a transfer of control of the entity's board or governing body; or
4. a real estate sale or lease of at least 20% of a hospital's assets.

CON Determination Letter. Similar to existing law, under the act, anyone who is unsure whether a CON is required must send a letter to the CON program describing the proposal and asking the program to determine if a CON is required. The person or facility making the request must give the program any information it needs to determine this. The program must make its decision within 30 days after getting the request.

Notice of Certain Large Group Practice Transactions. Starting July 1, 2027, if anyone acquires ownership or control of a large group practice and CON approval is not required (because the buyer is a physician or physician group meeting certain criteria), the acquiring person or entity must notify the CON program about the transaction in a way set by the DPH commissioner.

Generally, at least 30 days before the transaction's closing, the acquiring person or entity must submit a notice with certain information about the group practice, and (unless otherwise prohibited by law) the CON program must post this information on its website. If 30 days' prior notice is not practicable due to circumstances beyond the acquiring person's or entity's control, they must give the notice as soon as practicable, but no later than 14 days after the transaction closes.

The notice must include the following:

1. the names and medical specialties of the group's physicians;
2. the names of the businesses providing clinical or managerial services as part of the group practice;
3. the address for the locations where the practice provides clinical services and a description of these services for each location;
4. the zip codes of the primary service area served by each of these locations; and
5. the resulting name, ownership, and business type of the group practice after the proposed change of ownership, control, or affiliation, including the name and business type of any person or entity that will directly or indirectly control at least 10% of the practice.

Also, the act requires the acquiring person or entity, within 30 days after the transaction is closed (or abandoned), to report the date it occurred.

Review Factors and Consultants (§§ 230, 240 & 241)

The act requires the panel, in any deliberation on a CON application, to determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether the application shows that the proposal is in the public's interest. In doing so, the panel must consider certain factors, consistent with any relevant DPH regulations, policies, or procedures. Specifically, the panel must consider whether the proposal:

1. promotes delivery of high-quality and cost-effective care in the applicant's primary service area;
2. promotes health care services access, including Medicaid access, in that area;
3. promotes the health care system's financial stability, including whether the proposal is financially feasible for the applicant and whether there is any evidence of the applicant's prior financial mismanagement or misconduct;
4. meets a clear public need (for the proposal and services provided under it); and
5. would result in an unnecessary duplication of services.

Existing law requires consideration of a longer list of factors, including similar matters as under the act and other factors such as (1) the applicant's past and proposed provision of health care services to relevant populations and payer mix and (2) whether the applicant has shown that the proposal will not negatively impact provider diversity and patient choice in the region. Existing law, unlike the act, also requires additional factors to be considered in deliberations for hospital ownership transfers.

Generally similar to existing law, the act allows the panel and the CON program to engage a third-party consultant to help in this analysis. But they may do so only if the CON program director, in his or her sole discretion, determines that there is a need for an expert with specialized knowledge. As under existing law, the consultant must submit the bills for its services directly to the applicant, who must pay within 30 days after receiving them. The act sets a \$100,000 limit on these bills per application.

Under the act, before retaining a consultant, the program must notify the applicant and give them the opportunity to withdraw the application before incurring any consulting fees. The act prohibits the panel and program from retaining a consultant for an application under the expedited review process (see below) unless the application is referred for a full review.

Starting by July 1, 2028, the DPH commissioner must annually report to the governor and Public Health Committee on consultants engaged under this process, including (1) the number, (2) the categories of CON proposals for which they were engaged, (3) the amount spent for each engagement, (4) the type of expertise sought, and (5) any reports they produced.

Application Process (§§ 231 & 241)

The act requires CON applicants under the new process to submit applications to DPH's CON program in a way the commissioner sets. The applications must (1) include all information required under DPH regulations, policies, and procedures (see below) and (2) be submitted based on monthly deadlines, including submission dates on the 15th of each month. As under existing law, applicants must submit a nonrefundable application fee ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000, based on the project's costs.

Notice Posting and Determination of Application's Completeness. Under the act, within 21 days before the CON application deadline, the applicant must give the CON program a notice for posting on the program's website. The notice must (1) identify the applicant, any known parties to the application, and the proposal's address and (2) briefly describe the

proposal in plain language, including a reference to the act's provision requiring CON approval. If the applicant does not submit the application within 90 days after submitting this notice, the applicant must submit a new notice before applying.

Within 15 days after the application deadline, the program must notify the applicant whether the application is deemed complete. To be deemed complete, the applicant must have submitted relevant responses to all of the application's questions and data requests. Within five days after deeming an application incomplete, the program must give the applicant written notice about any application or data elements that were inadequately addressed. The program must not review the application until the applicant resubmits it, with the missing elements, in a subsequent application period. When submitting a revised application, no additional filing fee is required unless the proposal's total cost differs from the previous projected costs, in which case the applicant must submit the net difference in fees.

The act's notice and application process differs in several respects from the existing process. Among other things, existing law requires the applicant to also post a notice in the newspaper and at least two community locations.

Request for Party or Intervenor Status. Under the act, someone wishing to request party or intervenor status in connection with a CON application must file a notice with the program within 20 days after the CON applicant's notice was posted on the program's website. The proposed party's or intervenor's notice must indicate whether they seek a hearing on the application. Someone who files this notice (or shows good cause for failing to do so) may file a petition for party or intervenor status up to 21 days after the CON applicant files the application.

After someone files a petition for party or intervenor status, the (1) panel must appoint a hearing officer to decide the matter, (2) applicant has five days to object, and (3) hearing officer must issue a decision within 15 days. If the hearing officer grants a request to intervene, the decision must set the scope of the approval, including whether the (1) intervenor's hearing request is granted or (2) intervention is limited to submitting written materials.

Program Report and Requests for Additional Information. Under the act, the CON program must submit a report to the record summarizing the application and analyzing each of the required review factors (see above). The program must do so at least 10 days before any public hearing and no later than 90 days after the application was deemed complete.

The act allows the program to request additional information from the applicant while analyzing the application. These requests must not delay review timelines unless mutually agreed to by the applicant and program. Unless otherwise prohibited by law, all additional information becomes part of the public CON record.

The act also allows the program to supplement the record with relevant data, analyses, reports, or other similar evidence within 75 days after the application is deemed complete. The applicant has 10 days to submit a written response to this evidence, and those responses must be included in the record.

Public Hearings and Proposed Decisions. With certain exceptions, existing law requires a hearing on CON applications only if requested by a specified number of people. By contrast, under the act, the panel, or a hearing officer the panel designates, generally must hold a public hearing on any application within 90 days after the program deems it as properly filed and complete.

But the applicant may waive the right to a hearing if the applicant is the only party and no one has been granted intervenor status. The applicant must do so in writing within 30 days after the application is deemed complete. Applicants that waive a hearing also waive their right to appeal.

Under the act, the hearing record closes no later than 10 days after the hearing adjourns, unless the applicant and program both agree to keep the record open for a period. Any hearing transcript becomes part of the record without needing to reopen it. If a hearing is not held, the record closes 10 days after the program's report is submitted.

The act allows the panel to appoint a hearing officer to administer any hearing under these provisions and to draft a proposed final decision (even when no hearing was held) consistent with the act and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.

If a hearing officer was appointed, he or she must send the program report, the hearing record (if any), and his or her proposed final decision to the panel for its consideration at the next monthly meeting. The hearing officer must do so within 60 days after the hearing record is closed (or 150 days after the application was deemed complete, if the applicant waives the hearing). If there was no appointed hearing officer and no hearing, the program director must prepare and submit the proposed final decision. If the hearing officer's or director's proposed decision recommends conditions, the hearing officer or director, as applicable, must meet with the applicant to preview the proposed conditions (unless the law otherwise prohibits this) at least five days before sending the proposed decision.

The act allows applicants, within 14 days after a proposed final decision is published, to file written briefs or exceptions and request oral argument.

Panel Meeting and Decision. Under the act, when the panel holds a meeting to review CON applications, it must vote on each application that was submitted to it at least five days earlier. The panel must make its decisions by majority vote and may:

1. approve the application with or without conditions,
2. deny it,

3. send it back to the hearing officer to further develop the record for presentation at the next meeting (this may occur no more than twice unless the panel and applicant both agree), or
4. order the program and applicant to engage in agreed settlement negotiations.

Under the act, any proposed final decision that the panel votes to approve is automatically converted to a final decision. If the panel votes to modify a proposed final decision, it must be modified as the panel directs and posted as a final decision no later than 30 days after the vote. Unless otherwise prohibited by law, at least five days before the modified final decision is posted, the program or hearing officer must meet with the applicant to preview the conditions to be finalized.

If the docket is referred for settlement negotiations, the negotiated proposed settlement must be presented at the next panel meeting. The panel must vote on the proposed settlement and may approve it or reject it and choose another available option (such as sending it back to the hearing officer).

The act specifies that it does not prevent the program and an applicant from engaging in negotiations to reach an agreed settlement earlier in the process, starting 30 days after the application is deemed complete. Any negotiated agreement must be presented for review and a vote at the next panel meeting that is at least five days after the settlement's date.

The act allows the CON program to recommend, and the panel to impose, any conditions on a CON approval that are consistent with the act's purposes. Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the program or hearing officer must meet with the applicant at least five days before issuing a proposed final decision or final decision imposing conditions, to preview them. The applicant and any party to the application may request an amendment or relief from any condition due to changed circumstances, hardship, or other good cause. The panel may grant or deny the request, and its decision is not subject to appeal.

Under the act, if there was a hearing on the application (including in cases where the panel remanded the matter to further develop the record), any final decision is subject to appeal to Superior Court.

Deadline Extension. The act specifies that the CON program and applicant may agree to extend any of these deadlines.

Expedited Review Pathway (§ 232)

The act requires the panel, by January 1, 2028, to create an expedited review pathway for certain CON application categories or subcategories. This applies to:

1. the relocation of a health care facility more than 10 miles from its current location and outside its current town;
2. an increase in inpatient or outpatient hospital beds;
3. the acquisition of CT, MRI, PET, or PET-CT scanners by any person, physician, provider, short-term acute care general hospital, or children's hospital (when CON approval is required for these acquisitions);
4. an increase of two or three operating rooms within a three-year period by an outpatient surgical facility or short-term acute care general hospital; and
5. any other category the DPH commissioner designates in regulations.

Applicants may request expedited review starting January 1, 2028, and must submit their CON applications under the same deadlines, application fee, and notice of intent requirements as described above for the standard pathway. Applications under the expedited pathway are not entitled to a hearing before a hearing officer, except the (1) program may hold a hearing before an appointed hearing officer no later than 30 days after deeming the application complete, without affecting other timelines, or (2) panel may transfer the application from the expedited pathway to the standard pathway described above.

Within 15 days after an expedited review is submitted, the program must notify the applicant whether the application is deemed complete and whether it qualifies for expedited review.

If the program deems an application incomplete, within five days it must give the applicant written notice about which elements of the submitted application or data were inadequate. The program must not review the application until the applicant resubmits it, with the missing elements, in a subsequent application period.

If the program deems the application complete but ineligible for expedited review, it must review the application under the act's standard process. On the other hand, if the program deems the application eligible for expedited review, it must complete its analysis, and the director must issue a proposed final decision, within 60 days after that determination and present the application to the panel at its next meeting.

Request for Party or Intervenor Status. As with the standard pathway, the act allows anyone to seek intervenor or party status for expedited applications, but under a streamlined process. The person must file the request within 14 days after the CON application was filed.

After someone makes such a request, the (1) panel must appoint a hearing officer to review the matter, (2) applicant has five days to respond, and (3) hearing officer must make a decision within five days.

If the hearing officer grants the request, the application must be removed from the expedited pathway and processed through the standard one (and the referral date to the standard pathway is considered to be the date the application was

deemed complete). In making the decision, the hearing officer must consider the unique nature of the expedited process and potential burden of allowing intervention.

Panel Decision. The act allows applicants under the expedited process to file written briefs or exceptions and request oral argument on the proposed final decision, no later than seven days after it is published. The program must submit to the panel the proposed final decision and any of the applicant's subsequent submissions.

Under the act, the panel must vote on an expedited application and approve it (with or without conditions), deny it, remand it to the program to further develop the record for the next panel meeting, remand it to further develop the record under the standard process, or order the program and applicant to engage in agreed settlement negotiations. The panel must base its decision on the same standards and guidelines that apply to the standard pathway.

The act applies to expedited approvals similar provisions as under the standard process on (1) the automatic conversion of approved proposed final decisions to final decisions, (2) panel decisions that are voted to be modified, (3) dockets remanded for further development of the record or referred for settlement negotiations, (4) settlement negotiations earlier in the process, (5) the panel's authority to set conditions on its approval, and (6) the applicant's or party's ability to request an amendment or relief from any condition. (In a few cases, the deadlines under the expedited process are shorter.)

Additionally, for any docket remanded for processing under the standard process, the date of the panel's vote is the date the application is considered to be deemed complete under the standard process.

(Under existing law, there is no general expedited CON pathway, but there is a separate emergency CON process for bankruptcy-related hospital ownership transfers.)

Deadline Extension. As under the standard process, the program and applicant may agree to extend any of these deadlines.

Reporting Requirement. The act requires the CON program, by July 1, 2029, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to report to the Public Health Committee on the expedited pathway, including (1) the average time from application submission to final decision, (2) the number of applications processed through the expedited process compared to the standard process, (3) the number of applications filed under the expedited pathway that were transferred to the standard pathway and the reasons why, and (4) any recommended changes to the expedited pathway.

Validity, Revocation, and Related Matters (§§ 233 & 242)

Generally mirroring existing law, under the act:

1. a CON is valid only for (a) the proposal described in the application and (b) two years from the date it is issued;
2. the CON holder must give the program any information it requests about the proposal's development during these two years and for 30 days after it expires;
3. if the CON holder asks, the program may extend the CON's duration as it deems necessary, subject to a public comment period (unlike existing law, the act does not require a public hearing on these requests if a certain number of people ask for it);
4. the program may withdraw, revoke, or rescind the CON, under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, if it determines that the (a) project has not substantially begun during a valid CON period or (b) CON holder has not made a good-faith effort to complete the proposal as approved; and
5. a CON is not transferable or assignable and the project cannot be transferred to someone else.

Cost and Market Impact Review (§§ 234 & 245)

Under a generally similar process as existing law, the act requires the CON program to conduct a Cost and Market Impact Review (CMIR) of certain CON applications that propose to transfer a hospital's ownership or control, to examine the businesses and relative market positions of the transacting parties. The act's requirement also applies to notice of material change filings (see *Background — Notice of Material Change*) with the attorney general's office for these same transfers.

In either case, the act's requirement applies to hospital ownership transfers when the purchaser is (1) an in- or out-of-state hospital or a hospital system that had net patient revenue exceeding \$1 billion for FY 25 or (2) organized or operated for profit. (The revenue threshold under the existing program is set at \$1.5 billion from FY 13.)

Similar to existing law, the act requires the CON program to hire an independent consultant to conduct the review at the purchaser's expense. The maximum bills per application are \$250,000 under the act compared to \$200,000 under the existing program.

The act requires the program to develop a set of data requests for these CMIRs. The applicant must submit all necessary CMIR data when the applicant begins the CON application process or submits its material change notice, whichever is

earlier. The program must review the data submission for completeness within 30 days and notify the applicant about any missing elements.

Under the act, the CON program must submit a preliminary CMIR report to the applicant and the attorney general within 90 days after the data submissions are complete. The applicant then has 15 days to respond in writing. After the applicant responds (or waives the opportunity to do so), the program must make the preliminary report and the applicant's comments public. Within 120 days after the CON application was deemed complete, the program must issue a final CMIR report and make it part of the public CON record for that application.

In several respects, the act's CMIR provisions mirror those under existing law. These include provisions on the:

1. confidentiality of submitted nonpublic information and limited exceptions to it;
2. factors that may be examined in the review, such as the parties' size and market share, prices for services, and service quality;
3. attorney general's authority, after the final CMIR report is issued, to investigate certain matters (for example, possible antitrust violations) and take related actions; and
4. required stay of the proposed transfer for a 30-day period after the CMIR final report is issued or while a court case brought by the attorney general is pending.

Investigations and Enforcement (§§ 235 & 246)

The act requires the CON program's director to investigate all inquiries about compliance with the act's new CON process. It gives the panel similar enforcement authority as the administering agency has under existing law to investigate alleged CON violations. For example, it allows the panel, or its authorized agent, to (1) administer oaths and take testimony under oath relating to the matter under investigation and (2) subpoena witnesses or require the production of documents or other materials, subject to judicial enforcement.

Similar to existing law, it sets a civil penalty (through proceedings brought by the CON program) for any person or health care facility or institution that negligently (1) undertakes an activity without a required CON approval or (2) fails to comply with a CON decision's terms or conditions or a panel-approved agreed settlement. It also sets this penalty for any person or entity that negligently fails to submit a required notice about (1) changes in ownership or control of a large group practice that is not subject to CON approval or (2) a hospital's pause for more than 90 days or indefinite termination of a service line. As under existing law, the maximum penalty is \$1,000 per day. The CON program must present allegations of this negligence at a hearing before the panel.

The act generally mirrors existing procedures (and related deadlines) for these penalties, such as prior notice, the right to a hearing, and the right to appeal. It similarly mirrors an existing provision that makes failing to pay the penalty after the final assessment grounds for deducting Medicaid payments.

The act's provisions on cease and desist orders are also similar to those in existing law, by allowing the CON program to pursue this remedy when the director (or his or her agent) has received information or reasonably believes that someone has or is violating the act's new CON procedures or requirements. The act includes prior notice, hearing, and appeal provisions that are similar to existing law, with the panel holding the hearings and issuing the order.

The act allows any civil penalty proceeding and investigation or cease and desist proceeding to be held together in one proceeding.

Regulations and Policies and Procedures (§ 236)

The act requires the DPH commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the new CON process. It also allows her to implement policies and procedures while adopting the regulations, as long as she first convenes a working group by January 1, 2027, with relevant stakeholders to give input. The policies and procedures are valid for a maximum of two years or until the regulations are adopted, whichever is earlier.

Hospital Service Pauses or Terminations (§§ 237 & 244)

Under existing law, in addition to required CON approval for certain service terminations (see above), health care facilities must give 60 days' notice of other service terminations, with the specific procedures differing based on whether the service originally needed CON approval.

By contrast, the act's new process generally addresses service terminations only by hospitals and does not set related notification requirements for other facilities. It allows a hospital to temporarily pause a service for up to 90 days. If a hospital intends to pause a service line for longer than that or to indefinitely terminate a service line, it must generally notify the CON program at least 90 days in advance. If 90 days' notice is not practicable due to circumstances beyond the hospital's

control (such as a provider's death), the hospital must give notice as soon as practicable but no later than 14 days after. Under the act, a "service line" is a category of inpatient or outpatient service, except for emergency department services.

The notice may be in writing or electronic, and must include:

1. a description of the service to be paused or terminated;
2. its current and historical utilization rates;
3. the anticipated impact of the pause or termination on people and health care facilities in the hospital's primary service area;
4. the date set for the pause or termination and, if applicable, the anticipated date to resume the service;
5. a detailed account of any community engagement and planning that has been done or that is scheduled to take place before the pause or termination; and
6. any other information the director requires.

The hospital must also send a copy of the notice to (1) the attorney general's office, DSS, and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, and (2) if it relates to a behavioral health or substance use disorder treatment service, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Behavioral Health Advocate.

Under the act, the program must hold a public hearing on the proposed pause or termination, the impact on the hospital's primary service area, and the proposed plan for ensuring continued access to high-quality affordable health care in that area. The hearing record and any submitted public comments must inform the panel's review of the proposal plan and any imposed conditions (see below).

Plan for Continued Access. The act requires a hospital, generally at least 60 days before the pause or termination, to submit a plan for ensuring access to the service afterwards. If the service ended due to an unplanned event outside of the hospital's control, the hospital must submit the plan within 14 days after the pause or termination. The plan must include:

1. information on service utilization before the proposed pause or termination;
2. information on the location and service capacity of alternative sites that provide the service and travel times to them;
3. an assessment of transportation needs after the pause or termination and a plan to meet them;
4. a protocol that details ways to maintain continuity of care for patients and describes how patients in the hospital's primary service area will get the service at other sites; and
5. a communication plan to ensure that all affected patients in that area are aware of the pause or termination, where else they may get the service, and the hospital's available help to get it.

Under the act, the CON program must review the hospital's plan to determine if it ensures continued access to the service. Within 10 days after receiving the plan, the program must review it and give the hospital and panel written recommendations to approve the plan, modify it, or impose conditions on it.

The panel then must hold a meeting on the plan within 10 days. The hospital may submit a response to the recommendations at or before the meeting. Within 10 days after the meeting, the panel must make its decision to approve, modify, or add conditions to the plan. A decision approving or modifying a plan is a final decision subject to appeal to Superior Court.

The CON program must monitor the plan's implementation. If the hospital fails to implement any aspect of the approved plan, the program may impose a performance improvement plan. The hospital may be subject to civil penalties (see above) for failure to comply with the performance improvement plan and continued failure to perform under the plan.

Background — Nonprofit Hospital Sales

A nonprofit hospital needs approval from DPH (previously the Office of Health Strategy) and the attorney general before entering into an agreement to transfer a material amount of its assets or operations or change control of its operations to a for-profit purchaser. Among other things, the hospital and purchaser must submit a CON determination letter as part of this process (CGS § 19a-486 (as amended by § 92 of this act) et seq.).

Background — Notice of Material Change

Existing law requires prior notice to the attorney general before parties may complete a transaction resulting in (1) a material change to a physician group practice's business or corporate structure or (2) an affiliation between one hospital or hospital system and another, so the attorney general can review the transaction under the antitrust laws (CGS § 19a-486i).

§ 247 — WORKER RETENTION

Permits terminated contractors to take disciplinary actions against an employee under certain circumstances

PA 26-12, §§ 9 & 10, generally requires entities that take over certain service contracts at covered locations, contract out services, or receive property in a sale or transfer to retain the terminated contractor's employees for at least 90 days. This act eliminates a provision of PA 26-12 that exempts successor employers from having to retain employees whose attendance and performance records, while working for the terminated contractor, would cause a reasonably prudent employer to terminate the employee.

Instead, this act specifies that terminated contractors can take disciplinary action against an employee, such as termination, if the employee's attendance or performance records, while working under the terminated contractor, would lead a reasonably prudent employer to take similar disciplinary action. These actions must be consistent with state law or an employee's collective bargaining agreement and occur before the (1) start of the successor service contract or (2) successor employer gets control of the site or sites covered by the contract to sell or transfer property.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027

§ 248 — HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ACCOUNT REPORTS

Requires DSS to annually report on hospital supplemental payment account deposits and the use of the account's funds

The act requires the DSS commissioner, starting by January 1, 2027, to annually report to the Appropriations and Public Health committees on the collection of funds for deposit into the hospital supplemental payment account and how the account's funds were used during the prior calendar year. (PA 26-76, § 33, requires the reports to also be sent to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.)

The hospital supplemental payment account, created under § 359 of this act, must be used by DSS to make Medicaid supplemental payments to hospitals, hospital-affiliated medical groups, and faculty practice plans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 249 — PAYROLL TAX WORKING GROUP

Creates a working group to study and make recommendations on establishing a payroll tax program

Study's Scope

The act creates a 14-member working group to study and make recommendations on establishing a payroll tax program for employees in Connecticut. The study must at least examine the following:

1. considerations for making the program mandatory or optional, including (a) whether it should be mandatory or optional for both employers and employees or either of them, (b) the role of union negotiations in determining program participation, and (c) the feasibility of allowing employees who have opted in to then opt out;
2. payroll tax rates and tax credits for different wage levels;
3. statutory wage reductions for participants;
4. ways to mitigate lower Social Security benefits caused by participating, such as (a) paying a state-administered retirement or income benefit for participants and (b) retirement account contributions paid by the employees or employers on the employees' behalf;
5. ways to mitigate any reductions in employer-provided retirement benefits caused from having a lower reported salary, such as adjusting pension calculations and employer retirement account contributions;
6. administrative requirements for the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) and participating employers; and
7. the program's financial impact on state revenue, employee net wages, and employer payroll expenses, if program participation is mandatory for both employees and employers.

Membership and Appointments

The working group's membership includes (1) the DRS commissioner, Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, state treasurer, and Finance, Revenue and Bonding chairpersons, or any of their designees, and (2) a representative of the governor's office.

The remaining eight members must be appointed by the six legislative leaders as shown in the table below.

Appointing Authorities and Required Qualification

Appointing Authority	Qualification
Senate president pro tempore (2 members)	One must be a labor organization representative and the other must be the group's co-chairperson
House speaker (2 members)	One must be an executive from a payroll services company doing business in Connecticut and the other must be the group's co-chairperson
Senate majority leader	An attorney with experience in legal issues related to pensions in Connecticut
House majority leader	An attorney with experience in Connecticut tax law
Senate minority leader	A payroll administrator from a Connecticut employer with more than 100 employees
House minority leader	A representative from a statewide business association in Connecticut

Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments by June 25, 2026, and fill any vacancies. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the first meeting by July 25, 2026.

Staffing and Assistance

The Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee's administrative staff must serve as the working group's administrative staff. The Office of Legislative Research and the Office of Fiscal Analysis must help the group do related research and calculate the program's development and implementation costs, respectively.

Reporting

The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee by January 1, 2027. It ends on that date or the date it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 250 & 251 — INNOCENCE PROJECT REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT

Creates the “innocence project revolving loan account” for the judicial branch to use to issue loans to claimants who may qualify for wrongful incarceration compensation from the state

The act creates the “innocence project revolving loan account” to be used by the judicial branch to give loans to people who (1) may qualify for wrongful incarceration compensation from the state and (2) have submitted such a claim against the state to the claims commissioner. (PA 26-76, §§ 61 & 62, renames this account the “CT innocence fund revolving loan account.”)

The act transfers a total of \$900,000 previously appropriated to the Judicial Department for legal aid to this account as follows:

1. \$400,000 of the amount appropriated for FY 26 and
2. \$500,000 of the amount appropriated for FY 27.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 252 — SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDUM NOTIFICATIONS BY SCHOOLS

Explicitly authorizes school superintendents to give parents and legal guardians written notice about an upcoming referendum about the school district

State law generally prohibits spending government funds to send unsolicited electronic or automated communications about school budget referenda or to advocate for or against a referendum, except for certain notices. For example, it authorizes notice about specific information on an upcoming referendum by (1) using a community notification system or

(2) posting on municipal or regional school district websites. The notice may only include (1) the referendum's time and location; (2) a statement of the question as it will appear on the ballot; and (3) if applicable, the explanatory text or other material prepared and approved under state law. It may not advocate for or against the question or try to influence its success or defeat.

In addition to these, the act explicitly allows a school superintendent to issue written notice through the school district's schools to inform parents or legal guardians that a referendum about the district is coming up. The notice is subject to the same content requirements and advocacy restrictions described above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026 (but amended by PA 26-76, § 107, to take effect upon passage).

§ 253 — DELAY OF UNDERSIZED AND OVERSIZED LOBSTER SALES

Delays the effective date, from upon passage to July 1, 2027, of a provision in PA 26-12 that generally allows food service establishments and licensed seafood dealers, under certain conditions, to sell lobsters that do not meet existing size requirements

PA 26-12, § 64, generally allows, under certain conditions, (1) food service establishments to sell consumers lobsters that do not meet certain minimum and maximum length requirements and (2) licensed seafood dealers to sell these lobsters to food service establishments. This act delays that provision's effective date from upon passage to July 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 254 & 255 — REFUNDABLE SALES AND USE TAX CREDIT FOR PEOPLESBANK ARENA FACILITY MANAGER

Creates an up to \$10 million refundable sales and use tax credit for the PeoplesBank Arena's facility manager if it contracts with UConn to host a certain number (at least 20) UConn athletic events each academic year at the arena for an agreed upon period of time (almost 20 years)

Existing law allows the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) to enter into two separate agreements concerning the XL Center's (1) management and operation and (2) reconstruction and renovation. (The XL Center is now known as the PeoplesBank Arena and CRDA is currently contracted with Oak View Group to manage the facility.) The reconstruction and renovation agreement must provide that CRDA, the state, or both together, must contribute no more than \$125 million, and the contractor must contribute at least \$20 million toward the cost of any renovation or reconstruction occurring after January 1, 2023.

The act creates a refundable sales and use tax credit of up to \$10 million under which, generally, the PeoplesBank Arena's facility manager may qualify if it contracts with UConn to host a certain number and type of UConn athletic events each year at the arena for a period of time. The act specifies that the value of any credit claimed under the act does not count toward the reconstruction and renovation contributions required from CRDA, the state, or the contractor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Requirements to Qualify for the Credit

The act allows UConn to enter into a qualified agreement with a qualified operator to allow the operator to claim the act's credit. Under the act, "qualified operator" is the entity (or its affiliates) that executed the facility management agreement dated August 16, 2024, with CRDA concerning the management of the PeoplesBank Arena, including the adjoining parking garage owned by CRDA on Church Street in Hartford.

A "qualified agreement" is an agreement between the qualified operator and UConn in which the operator agrees to host, and UConn agrees to participate in, at least 20 UConn men's or women's intercollegiate basketball games or men's intercollegiate hockey games ("athletic events") each academic year at the PeoplesBank Arena for a term that starts by July 1, 2027, and ends not earlier than September 1, 2045. However, the minimum number of these athletic events may be reduced in an academic year with the unanimous consent of the qualified operator, UConn, CRDA, and the OPM secretary. An "academic year" under the act is the period of time beginning July 1 and ending on the next June 30.

The act requires any qualified agreement to include provisions:

1. requiring the qualified operator to repay a prorated portion of any credit it claims under the act if it fails to host 20 or more UConn athletic events at the PeoplesBank Arena during any academic year due to its breach of the agreement;
2. requiring any repayment attributable to future academic years to be accelerated to the current academic year,

proportionate to the number of missed UConn athletic events of the 20 required UConn athletic events for an academic year, if and when CRDA determines that the qualified operator breached the agreement and is unable or unwilling to host the minimum number of required events in future academic years; and

3. dividing net profit or loss between the qualified operator and UConn on an annual basis in a way that the operator is responsible for any net loss from the operation of the PeoplesBank Arena and UConn is entitled to a share of net profits from the operation of the PeoplesBank Arena according to a specific schedule.

Under the act, this schedule requires the qualified operator to pay UConn certain percentages of the first \$4 million of net profit, and of excess net profits, from the operation of the PeoplesBank Arena during each academic year the operator is eligible to claim the act's credit as set out in the table below. The act defines "net profit" as having the same meaning as provided in the facility management agreement and "excess net profits" is the remainder of net profits, on an annual basis, from operating PeoplesBank Arena that exceeds \$4 million.

Schedule of Net Profit Payments by the Qualified Operator

Academic Year	First \$4 Million of Net Profit	Excess Net Profits
First	10%	5%
Second	20%	10%
Third	30%	15%
Fourth	40%	20%
Fifth	50%	25%
Subsequent years	50%	25%

If, for academic years one to five, the qualified operator fails to receive the applicable credit on or before the first day of the academic year, the amount of net profit subject to the above percentages must be prorated to reflect the portion of the academic year occurring on and after the operator's receipt of the credit. For academic year six and for the remainder of the qualified agreement's term, the amount of net profit subject to the above percentages is prorated only if the operator fails to receive \$10 million dollars in aggregate credits.

The act requires any qualified agreement to be executed by December 31, 2026, but amendments can be executed after that date. The OPM secretary and CRDA must approve any agreement or amendment beforehand.

Claiming the Act's Credit

The act allows the qualified operator to claim the act's credit in the latter of (1) each of the first five academic years identified in the qualified agreement or (2) the academic year beginning July 1, 2027, and the four subsequent academic years. The amount of the credit allowable for each of the first five academic years must not exceed \$2 million for any academic year and the total amount of the credits cannot exceed \$10 million. The operator must claim the credit on its tax return due under the sales and use tax law for the monthly period ending July 31st during the academic year.

Under the act, the DRS commissioner may require confirmation or documentation from CRDA of the qualified operator's eligibility for the credit. If the operator must repay any portion of the credit, CRDA must issue a repayment voucher to it within 30 days after the end of the academic year in which the repayment obligation arises. CRDA must provide a copy of any repayment voucher to the DRS commissioner and the OPM secretary, along with any other information either requests.

If the qualified operator is required to repay any amount of the credit, it must be reported on the tax return due under the sales and use tax law for the first monthly period ending after CRDA issues a repayment voucher. This repayment is a final tax due to the state and is subject to collection according to state law.

If the amount of the credit allowed exceeds the qualified operator's liability for sales and use tax, the DRS commissioner must treat the excess as an overpayment and refund the excess amount, without interest, to the operator. The act's credit must be claimed after all other credits have been claimed.

§ 256 — VOLATILITY CAP THRESHOLD

Increases the volatility cap threshold for FY 26 by \$813.7 million, from \$4,728.6 million to \$5,542.3 million, and resets it for FY 27 at \$5,002.5 million

The act increases the volatility cap threshold for FY 26 by \$813.7 million, from \$4,728.6 million to \$5,542.3 million,

and resets it for FY 27 at \$5,002.5 million. For FY 28 and after, it requires the \$5,002.5 million threshold to be annually adjusted for inflation as under existing law (based on the compound annual growth rate of state personal income over the preceding five calendar years, using U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis data).

The “volatility cap” is a mechanism for diverting volatile tax revenue to the Budget Reserve Fund (BRF). It requires the state treasurer to transfer to the BRF any revenue the state receives each fiscal year over the applicable threshold from (1) personal income tax estimated and final payments (generated from taxpayers who make estimated income tax payments on a quarterly basis) and (2) the passthrough entity tax.

By law, the legislature may amend the threshold amount, by a vote of three-fifths of the members of each house, due to changes in state or federal tax law or policy or significant adjustments to economic growth or tax collections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 257 & 258 — TRANSFER OF FY 26 GENERAL FUND REVENUE TO FY 27

Modifies the amount of FY 26 General Fund resources the state comptroller must transfer to be accounted for as FY 27 General Fund revenue

The FY 26-27 biennial budget act required the state comptroller, by June 30, 2026, to transfer \$244 million of FY 26 General Fund resources to be accounted for as FY 27 General Fund revenue. This act (1) decreases this required transfer by \$130 million, to \$114 million and (2) requires an additional transfer of \$233.7 million.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 259 — GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO THE FEDERAL CUTS RESPONSE FUND

Transfers \$50 million of FY 26 General Fund resources to the Federal Cuts Response Fund

The act requires the state comptroller, by June 30, 2026, to transfer \$50 million of FY 26 General Fund resources to the Federal Cuts Response Fund for FY 26. (Section 490 correspondingly increases the FY 26 appropriation from the latter fund to OPM.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 260 — GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS TO THE MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING FUND

Decreases, by \$13.1 million for FY 26 and \$15 million for FY 27, the required transfers from the General Fund to the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund

The act reduces the required transfers from the General Fund to the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund by (1) \$13.1 million for FY 26, from \$101 million to \$87.9 million and (2) \$15 million for FY 27, from \$90 million to \$75 million.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 261 — HOUSING TRUST FUND TRANSFER

For FYs 26 and 27, suspends the requirement that the state comptroller transfer to the Housing Trust Fund conveyance tax revenue that exceeds \$300 million each fiscal year, annually adjusted for inflation

The act suspends, for FYs 26 and 27, the requirement that the state comptroller transfer to the Housing Trust Fund any conveyance tax revenue the state receives each fiscal year exceeding a threshold amount.

Prior law required the comptroller, starting in FY 26, to transfer from the General Fund to the Housing Trust Fund any conveyance tax revenue the state receives each fiscal year exceeding \$300 million. The threshold amount for this transfer must be adjusted annually for inflation beginning with FY 27.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 262 — EXPANSION OF SALES TAX FREE WEEK

Increases the exemption amount for “sales tax free week” from \$100 to \$300 and adds backpacks and cleated shoes to the list of items that can be bought tax-free during this week

The act expands the sales and use tax exemption for clothing and footwear sold from the third Sunday in August through the following Saturday (sales tax free week) to (1) items costing less than \$300, rather than \$100, and (2) backpacks and cleated shoes costing less than \$300.

By law, during this week, the state’s 6.35% sales and use tax does not apply to clothing and footwear costing less than the threshold amount, except for (1) special athletic and protective clothing and footwear not normally worn except for its specialized use and (2) jewelry, handbags, luggage, umbrellas, wallets, watches, and similar items that people carry but do not wear.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 263 — ICHRA TAX CREDIT

Establishes a tax credit for two income years against certain state business taxes for qualified small businesses (those with fewer than 50 employees) that offer employees an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement

The act establishes a tax credit for qualified small businesses that offer employees an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA, see *Background — ICHRA*). (PA 26-76, § 85, requires that the arrangement be offered through the state’s health insurance exchange, Access Health CT.) The credit may be claimed against the state insurance and health care center taxes, corporation business tax, or income tax (excluding withholdings generally).

To qualify, a small business (1) cannot employ more than 50 employees in the state when it applies for the tax credit and (2) must have adopted an ICHRA instead of a traditional employer-provided health insurance plan.

Credits

Under the act, the available credit is the lesser of (1) the sum of qualified contributions made by the qualified small business during the applicable income or taxable year or (2) \$1,000 per covered employee. A credit not used during the year it was earned expires and is not refundable. A “qualified contribution” is the amount the business contributed to an employee’s ICHRA during the applicable income or taxable year.

Credits are available only for two years: the first income or taxable year the business offers the ICHRA and the next one. The act caps the total amount of tax credits available under the act at \$5 million in any income or taxable year.

For qualified small businesses that are S corporations or partnerships for federal income tax purposes, their shareholders or partners may claim the credit. If the qualified small business is a single member limited liability company (LLC) that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the LLC’s owner may claim the credit.

Application

Under the act, a qualified small business must apply to the revenue services commissioner in a way he sets to reserve an allocation for the credit based upon qualified contributions the business plans to make. The application must show the qualified contributions the business intends to make in each year over the two-year period and anything else the commissioner needs to administer the credits.

Approval

The act requires the commissioner to approve applications on a first-come, first-served basis. He must notify the applicant about his decision in writing within 30 days after receiving the application.

Upon approval, the commissioner must issue a certification letter stating the amount of tax credit reserved for the qualified small business for each of the two years. A business may not claim a credit exceeding the amount the commissioner approved.

(PA 26-76, § 85, also requires the commissioner to give Access Health CT a copy of each certification letter and allows him to enter a memorandum of understanding with the exchange’s chief executive officer to facilitate the credit’s administration by sharing certain additional information.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, and applicable to income and taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Background — ICHRA

Established by federal rule in 2019, an ICHRA allows employers to reimburse employees for purchasing individual health coverage (for example, through the individual insurance exchange, Access Health CT).

§ 264 — CHANGES TO THE TAX ON CANNABIS SALES AND FUNDING FOR THE SOCIAL EQUITY AND INNOVATION ACCOUNT

Replaces the tax rates and bases on retail sales of cannabis plant material, cannabis edible products, and other cannabis with a single tax rate and base; increases the amount of cannabis tax revenue directed to the social equity and innovation account for FYs 27 and 28 and correspondingly decreases the amount directed to the General Fund

The act replaces the tax rates and bases on retail sales of cannabis plant material, cannabis edible products, and other cannabis (which were 0.625 cents, 2.75 cents, and 0.9 cents, respectively, per milligram of total THC reflected on its label) with a single tax rate of 10.75% based on a retailer's gross receipts from cannabis sales.

As under existing law, the tax applies to sales by a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer, or micro-cultivator. It does not apply to (1) sales of cannabis for palliative (medical) use; (2) sales of cannabis by a delivery service to a consumer; or (3) the transfer of cannabis to a transporter for transport to any other cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, dispensary facility, cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer, or producer.

Under existing law and the act, retailers and micro-cultivators must collect the tax from consumers at the time of sale (except for the exempt sales described above). The tax applies in addition to the 3% municipal cannabis tax and the 6.35% state general sales tax.

Relatedly, the act increases, from 65% to 70%, the amount of cannabis tax revenue directed to the social equity and innovation account for FYs 27 and 28 and correspondingly decreases the amount directed to the General Fund for those years, from 10% to 5%.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes, including deleting obsolete definitions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, and applicable to sales occurring on or after that date.

§§ 265 & 266 — CORPORATION BUSINESS TAX CHANGES

Decouples the state corporation business tax from the federal bonus depreciation deduction for qualified production property, starting with the 2026 income year; delays, by one year, conforming the state corporation business tax to recent changes in the federal deduction for domestic research and experimental expenditures and disallows the retroactive application of these changes for the 2022 to 2025 income years; generally exempts corporation business taxpayers from penalties and interest on any additional tax due to these changes

Qualified Production Property (§ 265)

Beginning with the 2026 income year, the act disallows the federal bonus depreciation deduction for qualified production property. In doing so, it requires taxpayers to add back this deduction when calculating their net income for Connecticut's corporation business tax. Existing law already disallows the federal bonus depreciation deduction that applies to other qualifying property (26 U.S.C. § 168(k)).

The federal FY 25 reconciliation act (P.L. 119-21) allows federal corporation income taxpayers to take a 100% bonus depreciation allowance for qualified production property, rather than depreciating the costs over 39 years (26 U.S.C. § 168(n)). Under this law, qualified production property is generally manufacturing-related real property, other than property used for offices, lodging, sales, research, software development, parking, and other non-manufacturing functions. To qualify for this tax treatment, the property must be built after January 19, 2025, and before January 1, 2029, and placed in service before January 1, 2031.

R&E Expenditures (§ 265)

Starting in 2025, P.L. 119-21 allows federal corporation income taxpayers to deduct domestic research and experimental (R&E) expenditures in the year paid or incurred, rather than requiring them to capitalize and amortize the expenses over five or, if elected, over 10 years. Under the act, this federal treatment of R&E expenditures flows through for Connecticut corporation business tax purposes beginning only in the 2026 income year. Specifically, the act disallows this deduction for Connecticut tax purposes for the 2025 income year and instead requires any R&E expenditures paid or

incurred for the 2022 through 2025 income years to be deducted as allowed under the federal law on amortizing R&E expenditures in effect on July 3, 2025 (before P.L. 119-21 took effect).

P.L. 119-21 also gives eligible small business taxpayers (generally those with average annual gross receipts below a specified threshold (\$31 million or less for 2025)) the option to retroactively apply this change starting with the 2022 tax year. For state corporation business tax purposes, the act disallows the retroactive application of this change starting with the 2022 tax year.

Relief From Penalties and Interest on Related Tax Underpayments (§ 266)

The act exempts corporation business taxpayers from interest on estimated tax underpayments for any additional tax due because of the changes described above. Specifically, the exemption applies to underpayments for (1) income years starting on or after January 1, 2026, but before May 26, 2026, for the change made to the qualified production property deduction, and (2) the 2022 through 2025 income years for the changes to the R&E deduction.

The act also requires the DRS commissioner to waive any interest or penalties for any part of an underpayment for the 2022 through 2025 income years because of the changes to the R&E deduction if the taxpayer pays the additional tax by (1) November 15, 2026, or (2) the due date for the tax return on which they report the additional tax, regardless of any filing extension. Taxpayers must submit evidence that they are eligible for this waiver as the DRS commissioner prescribes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 267 — RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES

Creates an income tax credit for qualifying small businesses that incur eligible R&D spending in Connecticut and requires DECD to administer a voucher system for the credit; caps the maximum amount of these credits that DECD can reserve each tax year at \$1.5 million per business and \$25 million in total

The act creates a tax credit for qualifying small businesses that incur eligible research and development (R&D) spending in Connecticut and allows the businesses' owners to claim the credit against their personal income tax liability (other than income tax withholding). It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to administer a voucher system for the credit program within available appropriations. Qualified small businesses must apply for and receive a credit voucher to claim the credit, which equals 6% of the R&D spending they pay or incur for a tax year, up to the limits established under the act.

Eligible R&D Spending

Under the act, credit-eligible R&D spending generally includes the same two categories of expenditures that are eligible under the state's existing corporation R&D tax credit: (1) federally deductible R&D expenditures the business incurs and (2) qualifying "basic research payments" that are eligible for a federal R&D tax credit. The first category of credit-eligible spending generally includes the R&D expenditures a business incurs to develop or improve a product (current-year R&D expenditures deductible under 26 USCA § 174, as in effect on May 28, 1993, and determined without regard to the federal credit for increasing research activities). The second category includes payments made to qualifying nonprofit educational institutions, scientific research organizations, or grant organizations for eligible research.

In both cases, the expenditures or payments must (1) be paid or incurred for R&D and basic research done in Connecticut and (2) not be funded by any grant or contract with a public or private entity.

Qualified Small Businesses

To qualify for the credit, the business must (1) be an S corporation or entity considered a partnership for federal income tax purposes, such as an LLC, and (2) have gross income for the previous tax year of \$70 million or less, including income from transactions with related entities, as determined by the DECD commissioner. (S corporations and partnerships are generally referred to as pass-through businesses because their profits "pass-through" to their owners and are taxed as part of the owners' personal income tax.)

Credit Administration

Reserving Credits. Under the act, a qualified small business may apply to the DECD commissioner to reserve a credit allocation based on the amount of R&D spending it intends to pay or incur for a tax year. The commissioner may reserve a

credit for the business based on this amount and notify the business of its reserved credit, if he determines that it is likely to pay or incur R&D spending for the tax year.

The act caps the maximum amount of these credits that can be reserved each tax year at \$1.5 million per business and \$25 million in total. In deciding whether to issue credit reservation notices, the commissioner must prioritize qualified small businesses that, in his opinion, show a likelihood for in-state growth or will best contribute to the state's economic ecosystem.

The commissioner must set the credit application form and process and may require the application to have any information he finds necessary to administer the credit program. Additionally, he may adopt regulations to implement the credit.

Issuing Vouchers. Within 90 days after the end of a tax year, a qualified small business that received a credit reservation notice must verify the R&D spending it paid or incurred for the tax year, as the DECD commissioner prescribes. In reviewing this verification, if the commissioner determines that the business spent or incurred this amount he must issue the business a tax credit voucher for 6% of the expenses. The voucher's amount cannot exceed the business's credit reservation.

The DECD commissioner must notify the DRS commissioner and OPM secretary about each tax credit voucher issued under the program.

Credit Claims and Refunds

Under the act, if the qualified small business is an S corporation or entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, its shareholders or partners may claim the credit. If it is a single member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the owner may claim the credit if he or she is subject to income tax.

Taxpayers claiming the credit must apply it before applying any other income tax credits. If the credit exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability, the act allows the taxpayer to apply to the DRS commissioner to exchange it for a partial refund for the excess amount when filing the tax return on which it claimed the credit.

The refund amount equals 90% of the excess for credits earned by biotechnology businesses and 65% for credits earned by other qualified small businesses. Under the act, a "biotechnology business" is one that applies certain technologies (such as biochemistry or genetics) to produce or modify products, improve plants or animals, identify targets for small molecule pharmaceutical development, transform biological systems into useful processes and products, or develop microorganisms for specific uses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage and applicable to tax years starting on or after January 1, 2026.

§§ 269, 270 & 465 — FY 27 MUNICIPAL AID TO LEDYARD AND MONTVILLE

Shifts the funding source for municipal aid grants to Ledyard and Montville in FY 27 from unspecified Other Expenses to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund

The FY 26-27 biennial budget act earmarked \$800,000 each to Ledyard and Montville for FY 27. The act shifts the funding source for these municipal aid grants from unspecified Other Expenses to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund. It correspondingly increases the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund grant amounts for these two towns for FY 27 by \$800,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provision correspondingly increasing grant amounts from the fund is effective upon passage.

§ 271 — INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR FAMILY CAREGIVER EXPENDITURES

Creates a nonrefundable income tax credit of up to \$2,000 for income-eligible family caregivers who incur eligible expenditures to care for and support an eligible family member

Credit Eligibility and Amount

Starting with the 2027 tax year, the act allows a nonrefundable income tax credit for a portion of the eligible expenditures a "family caregiver" incurs to care for and support an eligible family member. To qualify, the family caregiver must have federal adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than (1) \$50,000 for single filers, married people filing separately, or heads of households or (2) \$100,000 for joint filers.

The credit equals 50% of eligible expenses incurred, up to a maximum of \$2,000, for any tax year. If two or more

family caregivers claim the credit for the same eligible family member, the maximum allowable credit is split equally between them. Caregivers may apply the credit against their personal income tax liability, but not the withholding tax.

DRS must administer a tax credit voucher system for the credit and approve applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible family caregivers apply for the credit on a DRS-prescribed application form, including any information the commissioner needs to administer the credit. Within 30 days after receiving an application, the commissioner must notify applicants in writing of whether or not they were approved. He may issue up to \$1.8 million in tax credit vouchers per tax year.

Eligible Family Member

To qualify for the credit, the caregiver must incur eligible expenditures to support someone who meets the following criteria:

1. is the caregiver's dependent, spouse, parent, or other relative by blood or marriage;
2. lives in a private residence and not a nursing home or managed residential community that provides assisted living services (long-term care facility); and
3. needs help with at least two daily living activities (such as walking, feeding, dressing, personal hygiene, and toileting), as certified in writing by a state-licensed physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

Eligible Expenditures

Under the act, uncompensated expenditures that are eligible for credit include the following:

1. changes made to the caregiver's or eligible family member's primary residence to allow the family member to live there and stay mobile, safe, and independent;
2. purchased or leased equipment, including durable medical equipment, needed to help the eligible family member do one or more daily living activities; and
3. other expenses the caregiver paid or incurred that helped him or her provide care to an eligible family member, such as a home health aide, respite care, adult day care, personal care attendants, or health care equipment or technology.

They exclude general household maintenance activities, such as painting, plumbing, electrical repairs, and exterior maintenance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027, and applicable to tax years starting on or after that date.

§ 272 — SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR NONELECTRONIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Creates a sales and use tax exemption for nonelectronic school supplies

The act exempts from the state's 6.35% sales and use tax nonelectronic school supplies. However, PA 26-76, § 101, limits this exemption to nonelectronic school supplies that are purchased for nonbusiness purposes and directs DRS to issue related policies and procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, and applicable to sales occurring on or after that date.

§ 273 — SOURCING INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX REVENUE TO MUNICIPALITIES

Adds insurance premiums taxes to the list of state taxes that DRS must track and record by municipality, starting with FY 26

Existing law requires the DRS commissioner, starting with FY 26, to track and record the source of state sales and use, personal income, and corporation business tax to accurately and fairly attribute the revenue from each of these taxes to municipalities. The act additionally requires him to track and record the source of insurance premiums taxes for this same purpose. As under existing law, the commissioner must determine the method for attributing this revenue to each municipality.

By law, taxpayers paying these covered taxes must provide disaggregated information and any other data the commissioner requests to carry out these requirements. Annually, starting by October 31, 2026, the commissioner must post on DRS's website the amount of revenue from each of these taxes that is attributed to each municipality.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 274 — CONNECTICUT WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY GAP PLAN

Requires OPM to submit a plan to the General Assembly that includes a formula for a surcharge against employers that maintain a productivity gap

The act requires the OPM secretary, by January 1, 2027, in consultation with the revenue services and labor commissioners and chief workforce officer, to submit a plan to the General Assembly to ensure that technological advancements serve to increase worker capability, instead of making it obsolete, and productivity gains lead to a more skilled workforce. The plan must include:

1. a mechanism to reinvest capital when business output and labor costs become materially decoupled,
2. steps the state can actively take to minimize this decoupling by fostering collaborative productivity models that increase output without a corresponding decline in the workforce, and
3. a workforce and productivity gap contribution from employers.

Under the act, the workforce and productivity gap contribution portion of the plan must include four items. First, a formula for an annual surcharge for each income or tax year an employer maintains a “productivity gap,” which the act defines as the measurable increase in revenue-per-employee hours that occurs when Connecticut payroll is reduced materially while gross revenue remains stable or increases. The act requires the surcharge to (1) reflect the financial delta between an employer’s baseline productivity levels and its reduced payroll expenses for the applicable income or tax year and (2) be structured to ensure that efficiency gains realized through employee displacement are recaptured by the state on an ongoing basis to mitigate the resulting economic impact.

Second, the plan must include an augmented productivity tax exemption that ensures that any augmented productivity achieved by an employer is permanently exempt from Connecticut taxation. (PA 26-76, § 59, eliminates this second item.) Under the act, “augmented productivity” is the portion of gross revenue that exceeds an employer’s three-year historical average and achieved through the integration of collaborative technology while maintaining a stable workforce. “Collaborative technology” is any hardware, software, or algorithmic system, including artificial intelligence, designed to be operated by or to assist an employee to do their duties, where the technology serves as a multiplier of the employee’s individual productivity rather than as a stand-alone replacement of the employee. “Stable workforce” is a Connecticut-domiciled workforce where the total headcount and aggregate payroll expenses for the workforce remain at or above 95% of the employer’s three-year historical average.

Third, the plan must include administrative procedures for reporting and collecting the productivity gap surcharge, based on Connecticut-specific payroll and tax data.

Last, the plan must include the establishment of a workforce and economic stability account. The act requires the account to be used (1) for depositing the collected surcharges in and (2) exclusively for workforce retraining, technical education, and career transition programs for displaced employees. (PA 26-76, § 59, instead requires the account’s surcharge collected funds to be used for grants to employers to (1) acquire generative or assistive artificial intelligence technologies that demonstrate a measurable increase in per-worker output without a corresponding reduction in headcount and (2) train staff on those technologies.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 275 — ADDITIONAL FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

Creates an additional film and digital media production tax credit for certain eligible production companies that film in Bridgeport, Hartford, or New Haven

Existing law allows eligible production companies and certain taxpayers to whom they transfer credits to apply film and digital media production tax credits against the sales and use tax at a reduced amount of their face value. The act allows the companies that are eligible for that credit to apply to DECD for a voucher for an additional film and digital media production tax credit that the act creates.

Under the act, the additional credit must be for production expenses or costs incurred for a state-certified qualified production for which principal photography shooting occurs in Bridgeport, Hartford, or New Haven, or any combination of these cities, for at least one day. (PA 26-76, § 34, increases this minimum from one day to 20 days.)

The credit equals a percentage of these production expenses and costs, ranging from 30% to 50% as follows:

1. 30% for expenses and costs from \$100,000 up to \$500,000;
2. 35% for those over \$500,000 up to \$1 million; and
3. 50% for those over \$1 million.

The credit is available for the 2027 and 2028 income years and may be applied against the insurance premium; corporation business; cable, satellite, and competitive video; and sales and use taxes for the income year in which the production expenses or costs were incurred, or in the five immediately succeeding income years. The credit may also be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred according to the process for the other film and digital media production tax credit. The total amount of credits is capped at \$1.5 million.

“Eligible production company,” “production expenses or costs,” and “state-certified qualified production” have the same meanings as under the law for the other film and digital media production tax credit, and companies apply for the act’s credit in the same way as the other credit.

(PA 26-76, § 34, makes additional changes that generally (1) require DECD to notify eligible production companies about the act’s credit when the department issues eligibility certificates for the other film and digital media production tax credit; and (2) specify what credit-related notices and reservations do not constitute or guarantee and what the credit vouchers are subject to.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, and applicable to income years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

§ 276 — TRANSFER OF FY 26 SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND REVENUE TO FY 27

Transfers \$100 million of FY 26 STF revenue to FY 27

The act requires the state comptroller, by June 30, 2026, to transfer \$100 million of FY 26 Special Transportation Fund (STF) resources to be accounted for as FY 27 STF revenue.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 277 — INCOME TAX EXEMPTION FOR U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS

Creates an income tax deduction for income received by the U.S. Public Health Service’s commissioned corps

The act creates an income tax deduction for any income received from the U.S. government as retirement pay for retired members of the U.S. Public Health Service’s commissioned corps (a U.S. uniformed service). It does this by allowing a taxpayer, in computing his or her Connecticut AGI, to subtract this retirement income from their federal AGI if it is properly included for federal income tax purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, and applicable to tax years starting on or after January 1, 2026.

§§ 278-288 — REVENUE ESTIMATES

Modifies previously adopted revenue estimates for FY 27

The act modifies revenue estimates for FY 27 that were previously adopted in 2025 as part of the FY 26-27 biennial state budget, as shown in the following table. It also makes a technical change.

Modified FY 27 Revenue Estimates

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Prior Law</i>	<i>Act</i>
General Fund	\$25,913,700,000	\$25,334,200,000
Special Transportation Fund	2,436,650,000	2,624,600,000
Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund	52,600,000	54,300,000
Banking Fund	36,600,000	33,700,000
Insurance Fund	128,900,000	118,600,000
Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	38,500,000	38,400,000
Workers’ Compensation Fund	27,500,000	28,000,000
Tourism Fund	19,000,000	20,900,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund	560,550,000	557,400,000
Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund	6,200,000	7,400,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 289-303, 352 & 354 — NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE CAPITAL PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Authorizes new state GO bonds for FY 27 for various state capital projects, grants, and other programs

The act authorizes new general obligation (GO) bonds for FY 27 for the state capital projects, grants, and other programs listed in the table below. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years.

The act includes a standard provision requiring that, as a condition of bond authorizations for most of the act's grants to private entities (those under § 297), each granting agency include repayment provisions in its grant contract in case the facility for which the grant is made stops being used for the grant purposes within 10 years of the grantee receiving it. The required repayment is reduced by 10% for each full year that the facility is used for the grant purpose.

**New GO Bond Authorizations for FY 27 for
State Capital Projects, Grants, and Other Programs**

§	Agency	For	Amount
STATE CAPITAL PROJECTS			
290(a)	Department of Administrative Services (DAS)	Replace the current fleet garage in Wethersfield, including site acquisition, planning activities, and construction costs	\$20,000,000
290(b)	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	Purchase, construct, and maintain a new mesonet system (a network of automated real-time weather stations)	1,500,000
290(c)	Department of Correction (DOC)	Security upgrades, including new doors, information technology upgrades, security cameras, and other work to ensure the safety of employees and inmates	10,000,000
		Electronic health records systems, including digital medical care request systems, devices, and access points	10,000,000
290(d)	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)	Natural diversity data base mapping enhancements and other information technology resources to streamline the department's permitting and environmental review processes	5,000,000
290(e)	Department of Children and Families	Internet website with a public, online dashboard to provide real-time information about the department's statewide programs (such as services for abused, neglected, and uncared for children and young people, as well as children and young people who have mental health needs and substance use disorders)	1,500,000
290(f)	Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU), Naugatuck Valley Community College	Construction of Kinney Hall	63,200,000
290(g)	Technical Education and Career System (CTECS)	Design and construction of Vinal Technical High School	50,000,000
		New technology center	70,000,000

§	Agency	For	Amount
GRANTS			
297(a)	DECD	Grants to municipalities and nonprofit providers of human or social services for capital expenditure projects to place or maintain war or veterans' memorials or monuments (see § 342 below)	2,000,000
		Grant to East Haven for costs associated with the planning, design, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, renovation, expansion, improvement, furnishing, and equipping one or more public safety facilities, including the construction of one or more new facilities or the acquisition, renovation, conversion, or improvement of one or more existing buildings for use as public safety facilities, together with any related site acquisition, site preparation, utilities, infrastructure improvements, and appurtenances	40,000,000
		Grant to East Haven to support infrastructure, transportation, traffic safety, environmental remediation, or other public improvement projects located on the East Haven shoreline and in the neighborhood areas adjacent to Tweed-New Haven Airport, including roadway and pedestrian safety improvements, stormwater and drainage infrastructure, streetscape enhancements, environmental mitigation projects, and related public infrastructure improvements for the benefit of residents, businesses, and visitors	5,000,000
		Grant to Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority for the design, construction, reconstruction, and improvement of external roads servicing Tweed-New Haven Airport and for property acquisition, easements, or other real property interests necessary to facilitate entering and existing the airport, but not including the construction of a new passenger terminal facility, new parking spaces, access from any new parking spaces to Proto Drive in East Haven or any connections to South End Road in the town	5,000,000
		Grant to New Haven to support infrastructure, transportation, traffic safety, environmental remediation, or other public improvement projects located in the East Shore and Annex neighborhoods of the city, including roadway and pedestrian safety improvements, stormwater and drainage infrastructure, streetscape enhancements, environmental mitigation projects, and related public infrastructure improvements for the benefit of residents, businesses, and visitors	5,000,000
297(b)	OPM	Grants to municipalities for the purchase of nonlethal equipment and crisis response tools for municipal police departments to use for mental health crisis responses	5,000,000
354		Grant to Hamden (see below)	10,000,000
297(c)	State Department of Education	Grants to the American School for the Deaf for alterations, renovations and improvements to the buildings and grounds	2,000,000
OTHER PROGRAMS			
352	DECD	Tuition support for medical students at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University	20,000,000

Hamden Actions to Be Done Before Receiving State Grant (§ 354)

Prior to receiving the above grant, the act requires Hamden's mayor to (1) submit a written report with a corrective action plan to the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission (MFAC) by September 1, 2026, and (2) appear before MFAC by December 31, 2026, at a time and place MFAC determines, to present the report and answer any of MFAC's questions. These requirements apply regardless of an existing law on corrective action plans and MFAC referrals.

Under the act, the report must include a plan for corrective actions to ensure the town will not require supplemental municipal aid in future fiscal years. The plan must include:

1. cost containment policies the town may adopt,
2. fiscal policy adjustments,
3. collaboration with one or more municipalities on shared services,
4. ways to maximize federal funding,
5. possible efficiencies in providing services, and
6. prioritizing town-identified core services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 304, 314, 316, 323, 325, 326, 330-332 & 334-336 — BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PREVIOUSLY ENACTED PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

Increases bond authorizations for various existing grants and purposes by authorizing new bonding for these purposes in FY 27

The act increases bond authorizations for various existing grants and purposes by authorizing new bonding for these purposes in FY 27, as shown in the table below. It also makes conforming changes to the corresponding bond supertotals.

FY 27 Authorizations for Previously Enacted Programs and Grants

§	Agency	Purpose/Fund	Amount
304	DAS	School construction projects	\$50,000,000
316	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	Facility design, alterations, renovations, additions, and construction, including land acquisition	34,600,000
323	Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority (now known as the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority)	Capitalization	25,000,000
326	CTECS	Design and construction of a new Windham Technical High School	150,000,000
331	DAS	Purchase of equipment, minor improvements, and other associated costs for a new data center	32,000,000
332	Department of Developmental Services	(1) Fire, safety, and environmental improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities for client and staff needs, including compliance with current codes, and (2) site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, repair or replacement of roofs, air conditioning, and other building renovations and additions at all state-owned facilities	5,000,000
335	Department of Transportation Bureau of Administration	Department facilities	9,000,000
336	OPM	Grant to New Haven	2,000,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 305-308, 314, 317, 320, 321, 325, 327, 328, 330 & 333 — UCONN RELATED BOND CHANGES

Cancels and adds various bond authorizations for specified programs and projects related to UConn, including the UConn 2000 infrastructure program

The act makes several changes to bond authorizations for programs and projects related to UConn, including effectively transferring several GO bond authorizations to the UConn 2000 infrastructure program. (By law, bonds issued as part of the UConn 2000 infrastructure program are excluded from the state's bond allocation cap and bond issuance cap (CGS §§ 3-20(d)(2) & 3-21(f)(2)).)

The act repeals a law that authorized \$46.1 million in GO bonds over a five-year period (FY 22 through FY 26) for a program generally aimed at helping recruit research faculty to the university. The act simultaneously authorizes the same bonding amount for this program under Phase III of the UConn 2000 infrastructure program (this phase covers FYs 05 through 31).

The act similarly cancels GO bond authorizations to the UConn Health Center for (1) deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements (\$30 million each in FYs 24, 25, and 27); (2) system telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, improvements, and expansions (\$3 million each in FYs 26 and 27); and (3) equipment, library collections, and telecommunications (\$25 million in FY 26 and \$10 million in FY 27). But the act also authorizes for the health center, under UConn 2000 Phase III, (1) \$90 million; (2) \$6 million; and (3) \$35 million, respectively, for the same purposes.

Lastly, the act eliminates a \$3 million GO bond authorization for FY 26 to UConn for improvements to digital learning infrastructure at a regional campus while also authorizing the same amount for the same purpose under UConn 2000 Phase III. For these eliminated authorizations, the act makes conforming changes to the corresponding bond supertotals.

The table below lists these and other changes to Phase III project authorizations. The act correspondingly increases the UConn 2000 program's total bond authorization and FY 27 bond cap by \$250.1 million.

Changes to UConn 2000 Phase III Project Authorizations (in Millions)

<i>Project</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>New Authorization</i>	<i>Change</i>
Digital learning infrastructure improvements at a regional campus	\$0	\$3	\$3
Equipment, library collections, and telecommunications	470	480	10
Harry A. Gampel Pavilion and Hugh S. Greer Field House	164	204	40
Lab renovations and equipment	0	20	20
Program to recruit eminent faculty and research staff	0	46.1	46.1
Deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements – Health Center	0	90	90
Equipment, library collections, and telecommunications – Health Center	75	110	35
System telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, improvements, and expansions – Health Center	0	6	6

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 309 — ALLOWABLE USES OF CHFA BOND AUTHORIZATION

Expands the allowable uses of an existing bond authorization for CHFA

The act allows the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to use an existing bond authorization (1) to capitalize assistance issued under its Down Payment Assistance Program (DAP) or (2) for its Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMAP). Under prior law, only the latter use was permitted.

EMAP provides emergency mortgage assistance or emergency lien assistance to eligible homeowners who have fallen behind (or anticipate falling behind) on their mortgage payment or non-mortgage expenses due to a financial hardship

beyond their control. DAP generally seeks to help first-time homebuyers by giving loans to eligible borrowers for down payment or closing cost assistance (or both).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 310 & 311 — OPM BOND CANCELLATION

Cancels a \$75 million bond authorization to OPM for state matching funds for projects and programs allowed under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

The act cancels a \$75 million GO bond authorization to OPM for state matching funds for projects and programs allowed under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. It also makes a conforming change to the corresponding bond supertotal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 312 — CHANGE TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GRANT PROGRAM

Modifies a bond-funded DoAg grant program for capital improvements by making food systems eligible

Existing law authorizes \$10 million in GO bonds to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) for grants to food resource organizations for capital improvements. The act extends grant eligibility to food systems. (PA 26-76, § 71, makes the same extension while also allowing grants for food system enhancements.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 313, 318 & 322 — CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM

Modifies a bond-funded DEEP grant program for purchasing or leasing zero-emission school buses and electric vehicle charging or fueling infrastructure

Prior law authorized \$40 million in GO bonds to DEEP for grants to provide matching funds necessary for municipalities, local and regional boards of education, and school bus operators to submit federal grant applications to maximize federal funding for purchasing or leasing zero-emission school buses and electric vehicle charging or fueling infrastructure. The act changes the purpose of these grants to instead provide a portion of the funds necessary for these entities to maximize federal, state, or other sources of funding or financing for the same purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 315 — CHANGES TO DAS CAPITAL PROJECT

Modifies a bond-funded DAS capital project by specifying what types of projects it includes

Existing law authorizes \$19 million in GO bonds to DAS for Capital Area System upgrades and modernization. The act specifies that this includes planning, engineering, and feasibility studies to support system decarbonization, including thermal energy network implementation and geothermal resource exploration.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 319 — CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM

Modifies a bond-funded DPH grant program for water bottle filling stations at certain schools by making municipalities eligible and expanding allowable grant uses to include automated external defibrillators

Existing law authorizes \$3.5 million in GO bonds to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for grants to local and regional boards of education to purchase, install, and maintain water bottle filling stations at schools designated to receive services under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The act (1) extends grant eligibility to municipalities; (2) allows these grants to also be used to purchase, install, and maintain automated external defibrillators; and (3) expands where the two types of devices may be installed to also include buildings a municipality owns or leases.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 324 — CHANGES TO STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

Modifies the purpose of a bond-funded nursing student loan subsidy program and changes the program's administrator

Prior law authorized \$10 million in GO bonds to the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority for a nursing student loan subsidy program. The act changes the administrator of these bond proceeds to the Office of Higher Education and changes their purpose so they go towards a DOC nurse and social worker student loan reimbursement program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 329 — CHANGES TO DEEP GRANT PROGRAM

Modifies a bond-funded DEEP grant program for renovations and expansion of, and equipment for, solid waste facilities to instead support solid waste reduction strategies

Prior law authorized \$15 million in GO bonds to DEEP for grants to municipalities for renovations and expansion of, and equipment for, solid waste facilities. The act changes the purpose of the grants so that it is instead to support solid waste reduction strategies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 337 & 338 — DAS AND CSCU REPORTING CHANGES

Changes the frequency of certain reporting by DAS and CSCU so that they are done twice per year instead of quarterly

Prior law required quarterly reporting to the legislature by (1) DAS, on the status of the design, alteration, renovation, and construction of the facilities for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and (2) the CSCU chancellor, in consultation with the Office of Early Childhood commissioner, on their coordinated efforts to construct, improve, or equip child care centers on or near college and university campuses in the state. The act changes the frequency of both reports so that they are instead next due by October 1, 2026, and semiannually (every six months) after.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 339 — CTECS FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN REPORTING

Requires CTECS to additionally submit its five-year capital plans to the Education Committee

Existing law requires CTECS to biennially develop a five-year capital plan and submit it to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. The act requires it to also provide its plans to the Education Committee. Unchanged by the act, the first plan is due by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 340, 341 & 344 — SUPPLEMENTAL GRADUATE LOAN PROGRAM AND CHESLA BONDS

Creates the Supplemental Graduate Loan Program to give loans to eligible graduate students and authorizes \$30 million in GO bonds for the program; increases, from \$300 million to \$750 million, the aggregate amount of outstanding CHESLA bonds that may be secured by special capital reserve funds

The act requires the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) to create, subject to available funding, a Supplemental Graduate Loan Program to give loans to eligible graduate students. It makes the program's loans available to students in or from the state who are enrolled in an eligible advanced academic or professional degree program, as determined by CHESLA, that is pursued after earning a bachelor's degree. The act requires CHESLA to adopt eligibility criteria and administrative guidelines for the new loan program under its board of directors' existing authority to adopt written procedures for CHESLA's loans.

The act authorizes \$30 million in new GO bonds for FY 26 for the program. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years. Additionally, the act requires CHESLA to have a separate, non-lapsing account for program funds, including appropriations and bond proceeds. The account must be used to issue program loans and for the program's reasonable and necessary administrative expenses.

Finally, the act increases, from \$300 million to \$750 million, the aggregate amount of outstanding CHESLA bonds that may be secured by special capital reserve funds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 342 — GRANTS PROGRAM FOR WAR OR VETERANS' MEMORIALS OR MONUMENTS

Requires DECD to administer a grant program for capital expenditure projects to place or maintain war or veterans' memorials or monuments; authorizes \$2 million in GO bonds

The act (1) requires DECD to administer a grant program for municipalities and nonprofits providing human or social services for capital expenditure projects to place or maintain war or veterans' memorials or monuments and (2) authorizes \$2 million in GO bonds for the program (see § 297 above).

DECD must (1) develop eligibility criteria for selecting among grant applicants and related application forms and deadlines, and (2) conspicuously post this information on its website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 343 — AGING-IN-PLACE GRANT PROGRAM

Creates a grant program to help certain homeowners make accessibility modifications so they can stay in their primary residences

The act requires the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), in consultation with the Department of Housing, to create an aging-in-place program to give eligible homeowners grants for making accessibility modifications that let them remain in their primary residences.

Under the act, an "eligible homeowner" is someone who (1) owns and occupies a residential property in Connecticut as his or her primary residence; (2) is at least age 60 or has a disability; and (3) has a household income no greater than 60% of the median household income for the area where he or she resides, as determined by the ADS commissioner. An "accessibility modification" is a physical alteration made to residential property to improve usability, safety, and independence for someone who is elderly or has a disability.

The act caps grants at \$10,000 per eligible homeowner. It also (1) requires ADS to make the program's application form and process, including the criteria for accessibility modifications and for awarding grants, and (2) allows the department to adopt regulations to administer the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 345 & 346 — "HOMES FOR CT" LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

Makes several changes to the "Homes for CT" loan program, including modifying the interest rate used to set the cap on what participating lenders may charge

The act makes several changes to the "Homes for CT" loan program, a CHFA-administered program established under the FYs 26-27 bond act to help owners and developers get funding to build new residential buildings. Under the program, participating banks and credit unions make loans to eligible borrowers and CHFA guarantees repayment, up to specified amounts. CHFA may also, within available resources, make additional subordinate loans to Homes for CT borrowers subject to any terms it sets, such as interest rates and maturity.

The act caps the interest rate participating lenders may charge under the program at the Wall Street Journal prime rate on the date the borrower and lender lock in the rate, rather than a specified Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLBank Boston) rate on that date, as prior law required. The prior cap was the FHLBank Boston's New England Fund rate for short- or long-term advances with an advance term that most closely matches the loan's term.

The act also:

1. specifies that the CHFA loans to Homes for CT borrowers may be amortizing, deferred, or forgivable as to principal and interest;
2. authorizes CHFA to make grants to Homes for CT borrowers, subject to terms it sets; and
3. limits CHFA's authority to provide these loans and grants to available resources allocated by the State Bond Commission.

By law, "Homes for CT" loans must be used for (1) expenses needed to complete residential building construction or build related improvements or (2) any other expenses that CHFA determines are necessary. The total amount of program

loans is capped at \$100 million and no more than \$10 million may be used to honor loan guarantees. The FYs 26-27 bond act authorizes up to \$20 million in GO bonds for FYs 26 and 27 for the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 347 — TOWN AID ROAD GRANTS

Expands the purposes for which towns may use TAR grants, allowing them to buy certain equipment

The act expands the purposes for which towns may use Town Aid Road (TAR) grants, allowing them to buy certain equipment.

Existing law allows towns to use these grants to do specified work, which includes building and maintaining highways and bridges. Under the act, towns may also use TAR grant funds to buy and maintain equipment to do that work, such as equipment for street sweeping, roadside mowing, vegetation management, snow and ice removal, and cleaning catch basins.

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the OPM secretary may approve a town's request to use grant funds for other purposes as well.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 348 — FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LOAN PROGRAM ASSISTANCE AND STATE SPECIAL TAX OBLIGATION BONDS

Allows certain state transportation bonds issued under a federal program to mature at any time allowed under the federal program, but not longer than the useful life of the projects being financed

Existing law authorizes the treasurer, OPM secretary, and transportation commissioner to enter into loan agreements or other credit agreements with the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), including agreements under the federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) programs. It also authorizes the issuance of "federal transportation bonds," which are state special tax obligation (STO) bonds that are issued to evidence and secure U.S. DOT loans or other financial assistance made to the state under U.S. DOT financial assistance programs ("federal programs"), including TIFIA and RRIF.

The act allows federal transportation bonds issued under any federal program to mature at any time that is allowed under the federal program, but not longer than the useful life of the projects being financed. The act applies regardless of existing state STO bond procedures, which set a 30-year limit on the bond's maturation period.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 349 — COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 BOARD

Allows certain board members to vote by proxy and changes the cap on the total cost of the board's recommended projects

The act allows the Community Investment Fund 2030 board's state legislators and gubernatorial appointees to designate someone to act as a proxy by notifying the board's administrator in writing if they cannot attend a board meeting.

Under state law, the board may recommend to the governor eligible projects to be funded by the Community Investment Fund 2030. Prior law limited the total recommended project cost to \$175 million per fiscal year. The act instead limits the cost to funds available in any fiscal year.

By law, eligible projects are generally projects proposed by a municipality, community development corporation, or nonprofit organization to (1) promote economic or community development in the municipality (such as brownfield remediation, affordable housing, and water and sewer infrastructure improvements) and (2) further consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 350 — CHANGES TO DECD’S CONCENTRATED POVERTY GRANT PROGRAM

Allows certified community development corporations to be funded for eligible projects under a DECD grant program seeking to reduce the effects of concentrated poverty; sets a 90-day deadline for DECD to review and evaluate program applications

The act expands a grant program under which the DECD commissioner must fund certain “eligible projects” in concentrated poverty census tracts so that the program also must fund eligible projects undertaken by a certified community development corporation. Starting July 1, 2026, and until January 1, 2030, these corporations may apply to the commissioner in a form and way he sets, for a grant for an eligible project, or any combination of them. The act makes related technical and conforming changes, including requiring the commissioner to notify the corporations about the program.

Additionally, the act sets a 90-day deadline for DECD to review and evaluate program applications (from any type of applicant). As under existing law for municipal applicants, DECD must work with certified community development corporation applicants to revise their applications if the department believes it would improve or strengthen them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Grant Program Terminology and Requirements

By law, and under the act, a “certified community development corporation” is a 501(c)(3) federally tax-exempt organization that is certified by DECD’s Office of Community Economic Development Assistance (OCEDA) and meets the following requirements:

1. focuses a substantial majority of its efforts on serving one or more “target areas” (a contiguous geographic area in which the current unemployment rate exceeds the state’s by at least 25% or mean household income is 80% or less of the state’s as determined by the most recent decennial census),
2. has the purpose of engaging and working with local residents and businesses on community development efforts to sustainably develop and improve urban communities in a way that creates and expands economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income people, and
3. shows OCEDA that its constituency is meaningfully represented on its board based on specific characteristics.

Existing law does not specifically define “eligible projects” but requires that they must, at least, seek to reduce the effects of concentrated poverty. It also specifies that eligible projects include the following:

1. building, renovating, or rehabilitating mixed-income rental and owner-occupied housing to retain households of different income levels and increase the rate of owner-occupied housing in concentrated poverty census tracts;
2. establishing or improving workforce development programs, including programs that (a) partner with organizations to identify unemployed or underemployed people and at-risk youths living in the tracts, (b) identify workforce training opportunities and other resources for them, and (c) link them with appropriate training and resources to increase their skills and earning potential; and
3. building, renovating, or rehabilitating public infrastructure to support and improve private investment opportunities, quality of life, and public safety in the tracts.

Under existing law, the DECD commissioner must set the criteria for awarding grants under the program and documentation and information requirements for applicants.

§ 351 — WORKFORCE HOUSING OPTIONS

Requires the housing commissioner and CHFA executive director to seek and report on a partnership with municipalities or hospitals to increase workforce housing options

The act requires the housing commissioner and CHFA executive director to seek a partnership with at least one municipality or hospital in the state to increase workforce housing options. By January 1, 2028, they must give the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee a report detailing the status of the partnership and any recommendations on other ways to increase these housing options.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 353 — WINDHAM TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SITE

Requires the OPM secretary to evaluate certain alternative sites proposed by local officials and state legislators for replacing or relocating the Windham Technical High School; prohibits OPM from proceeding with final site selection unless the evaluation shows that no alternative site located closer to the existing school is both feasible and capable of meeting certain criteria

The act requires the OPM secretary, by September 1, 2026, and before the final selection of a site for the replacement or relocation of the technical high school serving the Windham, Willimantic, and Mansfield region (known as the Windham Technical High School), to give the chief elected officials and state legislators of those municipalities an opportunity to submit written recommendations for alternative sites to consider. It requires the secretary to evaluate any of the alternative sites that are located closer to the existing school than the site the secretary previously identified for consideration.

The act requires the evaluation to be conducted using uniform, objective criteria applied equally to each proposed site, including the site identified by OPM and any alternative site submitted as described above. The evaluation must determine whether each site satisfies the project's minimum educational, operational, and facility requirements, including the following factors:

1. sufficient acreage, configuration, and developable area to accommodate instructional space, trade programs, parking, circulation, outdoor training needs, and reasonable future expansion;
2. physical site conditions, including wetlands, topography, ledge, soil conditions, environmental contamination, flood risk, drainage, and other constraints affecting construction or use;
3. access, transportation, and safety considerations, including roadway access traffic capacity, bus circulation, pedestrian access, student transportation, proximity to public transit where available, sidewalks, and any required off-site improvements;
4. availability and adequacy of public utilities and infrastructure, including water, sewer, electric service, stormwater management, and road improvements;
5. estimated land acquisition, site preparation, infrastructure, construction, and transportation costs;
6. the likely effect of each site on the project schedule, permitting design complexity, and risk; and
7. each site's impact on current and projected students, including travel time, transportation burden, and access for students living in Windham, Willimantic, or Mansfield.

The act requires the OPM secretary to prepare a written comparative analysis identifying for each site (1) whether it meets the project's minimum requirements, (2) any conditions that limit or prevent its use, (3) the estimated cost and schedule impact of addressing those conditions, (4) whether the conditions are reasonably manageable within the normal course of project development or would materially impair the project, and (5) the basis for recommending or rejecting the site. The analysis must distinguish between conditions that can be reasonably mitigated and conditions that render a site impracticable.

The secretary must submit the results of the evaluation and analysis to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee by November 1, 2026.

Lastly, the act prohibits OPM from proceeding with final site selection for Windham Technical High School's replacement or relocation unless the evaluation shows that no alternative site located closer to the existing school than OPM's previously identified site is both feasible and capable of meeting program requirements without causing an unreasonable delay, cost increase, or operational limitation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 355 & 356 — HOSPITAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES

Requires hospitals to (1) have written financial assistance policies with certain components, (2) include related information with their billing statements and on their websites, and (3) deem patients enrolled in certain public assistance programs as having met the income requirements for their financial assistance programs (PA 26-76 repeals this latter provision)

Required Financial Assistance Policies

The act requires each hospital to have a written financial assistance policy, consistent with federal regulations that require nonprofit hospitals to have these policies in order to maintain their tax-exempt status. Under the act, hospital financial assistance policies must include:

1. eligibility criteria for assistance and whether that assistance includes services offered for free or at a discount;

2. the method used to calculate patient charges;
3. instructions on how to apply for assistance;
4. an explanation of whether the hospital uses a patient's prior eligibility determination to establish current eligibility, and, if so, the circumstances when that occurs; and
5. a list of any health care providers (other than the hospital) delivering emergency or other medically necessary services in the hospital that specifies whether they are covered by the hospital's policy.

These provisions (as well as those below on required notices) do not:

1. provide financial assistance in addition to that required of hospitals under state or federal law;
2. create a private right of action; or
3. limit a hospital's ability to bill and collect payment from a patient for services, as long as that is done in line with state or federal law.

Billing Statement and Website Information

The act requires hospitals to include a clear and conspicuous notice about their financial assistance policy (1) on or with each paper or electronic patient billing statement and (2) on their websites. The notice must indicate that financial assistance may be available for eligible patients and that it is free to apply. It also must include:

1. a phone number and website to get additional information about the policy and how to apply for financial assistance;
2. a summary of the policy or website to access the summary; and
3. instructions to request a paper copy of the policy, get an application, and apply for assistance.

The notice must be given in plain language and in both English and Spanish. It also must be made available upon request in any language consistent with state and federal law and, consistent with federal regulations, must have the following statement on the first page:

"If a language is spoken by at least one thousand individuals or five per cent of the community served by the hospital facility or likely to be affected or encountered by the hospital facility, then the hospital shall translate the notice into such other language." (PA 26-76, § 28, removes the requirement for this statement and instead directly requires hospitals to translate the notice if the population threshold is met.)

Automatic Income Eligibility for Certain Patients (Repealed by PA 26-76)

Under the act, starting in 2027, if a hospital has a financial assistance program, it must consider patients enrolled in certain public assistance programs as meeting the hospital program's income requirements. This applies to patients enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. A hospital may verify the person's enrollment in one of these programs in a reasonable way (such as an electronic verification, attestation, or other documentation).

Under the act, for patients deemed eligible under these provisions, a hospital must determine the patient's level of financial assistance in line with its financial assistance policy. A hospital may require these patients to give additional information so the hospital can determine how much assistance to give them. If applicable, a hospital may require these patients, as a condition of receiving assistance, to apply for Medicaid, Medicare, or other government-funded health coverage, including coverage through the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.

These provisions do not require a hospital to (1) amend its financial assistance policy or (2) give financial assistance beyond the income levels or discount tiers in its policy.

(PA 26-76, § 57 repeals these provisions on deeming patients eligible if they are enrolled in certain public assistance programs.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 357-362 — HOSPITAL PROVIDER TAX CHANGES

Changes the hospital provider tax in several ways, including lowering the tax rate on inpatient hospital services in phases, modifying how the tax rate on outpatient hospital services is calculated, and requiring children's general hospitals to pay the tax starting July 1, 2026; diverts revenue from this tax to a new dedicated account for supplemental payments to hospitals

The act makes various changes to the hospital provider tax including:

1. decreasing the tax rate on inpatient hospital services from 6% to 4% for FYs 27 through 31 and 3.5% starting in FY 32;
2. reducing the total revenue amounts on which the outpatient hospital services tax rate is calculated;
3. changing the applicable federal fiscal year used to calculate the tax base; and
4. generally requiring children's general hospitals to pay the tax starting July 1, 2026, rather than only after the state receives federal approval to remove the exemption for children's general hospitals.

The act also diverts hospital tax revenue to a new dedicated account for specified supplemental payments and requires certain actions if the account has insufficient funds for these payments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provisions on the hospital supplemental payment account and FY 27 information reporting requirements and administrative protests are effective upon passage.

Tax Rate and Base (§ 358)

Inpatient Hospital Services. Starting FY 27, prior law set the tax rate for inpatient hospital services at 6% of each hospital's audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year (FFY) attributable to these services. The act decreases this rate to (1) 4% for FYs 27 through 31 and (2) 3.5% starting in FY 32.

Outpatient Hospital Services. By law, the tax on outpatient hospital services is calculated based on the total revenue to be collected for each fiscal year from the hospital provider tax, minus the total tax imposed on all hospitals for providing inpatient services, divided by the total audited net revenue for the applicable FFY attributable to outpatient hospital services of all hospitals required to pay the tax, subject to specified adjustments. The act generally retains this calculation but additionally requires that it be adjusted for changes in taxpayer status, as described below.

For FY 27, prior law set the amount of total revenue to be collected at \$1.195 billion and required it to be increased by \$25 million over the prior fiscal year, starting in FY 28. The act instead sets this amount as shown in the following table.

Total Revenue to be Collected Amounts Under the Act

<i>FY</i>	<i>Total Revenue</i>
27	\$974,000,000
28	997,756,916
29	1,022,172,694
30	1,047,265,629
31	1,073,054,525
32 and after	1,073,054,525 unless modified by law

Applicable Federal Fiscal Year. The act changes the applicable FFY used to calculate the tax base for both the inpatient and outpatient services components of the tax, as shown in the table below. (The FFY runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.)

Applicable FFY for the Hospital Provider Tax

<i>Prior Law</i>		<i>Act</i>	
<i>State FY</i>	<i>Applicable FFY</i>	<i>State FY</i>	<i>Applicable FFY</i>
FYs 27-29	FFY 24	FYs 27-31	FFY 24
FYs 30-33	FFY 27	FYs 32-36	FFY 29
FY 34 and every four years after	FFY that ended in the calendar year two years before the four-year period started	FY 37 and every five years after	FFY that ended in the calendar year that is two years before the five-year period started

Calculation of Total Audited Net Revenue. By law, starting in FY 27, the tax base for both inpatient and outpatient hospital services is calculated based on the total audited net revenue attributable to these services reported to the revenue services (DRS) commissioner for the applicable FFY by all hospitals subject to the tax, subject to any (1) adjustments by the commissioner and (2) hospital dissolutions, cessation of operations, or disallowed exemptions. The act additionally requires that the tax base be subject to any changes in taxpayer status.

The act also requires the total audited net revenue attributable to inpatient hospital services to be calculated as though any children's general hospital subject to a pending request to remove its exemption from the tax is subject to the tax. Under the act, this requirement no longer applies if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) denies the request.

Tax Recalculations for Hospital Dissolutions, Cessations of Operations, or Changes in Taxpayer Status. Under prior law, the amount of hospital provider tax due from each hospital had to be recalculated if any hospital dissolved (ceased to operate for any reason other than a merger, consolidation, acquisition, or reorganization) or ceased for any reason to be subject to the hospital tax. The amount due from each hospital was not recalculated for the fiscal year in which the hospital dissolved or ceased to operate, but in the following fiscal year and each subsequent year, the tax had to be recalculated so that the tax amount was proportionately redistributed among the other hospitals.

The act sunsets this recalculation requirement and creates a different process for dissolutions and cessations that take place starting in FY 27. Under the new process, if a hospital dissolves or ceases for any reason to be subject to the tax, including if the exemption for children's general hospitals remains in place, the amount of total hospital tax revenue attributable to the hospital is not collected for the fiscal year in which the hospital dissolves or ceases to operate or for any subsequent year. Instead, for the fiscal year in which the event occurs and each subsequent year, the total hospital tax revenue to be collected for the respective year (used to calculate the tax on outpatient hospital services, as shown in the table above) is reduced, without further action. The reduction (1) equals the amount of outpatient hospital services tax attributable to the hospital for the fiscal year it dissolved or ceased operations and (2) does not change the outpatient hospital services tax rates for remaining taxpaying hospitals.

Tax Rate Adjustments for Hold Harmless Safe Harbor Rate. Under the act, for any calendar quarter starting on or after July 1, 2026, the tax rate on inpatient hospital services must be automatically lowered as needed to ensure that it does not exceed the indirect hold harmless safe harbor rate approved by CMS in a written decision responding to a tax waiver the Department of Social Services (DSS) submits under the law. Similarly, the act requires the tax rate on outpatient hospital services to be automatically modified to ensure that the same amount of revenue set under the act is collected.

If the hold harmless rate for the inpatient hospital services tax is less than the rate set under the act, each hospital must file an amended return with the DRS commissioner to report the modified amount of inpatient and outpatient hospital tax due.

Information Reporting Requirements (§§ 358 & 362)

FY 27. Under the act, by June 25, 2026, each hospital required to pay the hospital provider tax for FY 27 must submit to the DRS commissioner the information he requires to calculate the audited net revenue for FFY 24 of all hospitals subject to the tax, including audited net inpatient and outpatient revenue. The amounts reported are deemed accepted on July 1, 2026, as long as the commissioner has not started an audit of the hospital before then.

If he starts an audit, the hospital must comply with the commissioner's requests for the additional information he needs to fully audit the hospital within 30 days after his request. The commissioner may extend this period if the hospital requests it.

Under the act, as under existing law, hospitals that (1) do not provide the requested information within the required timeframe or (2) fail to comply with a request for additional information, are subject to a penalty of \$1,000 for each day the failure continues. As under existing law, the commissioner may engage an independent auditor to help him with these duties and responsibilities.

The act also allows hospitals to file an administrative protest to contest the DRS commissioner's determination of additional audited net revenue, generally according to the same process set under prior law as amended by the act, as described below. (PA 26-76, § 82, makes a technical correction to this provision.)

Subsequent Years. The act changes the deadlines for information reports required for subsequent years to align with the act's changes to the applicable FFY used to calculate the tax. Under the act, hospitals must report the required information by June 1, 2030, and every five years after, rather than by January 1, 2029, and every four years after. The act requires that the amounts reported be deemed accepted on the first day of the federal fiscal year, rather than state fiscal year as prior law required, as long as the commissioner has not started an audit of the hospital before then.

The act also (1) extends, from 14 days to 30 days, the period of time that hospitals have to comply with the commissioner's requests for additional information as part of an audit and (2) allows the commissioner to extend this period by request.

Administrative Protests (§ 358)

Existing law generally requires the DRS commissioner, if he determines a hospital has additional audited net revenue, to mail the taxpayer a notice by the first day of the state fiscal year. Starting July 1, 2026, hospitals may file an administrative

protest to contest the commissioner's determination. The act extends, from 14 days to 30 days, the amount of time that the taxpayer has to file a written protest before this amount becomes final.

Exemption for State-Owned and -Operated Hospitals (§ 358)

Prior law required the DSS commissioner to seek approval from CMS to exempt certain types of hospitals from the tax, including hospitals operated exclusively by the state, other than those the state operates as a receiver. The act limits this provision to hospitals that are both owned and operated exclusively by the state.

Exemption for Children's General Hospitals (§ 358)

Existing law requires the DSS commissioner, starting July 1, 2026, to seek approval from CMS to remove the hospital tax exemption for children's general hospitals. If CMS approves the removal, children's general hospitals that were exempt from the tax before July 1, 2026, must pay the same tax on inpatient and outpatient hospital services as other hospitals.

The act requires children's general hospitals to pay the tax starting July 1, 2026, even if federal approval has not yet been obtained. But the act authorizes them to get a refund if the approval is not ultimately granted. The act also makes a conforming change to the definition of hospitals subject to the tax to include Department of Public Health-licensed children's general hospitals.

Revenue Diversion to Hospital Supplemental Payment Account (§ 359)

Starting in FY 27, the act requires any hospital provider tax revenue received to be deposited into a new "hospital supplemental payment account" and requires the DSS commissioner to use this account to make the payments to hospitals, hospital-affiliated medical groups, and faculty practice plans, as described below. The act creates this account as a separate, nonlapsing account and requires it to contain any money required by law to be deposited into it.

Actions Required If Hospital Supplemental Payment Account Has Insufficient Funds (§ 359)

The act requires the OPM secretary and DRS commissioner to take certain actions if the OPM secretary determines that the hospital supplemental payment account will have insufficient funds to make certain supplemental payments due to hospitals (see §§ 361 & 363).

Specifically, it requires the OPM secretary to consult with the DRS and DSS commissioners to determine the feasibility of collecting unpaid taxes from any delinquent hospital after considering the hospital's ability to pay and any resulting impact on patient health. If he determines it is feasible to collect all or part of the tax by (1) notifying DSS to deduct and withhold delinquent hospital taxes from any amount DSS would otherwise pay the taxpayer or (2) using other collection methods, the DRS commissioner must take those actions to collect the tax.

If, after taking these steps, the OPM secretary determines that the account will have insufficient funds to make the payments, he must certify the shortfall amount and ask the Finance Advisory Committee to approve a General Fund transfer in that amount to the hospital supplemental payment account. If the committee approves the amount, then the state comptroller must transfer it from the General Fund's unappropriated resources to the account.

Transfer From Hospital Supplemental Payment Account to General Fund for FY 27 (§ 360)

By June 30, 2027, the act requires the state comptroller to transfer \$10.7 million from the hospital supplemental payment account's FY 27 resources to be accounted for as FY 27 General Fund revenue.

Reversion to Previous Tax Structure and Supplemental Payment Amounts Under Specified Circumstances (§ 361)

The act generally requires the hospital provider tax and related supplemental payments to hospitals to revert to the structure and amounts in effect on June 1, 2025, if any of the following occur:

1. CMS determines that either the inpatient or outpatient hospital services tax is impermissible under federal law or declines to issue a required tax waiver;
2. CMS does not approve, without material modification, the applicable Medicaid state plan amendments needed for the state to receive federal financial participation under Medicaid for the supplemental payments; or
3. any part of the act's changes to the inpatient and outpatient hospital services taxes or supplemental payment amounts are found to be invalid.

If any of these occur, the act requires the General Assembly to consider amending the statutes as needed to comply with the applicable federal law during the next regular or special session, whichever is sooner. (A similar provision applies under existing law through FY 26. It is unclear whether this requirement is enforceable based on the principle of legislative entrenchment, under which one legislature generally cannot restrict a future legislature's ability to enact legislation.)

Under the act, these actions are not required if the taxes are federally permissible and CMS approves state plan amendments or otherwise authorizes what is needed to implement a specified payment level to hospitals. Specifically, the payment methodologies implemented must result in:

1. total, statewide supplemental payments that are not materially less than the total contemplated under the act and
2. a combined value of supplemental payments, disproportionate share hospital payments, faculty practice plan payments, and hospital-affiliated medical group payments to health systems and their affiliates that are as close as practicable to the payment levels contemplated under the act (with variation allowed as needed for federal approval or compliance).

(PA 26-76, §§ 19 & 20, repeals and replaces these provisions with nearly identical ones.)

Background — Limits on Provider Tax Rates Under P.L. 119-21

Federal law allows states to use health care provider taxes to help finance their share of Medicaid expenditures but requires that the taxes be broad-based, uniform, and not hold providers harmless for the cost of the tax. P.L. 119-21 imposes new limits on these taxes effective October 1, 2026, including lowering the threshold for determining whether a tax holds providers harmless (the indirect hold harmless threshold) (§ 71115). Under the law, the tax rate for most existing provider taxes must phase down from FFY 28 through FFY 32 to the lower of the (1) rate in place on July 4, 2025, or (2) applicable percent for that year (phasing down in steps from 5.5% in FY 28 to 3.5% in FY 32 and after).

§ 363 — MEDICAID SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS

Creates several supplemental payment pools and sets a payment schedule for each pool; sets requirements for various DSH payments, payment adjustments, and upper payment limits

The act sets new requirements for Medicaid supplemental payments. Prior law required DSS to establish supplemental pools in accordance with the settlement agreement. Under the act, this requirement applies from FYs 20 to 26.

Prior law also required DSS to pay \$708.3 million in Medicaid supplemental payments to hospitals for FY 27. For FY 28 and after, prior law required the total payments to be increased by an additional \$25 million over the previous year if the total amount of the hospital provider tax collected for that year, across all hospitals subject to the tax, increased by at least \$25 million over the previous year.

The act eliminates these requirements and instead establishes several supplemental payment pools and sets a payment schedule for each pool. Generally, supplemental payment pools are hospitals grouped for purposes of receiving Medicaid supplemental payments. The act creates five inpatient supplemental payment pools (a general pool, and separate pools for small hospitals, mid-sized hospitals, independent mid-sized hospitals, and large hospitals); three outpatient supplemental payment pools (a general pool, and separate pools for mid-sized hospitals and independent mid-sized hospitals); and two other supplemental pools (one for physicians and mid-level practitioners and one for faculty practice plans). The act also sets requirements for various disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments. Payments under the act are based on an entity's characteristics as of January 1, 2025, unless there is a dissolution or change from nongovernmental entity status.

The act requires the DSS commissioner to diligently pursue required federal approvals and make payments while pursuing federal approval. The act specifies that it does not (1) relieve the state of its obligation to ensure compliance with federal Medicaid requirements or (2) prevent the DSS commissioner from adopting policies, procedures, or regulations needed to maintain federal approval of the state Medicaid plan. Lastly, the act removes obsolete provisions and makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

General Inpatient Supplemental Payment Pool

The act creates a general inpatient supplemental payment pool. Nongovernmental hospitals (hospitals that are not exclusively state-owned and operated) that do not receive DSH payments must participate in the pool, which is distributed proportionately based on the hospital's share of federal FY 24 total Medicaid inpatient revenue as reported to the Office of Health Strategy (OHS). The act sets the total amounts available for distribution through this pool as shown in the table

below. If an eligible hospital dissolves or is no longer a nongovernmental hospital, available amounts are reduced by the amount the hospital would have received.

General Inpatient Pool Amounts

Year	Payment
FY 27	\$202,823,819
FY 28	220,864,276
FY 29	239,696,267
FY 30	258,122,646
FY 31 and after	277,597,027

Small Hospital Inpatient Supplemental Payment Pool

The act creates a small hospital inpatient supplemental payment pool for nongovernmental hospitals that do not receive DSH payments and have up to 180 licensed inpatient beds. Payments are made on a tiered basis according to federal FY 24 total Medicaid inpatient revenue as reported to OHS. The table below shows the payment amounts.

Small Hospital Inpatient Pool Amounts

Year	Payment	
Tier	Less than \$10 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid revenue	At least \$10 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue
FY 27	\$3,425,000	\$9,675,000
FY 28	3,600,000	10,150,000
FY 29	3,775,000	10,650,000
FY 30	3,975,000	11,175,000
FY 31 and after	4,175,000	11,700,000

Mid-Sized Hospital Inpatient Supplemental Payment Pool

The act creates a mid-sized hospital inpatient supplemental payment pool for nongovernmental hospitals that (1) do not receive DSH payments, (2) have between 181 and 499 licensed inpatient beds, and (3) have federal FY 24 Medicaid gross revenue between 6% and 18% of total hospital revenue as reported to OHS. Payments are tiered based on total federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue reported to OHS, as shown in the table below.

Mid-Sized Hospital Inpatient Pool Amounts

Year	Payment	
Tier	Less than \$18 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue	At least \$18 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue
FY 27	\$9,250,000	\$19,000,000
FY 28	9,650,000	20,050,000
FY 29	10,075,000	21,125,000
FY 30	10,550,000	22,225,000
FY 31 and after	11,025,000	23,350,000

Independent Mid-Sized Hospital Inpatient Supplemental Payment Pool

The act creates a mid-sized hospital inpatient supplemental payment pool for independent nongovernmental hospitals that meet the same criteria required for the mid-sized hospital inpatient pool. This pool is in addition to that one and is not a substitute for it. An independent nongovernmental hospital is not part of a health system that includes multiple hospitals and is not included with other hospitals in consolidated financial statements at the system level. Payments are tiered based on total federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue reported to OHS, as shown in the table below.

Independent Mid-Sized Hospital Inpatient Pool Amounts

Year	Payment	
Tier	Less than \$30 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue	At least \$30 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue
FY 27	\$2,225,000	\$6,700,000
FY 28	2,400,000	7,075,000
FY 29	2,575,000	7,475,000
FY 30	2,725,000	7,950,000
FY 31 and after	2,875,000	8,400,000

Large Hospital Inpatient Supplemental Payment Pool

The act creates a large hospital inpatient supplemental payment pool for nongovernmental hospitals that do not receive DSH payments, have at least 500 licensed inpatient beds, and have Medicaid inpatient revenue over \$150 million. Payments are tiered based on total federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue reported to OHS, as shown in the table below.

Large Hospital Inpatient Pool Amounts

Year	Payment	
Tier	Less than \$300 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue	At least \$300 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid inpatient revenue
FY 27	\$63,000,000	\$117,000,000
FY 28	65,900,000	127,100,000
FY 29	68,675,000	137,325,000
FY 30	71,800,000	148,200,000
FY 31 and after	74,850,000	159,150,000

General Outpatient Supplemental Payment Pool

The act creates a general outpatient supplemental payment pool. Nongovernmental hospitals that do not receive DSH payments must participate in the pool, which is distributed proportionately based on the hospital's share of federal FY 24 total Medicaid inpatient revenue as reported to OHS. The table below shows payment amounts. If an eligible hospital dissolves or is no longer a nongovernmental hospital, available amounts are reduced by the amount the hospital would have received.

General Outpatient Pool Amounts

Year	Payment
FY 27	\$194,995,425
FY 28	221,565,186
FY 29	248,852,236

Year	Payment
FY 30	276,805,190
FY 31 and after	305,623,328

Mid-Sized Hospital Outpatient Supplemental Payment Pool

The act creates a mid-sized hospital outpatient supplemental payment pool for nongovernmental hospitals that (1) do not receive DSH payments, (2) have between 50,000 and 90,000 annual emergency department visits, and (3) have federal FY 24 Medicaid gross revenue between 6% and 18% as reported to OHS. Payments are tiered based on total federal FY 24 Medicaid outpatient revenue reported to OHS, as shown in the table below.

Mid-Sized Hospital Outpatient Pool Amounts

Year	Payment	
Tier	Less than \$30 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid outpatient revenue	At least \$30 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid outpatient revenue
FY 27	\$9,250,000	\$19,000,000
FY 28	9,650,000	20,050,000
FY 29	10,075,000	21,125,000
FY 30	10,550,000	22,225,000
FY 31 and after	11,025,000	23,350,000

Independent Mid-Sized Hospital Outpatient Supplemental Payment Pool

The act creates an independent mid-sized hospital outpatient supplemental payment pool for independent nongovernmental hospitals that meet the same criteria as for the mid-sized hospital outpatient supplemental pool described above. This pool is in addition to that one and is not a substitute for it. Payments are tiered based on total federal FY 24 Medicaid outpatient revenue reported to OHS, as shown in the table below.

Independent Mid-Sized Hospital Outpatient Pool Amounts

Year	Payment	
Tier	Less than \$30 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid outpatient revenue	At least \$30 million in federal FY 24 Medicaid outpatient revenue
FY 27	\$2,225,000	\$6,700,000
FY 28	2,400,000	7,075,000
FY 29	2,575,000	7,475,000
FY 30	2,725,000	7,950,000
FY 31 and after	2,875,000	8,400,000

Physicians and Mid-Level Practitioners

The act creates a \$72,750,000 supplemental payment pool starting for FY 27 for physicians and mid-level practitioners at hospitals and hospital-affiliated medical groups, excluding children's hospitals and medical groups primarily affiliated with children's hospitals. A mid-level practitioner is an APRN or physician assistant. A hospital-affiliated medical group is a medical foundation or medical group practice organized or controlled by a hospital, a health system, or a subsidiary. To receive payments, physicians and practitioners must apply for funds in consultation with their hospital or health system and be deemed eligible by DSS by June 30, 2026.

The act requires DSS to apportion the payments among eligible entities in proportion to the gap between (1) Medicaid payments received by the entity for physician and mid-level practitioner services for FY 25 and (2) the amount the entity would have received for these services if paid under the 2026 Medicare physician fee schedule. DSS must distribute the

available funds so that each entity receives the same percentage of its gap. DSS must make payments for each fiscal year in the subsequent fiscal year, starting for FY 28.

If an eligible entity dissolves or is no longer affiliated with a nongovernmental hospital, the available funds must be reduced by the amount the entity would have received.

Faculty Practice Plans

The act creates a \$32,250,000 supplemental pool starting for FY 27 for faculty practice plans that apply for the funds and that DSS deems eligible for payments by June 30, 2026. A faculty practice plan is a medical group controlled or operated by a university or medical school whose primary affiliation is with a nongovernmental hospital. Eligible plans are those that, for FY 25, (1) have more than 1,300 Medicaid enrolled physicians and mid-level practitioners and (2) have annual Medicaid revenue attributable to physician and mid-level practitioner services over \$50 million. These services are professional services billed by physicians or mid-level practitioners under a federal employer identification number assigned to the faculty practice plan.

Payments must be apportioned among eligible faculty practice plans in proportion to the gap between Medicaid payments received for physician and mid-level practitioner services for FY 25 and what the plan would have received for these services under the 2026 Medicare physician schedule. The DSS commissioner must distribute available funds so that each entity receives the same percentage of its gap. DSS must make payments for each fiscal year in the subsequent fiscal year, starting for FY 28.

If an eligible entity dissolves or is no longer affiliated with a nongovernmental hospital, the available funds must be reduced by the amount the entity would have received.

Other Requirements for Physician and Mid-Level Practitioners and Faculty Practice Plans

For both the pool for physician and mid-level practitioners and the pool for faculty practice plans, if CMS does not approve the FY 25 Medicaid payments or the 2026 Medicare physician fee schedule, the act allows DSS to calculate the gap using (1) Medicaid payments and Medicare physician fee schedules from the most recent year approved by CMS or (2) any other CMS-approved methodology that results in the same total aggregate pool amounts and a comparable distribution.

Under the act, amounts for both pools apply for FY 27 and after, regardless of any requirement to update, refresh, or rebase the upper payment limit to comply with federal law or guidance. Any adjustment for federal compliance must be made in the same way as for other supplemental payments under the act (see below).

Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments

Starting for FY 26, the act requires DSS to make DSH payments (1) in accordance with federal laws on payments for inpatient hospital services to disproportionate share hospitals and (2) subject to the state's annual DSH payment allotment. The act sets separate DSH payment amounts for three types of private acute care hospitals.

For private acute care hospitals in a municipality with a population over 145,000, and with federal FY 24 Medicaid charges over 25% of total charges, the act sets payment amounts as shown in the table below.

DSH Payments for Hospitals in Large Municipalities

Year	Payment
FY 27	\$45,792,235
FY 28	45,648,705
FY 29	45,516,217
FY 30	45,395,510
FY 31 and after	45,282,754

For private acute care hospitals within a state-sponsored corporate structure located in a large urban municipality with federal FY 24 Medicaid charges between 20% to 25% of total charges, the act sets payment amounts as shown in the table below.

DSH Payments for Hospitals in a State-Sponsored Corporate Structure

Year	Payment
FY 27	\$7,706,981
FY 28	8,541,956
FY 29	9,393,031
FY 30	10,260,616
FY 31 and after	11,146,556

For licensed freestanding private acute care children's hospitals with federal FY 24 Medicaid charges over 35% of total charges, the act sets payment amounts as shown in the table below.

DSH Payments to Certain Children's Hospitals

Year	Payment
FY 27	\$40,000,784
FY 28	42,020,839
FY 29	44,092,385
FY 30	46,216,555
FY 31 and after	48,397,679

The DSH payments described above are in addition to the \$13,138,737 in DSH payments otherwise appropriated or provided to eligible hospitals for FY 27. The act sets this amount as a funding baseline for FYs 27 to 31 and prohibits this amount from being reduced, offset, supplanted, or otherwise used to determine the DSH payments described above. The DSH payments described in the above tables remain subject to hospital-specific limits based on each hospital's uncompensated care costs, as required under federal law.

The act requires the DSS commissioner, starting for FY 27, to adjust aggregate DSH payments for state-owned hospitals so that these amounts, when combined with DSH payments described above, do not exceed the state's federal DSH payment allotment for the applicable fiscal year.

Revisions in Base Years

At the start of fiscal years that include a base year used to calculate net patient revenue for the hospital taxes described above, the act requires DSS to confer with the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and revise the provisions described above as needed. Specifically, she must revise the supplemental payment pool structure, pool amounts, DSH payment amounts, and distribution methodologies so that the total value of payments (supplemental payments, DSH payments, hospital-based physician and mid-level practitioner payments, hospital-affiliated medical group payments and faulty practice plan payments to each health system and its affiliates) are proportionately and practicably maintained in relation to the updated all-payer revenue data used to rebase the tax and anticipated total tax liability.

The act allows revisions to vary as needed to reflect updated provider status changes, federal approval requirements, or compliance with federal law. When making these revisions, the act requires the commissioner to consider the aggregate payment value attributable to each health system and its affiliates, including payments made directly to hospitals, hospital-affiliated medical groups, faculty practice plans, and hospital-based physician and mid-level practitioner services. Under the act, the aggregate payment value includes the value of historical rate-based payment increases, which, for revisions in base years, are assumed to be \$375,447,003, reallocated to the applicable base year.

Federal Compliance and Upper Payment Limits

Supplemental payments under the act must comply with federal laws on Medicaid and federal financial participation, including regulations on the upper payment limit. The act requires the DSS commissioner to calculate and monitor applicable aggregate and provider-specific upper payment limits for each class of providers to ensure compliance with federal requirements.

By the end of each fiscal year, DSS must calculate and submit to CMS inpatient and outpatient hospital upper payment

limit demonstrations for the next fiscal year, or, if CMS does not approve these, the inpatient and outpatient hospital upper payment limits for the current fiscal year. The act requires DSS to consult with the CHA at least 15 days before submitting these demonstrations to CMS.

Other Limited Revisions and Adjustments

The act allows the DSS commissioner, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the CHA, to revise the payment structure for payments under the act if she determines that the payments scheduled for a future quarter (1) may exceed an aggregate or provider-specific upper payment limit, (2) violate a federal requirement in a way that makes any payments ineligible for federal financial participation, or (3) otherwise fail to maximize federal financial participation. Revisions must (1) ensure ongoing compliance with all applicable federal requirements and (2) in the aggregate, produce a total statewide payment level that is not materially less than the payment level contemplated under the act. The act requires any revisions to keep the combined payment amounts to each health system nearly equal to payment levels required under the act and only allows them to vary to the extent needed to get federal approval, comply with federal law, or maximize federal financial participation.

The act eliminates a provision in prior law that prohibited DSS from paying Medicaid supplemental payments in a way that does not comply with federal law, including payments that cause total hospital payments to exceed upper payment limits. Under the act, if the DSS commissioner determines it is not possible to make the adjustments described above, and determines supplemental payments scheduled for a future quarter may exceed an aggregate or provider-specific upper payment level or any other federal requirement that makes any part of the payments ineligible for federal financial participation, she must continue to make scheduled supplemental payments to eligible providers and adjust them solely to the extent needed to account for any part of the federal financial participation that is unavailable due to an upper payment limit determination.

In this case, the act limits any adjustment, whether implemented prospectively through payment reductions or retrospectively through recoupment, to the amount of federal participation that is disallowed or deferred due to upper limit requirements. Adjustments to hospital supplemental payments must apply across the affected provider or service class in proportion to each provider's share of the applicable supplemental payment pool for the relevant period.

The act prohibits the state from reducing or recovering amounts that are more than the federal share disallowed due to upper payment limit requirements.

Children's Hospital Eligibility

Existing law requires DSS to seek CMS approval to remove children's general hospitals from an exemption from the net revenue tax. The act requires these hospitals to pay the taxes on inpatient and outpatient hospital services while federal approval is pending (see §§ 357-362).

Under the act, while federal approval is pending, any children's general hospital that would be eligible for payments under the act if CMS approves the request must be treated as eligible unless CMS denies the request.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Existing law sets certain requirements for supplemental payments in cases where hospitals merge or consolidate, including cases where the acquired hospital does not maintain a separate license. Under the act, DSS must continue to make any payments under the act to a successor organization resulting from a merger, consolidation, or acquisition, if the successor organization is nongovernmental hospital eligible for Medicaid enrollment. Under the act, if an entity that existed January 1, 2025, was acquired by more than one entity after that date, then payments that would be due to that entity must be equitably apportioned among the acquirors.

Dissolutions or Other Terminations

The act removes a provision referencing the settlement agreement that requires supplemental payments that would have been made to a hospital that dissolves, ceases to operate, or otherwise terminates services to be redistributed to all other nongovernmental short-term general hospitals in the state in accordance with the settlement agreement's distribution methodology. The act instead prohibits these payments from being made to any other hospital.

§§ 364-369 — HEALTH CARE COST GROWTH AND QUALITY BENCHMARKS AND SPENDING TARGETS

Transfers from OHS to OPM existing law's requirements to develop benchmarks for health care quality and cost growth and primary care spending targets; makes several changes to this process, such as (1) establishing annual cost growth benchmarks for certain calendar years, a hospital payment growth methodology and benchmark, and factors to consider in assessing compliance and (2) allowing the development of a cost growth benchmark plan to achieve compliance

The act transfers from OHS to OPM existing responsibilities for developing health care cost growth benchmarks, primary care spending targets, and health care quality benchmarks, and makes related conforming and technical changes. (Other sections of the act eliminate OHS and make various agencies, including OPM, successor agencies (see §§ 68-161).) The act also establishes additional responsibilities for the OPM secretary in this role, as described below.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Annual Cost Growth Benchmarks (§ 365)

The act transfers from the OHS commissioner to the OPM secretary the responsibility to develop and adopt annual health care cost growth benchmarks and annual primary care spending targets every five years (starting July 1, 2025) for the succeeding five calendar years for provider entities and payers. Prior law specified factors to consider in doing so (related to median income, gross state product, inflation, and total healthcare expenses). The act eliminates these factors and replaces them with a different method.

Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmarks by Calendar Year. Regardless of the requirement described above, the act requires the secretary, by July 1, 2027, to establish the following annual cost growth benchmark.

For calendar years 2028 through 2032, the health care cost growth benchmark must be equal to 3.9%.

For calendar year 2033, and every five years after that, the secretary must develop and adopt annual health care cost growth benchmarks for the succeeding five calendar years for provider entities and payers that are 20% of the projected growth in median Connecticut household income and 80% of the greater of:

1. that year's growth in Connecticut potential gross state product, or
2. the annual growth in the employment cost index for total compensation for private industry workers in the New England Census Region published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), or any successor regional labor cost index designated by the secretary, for that year.

The act maintains existing requirements for informational public hearings before adopting the health care cost growth benchmarks and primary care spending targets developed as described above, including the requirement to post online the hearings' notices and summaries and any recommendations to modify or not modify the annual benchmarks and targets (specifically, the annual quality benchmarks and targets under the act). However, it eliminates (1) the office's discretion to modify the growth benchmark or spending target after an informational public hearing if reasonably warranted and (2) a provision that expressly required the office to post the benchmarks and targets on its website.

Hospital Payment Growth Methodology (§ 365)

By July 1, 2027, the act requires the OPM secretary, in consultation with an association of Connecticut hospitals, to develop and adopt a hospital payment growth methodology to measure a hospital's annual change in payment per unit. The methodology must (1) be effective for performance year 2028, and (2) to the maximum extent feasible, adjust for or consider the act's factors for assessing compliance with the hospital payment growth benchmark.

Under the act, a "hospital payment growth methodology" is one the secretary develops to measure a hospital's annual change in standardized payment per unit of service, by market or service category, or both, while holding utilization constant and adjusting for or otherwise considering the act's factors for assessing compliance with the hospital growth benchmark, to distinguish payment growth from changes in utilization, clinical risk, service volume, service mix, and payer reimbursement practices.

Under the act, a "hospital payment growth benchmark" is a benchmark value to measure annual hospital payment growth that equals the cost growth benchmark value the act establishes.

Hospital-Specific Preliminary Results. The act requires the secretary, before finalizing the methodology, to give each hospital its preliminary results and the data and assumptions used to calculate the results (PA 26-76, § 95, specifies that the results must be based on the prior year's data). The secretary must also (1) give each hospital at least 90 days to validate, verify, or challenge the methodology, data, assumptions, and preliminary results; (2) consider all timely corrections or challenges a hospital submits; and (3) amend the methodology or preliminary results as appropriate.

Publishing Requirement. By January 1, 2029, the secretary must publish (1) the final hospital payment growth

methodology on OPM's website; (2) a written response to material comments received; (3) a description of any changes made to the methodology following testing and validation (PA 26-76, § 98, requires this only as feasible and practical); and (4) an explanation of how the methodology accounts for material changes in patient acuity, clinical complexity, severity of illness, case mix, service intensity, payer mix, service mix, coding guidance, payer claims adjudication practices, and services provided.

Annual Review of Inflation Rate. The act transfers from the commissioner to the secretary existing law's requirement to annually review the current and projected inflation rate and publish the review online. Existing law, unchanged by the act, allows modification of the benchmark if the inflation review requires it, with no informational public hearing required before the modification.

Legislature's Review and Approval Eliminated. Under prior law, if the average annual health care cost growth benchmark for a succeeding five-year period differed from the average benchmark for the previous five-year period by more than 0.5%, it had to be submitted to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee for review and approval. The act eliminates this requirement.

Primary Care Spending Targets (§ 365)

The act creates a new method the secretary must use to develop and adopt primary care spending targets. Under this method the secretary must:

1. use total medical expense as the denominator and include in primary care spending both claims-based and nonclaims-based payments attributable to primary care providers and primary care services and infrastructure, including capitation, care management, and care coordination payments, and may exclude market specific factors, such as long-term care;
2. set separate market-specific primary care spending targets for the commercial market, Medicaid, Medicare, and Medicare Advantage, to the extent feasible and practicable, and adjust the calculation and assessment of each payer and provider against the market-specific target to account for material differences in age and sex distribution;
3. set annual market-specific targets for the succeeding five calendar years that reflect progressive improvement toward a market-specific reference percentage determined by the secretary based on primary care access needs, workforce capacity, health equity, and comparable market data, but the cumulative increase in the target over the five-year period cannot exceed 5% of the adjusted baseline; and
4. calculate the statewide annual primary care spending target as the member-month weighted average of the market-specific targets set under these provisions.

As mentioned above, the act eliminates a provision in prior law that required annual primary care spending targets to be posted on the office's website, but it maintains the online posting requirement for any recommendations to modify or not modify them based on an informational hearing.

Health Care Quality Benchmarks (§ 365)

The act transfers from the commissioner to the secretary existing requirements for the commissioner to develop annual health care quality benchmarks every five years starting by July 1, 2025, such as the requirement to consider quality measures endorsed by nationally recognized organizations and expert organizations that develop health equity measures and other measures (such as health outcomes, overutilization, and underutilization). It also maintains the informational public hearing and other related requirements.

OPM Secretary's Implementation Functions (§ 365)

The act requires the secretary, in implementing the provisions above, to perform certain functions described below by July 1, 2028. The act specifies that these functions must not prevent the secretary from reporting each provider's cost growth performance at the market level.

Methodology to Analyze APCD Data. The secretary must adopt and post on the office's website a revised methodology for (1) analyzing data from the state's all-payer claims database (APCD) and (2) identifying entities that are significant contributors to health care cost growth. This methodology must use data analytics that examine the contribution of material changes in clinical risk payment methodologies that have a material change on cost growth measures.

By law, the "all-payer claims database" is a database that receives and stores data from a reporting entity (for example, an insurer or a pharmacy benefit manager) relating to medical insurance, dental insurance, pharmacy, and other insurance claims information from enrollment and eligibility files.

Methodology for Assessing Compliance. The secretary must also adopt and make available on the office's website a

revised methodology for assessing compliance with the health care cost growth benchmark. The methodology must (1) assess cost growth for each provider entity and hospital in the aggregate across governmental and private payers (PA 26-76, § 97, clarifies that this applies to provider entities only) and (2) adjust for clinical risk and account for changes in payment methodologies that have a material change on cost growth measures.

Payer and Hospital Reporting Requirement (§ 366)

Existing law requires payers to annually report aggregated data by August 15, including aggregated, self-funded data needed to calculate (1) total health care expenditures, (2) primary care spending as a percentage of total medical expenses, and (3) net cost of private health insurance. The act requires reporting to OPM instead of OHS, extends this requirement to hospitals, and adds data needed to calculate performance toward the hospital growth benchmark, as applicable.

It also requires the secretary to seek to limit the burden of reporting requirements and rely on data sources available to the secretary before seeking data reporting from hospitals.

Annual Health Care Expenditure Report (§ 366)

Report on Total Health Care Expenditures. The act transfers from OHS to OPM the existing requirement to annually post online a report on total health care expenditures by March 31. The report must use the total aggregate medical expenses that payers report, including a breakdown of population-adjusted total medical expenses by payer and provider entities. Among other things, prior law allowed it to include information on primary care spending as a percentage of total medical expenses. The act replaces this with the option to include, for each market and payer, both (1) the percentage of total medical expense devoted to primary care, and (2) primary care spending expressed on a per-member-per-month basis.

By July 1, 2028, before releasing this report, the act requires the secretary to establish and coordinate a process for payers and provider entities to review submitted data and submit information and feedback that may improve the data's accuracy.

Report on Hospital Payment Growth. The act requires the secretary, starting by March 31, 2029, to annually prepare and post on OPM's website a report on each hospital's payment growth compared to the hospital growth benchmark in applicable markets, as the secretary determines, using the hospital payment growth methodology for inpatient and outpatient services.

Assessing Compliance With Benchmarks (§ 367)

The act (1) transfers from OHS to OPM responsibility to identify payers or providers who exceed the health care growth benchmark or do not meet the primary care spending targets and (2) requires OPM to identify those who do not meet the quality benchmark.

Under the act, by July 1, 2028, in assessing compliance with the health care cost growth benchmark and determining whether to identify a payer or provider entity as exceeding it, the secretary must use the methodology described above and cannot identify any payer or provider entity as exceeding the benchmark based solely on commercial payment growth or on commercial trends viewed in isolation.

In assessing compliance with the hospital payment growth benchmark and determining whether to identify a hospital as exceeding it, the secretary must (1) use the hospital payment growth methodology, including considering the factors below, and (2) not identify any hospital as exceeding the benchmark based solely on commercial payment growth or on commercial trends viewed in isolation. The assessment must specifically consider unique circumstances applicable to pediatric providers.

Factors for Assessing Compliance With Hospital Payment Growth Benchmark (§ 367)

Starting by July 1, 2028, the act establishes the following factors that must be considered, to the extent feasible and practicable, in assessing compliance with the hospital payment growth benchmark:

1. changes in patient acuity, clinical complexity, case mix, service intensity, illness severity, social risk factors, and shifts in services provided;
2. regional labor market conditions, workforce shortages, inflationary pressures, pharmaceutical and medical supply costs, capital expenditures, governmental mandates, and changes in federal or state law, regulation, or reimbursement policy materially affecting hospital costs or payments;
3. services, payment changes, utilization changes, or cost increases attributable to public health emergencies, new technologies, new service lines, changes in coding guidance, payer claims adjudication practices, (including

downcoding, downgrading, bundling, denials, payment edits, and other payer coding or reimbursement policies), changes in payer mix, supplemental or directed payments, graduate medical education payments, disproportionate share hospital payments, uncompensated care, or other factors the secretary determines that materially distort year-to-year comparisons; and

4. payment growth separately and in the aggregate across governmental and nongovernmental payers and the extent to which governmental payer payment growth lags hospital input cost growth or contributes to nongovernmental payment growth.

Cost Growth Benchmark Plan (§ 367)

The act requires the secretary to notify all payers, provider entities, other entities, and hospitals identified as exceeding the health care cost growth benchmark or hospital benchmark, as applicable, for any given year. Beginning with the performance of a provider entity or hospital in calendar year 2029, unless stated otherwise in an approval or agreement with the state, the secretary may require any provider entity or hospital identified as exceeding the applicable benchmark to file a cost growth benchmark plan in a way the secretary sets.

The secretary must send a written notice about this requirement, including supporting data.

Provider Entity or Hospital Requirements. Within 45 days after receiving this notice, the provider entity or hospital must file with the secretary:

1. a complete cost growth benchmark plan;
2. an application to waive or extend the requirement to file the plan; or
3. information based on the supporting data provided by the secretary to dispute the finding that it exceeded the cost growth benchmark in the given year, in a way set by the secretary.

Documentation and Supporting Evidence. Under the act, the provider entity or hospital may file documentation or supporting evidence with the secretary to support its application to waive or extend the requirement to file a plan.

The secretary must require the provider entity or hospital to submit any other relevant information the secretary deems necessary to consider the waiver or extension application, and this information, except propriety information or information subject to state or federal confidentiality requirements, must be made public at the secretary's discretion.

The act allows the secretary to do the following:

1. deny the dispute over the applicable benchmark finding;
2. accept the provider entity's or hospital's data and justification that the applicable growth benchmark was not exceeded for the year;
3. waive the requirement for a cost growth benchmark plan; or
4. delay the requirement for a plan in response to a waiver or extension request considering all information received from the provider entity or hospital, based on considering the factors below.

Factors to Consider. In determining whether to delay the requirement for a provider entity or hospital to submit the plan, the act requires the secretary to consider the following factors:

1. the costs, price, and utilization trends of the provider entity or hospital over time, and any demonstrated improvement to reduce health status total medical expenses;
2. any ongoing strategies or investments that they are implementing to improve future long-term efficiency and reduce cost growth;
3. whether the factors that led to their increased costs can reasonably be considered unanticipated and outside of their control (these factors may include matters such as age and other health-status-adjusted factors and other cost inputs such as pharmaceutical and medical device expenses, or any manmade or natural catastrophic event);
4. their overall financial condition;
5. the annual growth in the inpatient hospital market basket published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or any successor hospital input price index the secretary designates, for the year;
6. the annual growth in the Employment Cost Index for total compensation for private industry workers in the New England Census Region published by BLS, or any successor regional labor cost index the secretary designates, for the year;
7. the performance across all markets in the aggregate; and
8. the factors identified in assessing compliance with the hospital payment growth benchmark (see above) and any other factors the secretary considers relevant.

Waivers or Extensions. If the secretary declines to waive or extend the requirement to file a cost growth benchmark plan, the secretary must give the provider entity or hospital written notice about the denial and requirement to file a plan.

A provider entity or hospital must file a plan within 45 days after receiving the denial notice. If granted an extension, it must file the plan on the date given for an extension.

Plan Contents. The provider entity or hospital must generate the cost growth benchmark plan identifying the cost growth causes and include specific strategies, adjustments, and proposed action steps to implement to improve cost performance. The plan must include specific identifiable and measurable expected outcomes and a timetable of up to 18 months for implementation.

Approval. The secretary must approve any cost growth benchmark plan that he determines (1) is reasonably likely to address the underlying cause of the provider entity's or hospital's cost growth and (2) has a reasonable expectation for successful implementation.

OPM Consultation on Incomplete or Unacceptable Plan. If the secretary finds the plan unacceptable or incomplete, he may consult with the entity or hospital on the criteria that have not been met and may allow up to 30 calendar days for plan resubmission. The provider entity or hospital must propose all aspects of the plan and the secretary cannot require specific elements for approval.

Plan Implementation. Upon the plan's approval, the secretary must notify the provider entity or hospital to begin immediately implementing it. The secretary must post public notice on the office's website stating that the provider entity or hospital is implementing a cost growth benchmark plan. All provider entities and hospitals implementing an approved plan may be subject to additional reasonable reporting requirements and compliance monitoring, as the secretary determines.

Each provider entity and hospital must work to implement the cost growth benchmark plan in good faith. At any point during the plan's implementation, the provider entity or hospital may file a plan amendment for the secretary's approval.

Provider Entity or Hospital Report to OPM on Plan Outcome. At the conclusion of the timetable set in the plan, the provider entity or hospital must report to the secretary on the plan's outcome. If the plan was unsuccessful, the secretary must:

1. extend the existing plan's implementation timetable,
2. approve an amendment to the plan proposed by the provider entity or hospital,
3. require the provider entity or hospital to submit a new plan,
4. waive or delay the requirement to file additional plans, or
5. implement the financial penalty for the provider entity or hospital failing to file or implement a plan (see below).

OPM must remove the identity of a provider entity or hospital that successfully completes a cost growth benchmark plan.

Failure to File or Implement a Cost Growth Benchmark Plan. Under the act, the secretary may require a provider entity or hospital to submit a one-time community investment project (see below) with a focus on addressing population health to the social services (DSS) commissioner for review, if the secretary determines that the entity or hospital has:

1. willfully neglected to timely file a cost growth benchmark plan with the secretary,
2. failed to file an acceptable plan in good faith with the secretary,
3. failed to implement the plan in good faith, or
4. knowingly failed to provide information required by these provisions or knowingly falsified the information.

Community Investment Project. For a hospital, the project must consider the most recently completed community health needs assessment and have a focus on addressing population health. The project's value must be up to (1) \$100,000 for a small hospital with fewer than 180 licensed beds; (2) \$200,000 for a midsize hospital with 180 to 499 licensed beds; and (3) \$400,000 for a large hospital with 500 or more licensed beds.

The secretary must consider waiving the submission of a one-time community investment project by financially distressed hospitals or provider entities (those that have an operating margin of less than 1%).

Reports to the Legislature on Public Hearing Information (§ 368)

The act transfers from the commissioner to the secretary the requirement to hold annual informational public hearings to compare the:

1. growth in total health care expenditures in the performance year to that year's health care cost growth benchmark and
2. performance of payers and provider entities in the performance year to that year's quality benchmarks.

The act also transfers from the commissioner to the secretary the requirement to submit reports to the Insurance and Real Estate and Public Health committees annually on specific matters relating to these hearings. The act changes the due date of both annual reports from October 15 to January 15.

For the report on total health care expenditures, the act removes the requirement for the report to describe a plan for monitoring any unintended adverse consequences resulting from the adoption of cost growth benchmarks and primary care spending targets and the results of any findings from the plan's implementation.

Exceeding the Cost or Hospital Growth Benchmark, Quality Benchmark, or Primary Care Spending Target (§ 368)

Notification. The act requires the secretary, annually by March 1, to notify any payer, provider entity, hospital, or other entity that exceeded the cost growth benchmark, primary care spending target, quality benchmark, or hospital payment growth benchmark, as applicable.

Request From Provider or Entity. Upon the request of the payer, provider entity, hospital, or other entity, including a drug manufacturer identified as a significant contributor, the secretary must make the following available to them:

1. the APCD data sets, analytic files, and methodology used to determine the benchmarks or targets, as applicable (the payer, provider entity, hospital, or other entity must receive approval from the APCD release committee);
2. payment of any required fees; and
3. an executed data release agreement for raw data to the extent permitted by law and sufficient to enable the entity to assess, verify, or challenge the secretary's determination.

The APCD release committee must expedite release requests under this provision.

Expedited Request Process. By January 1, 2027, the secretary must establish an expedited APCD data request process for one of these requests. Under the process, the release committee's chairperson, or his or her designee, must meet with the secretary and approve or disapprove a data request application within 10 days after the meeting. Within five days after approval, the secretary must send a data use agreement to the requesting entity. Within 10 days after receiving an approved data use agreement from the entity, the secretary must give the entity the data. The act exempts these entities from a data release fee.

Challenge and Cost-Driver Assessment. The secretary must consider any timely challenge submitted by an entity. In making and publicly presenting a cost-driver assessment, the secretary must use the revised methodology adopted under the act and examine the contribution of material changes in clinical risk and payment methodologies.

§ 370 — MEDICAID VALUE-BASED WORKING GROUP

Creates a Medicaid Value-Based Payment Working Group to collaboratively design, evaluate readiness for, and recommend scalable, voluntary, value-based payment models for the Medicaid population

The act creates a Medicaid Value-Based Payment Working Group to collaboratively design, evaluate readiness for, and recommend scalable, voluntary, value-based payment models for the Medicaid population. These payment models must advance quality, cost efficiency, access, health system sustainability, and health equity across the health care delivery system. Participation in any value-based payment model developed under the act must be voluntary for providers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Membership

The members must be appointed by the DSS commissioner and include representatives of hospitals, physicians, federally qualified health centers, behavioral health care providers, health carriers or managed care organizations participating in Medicaid, consumer advocates, and any other stakeholders the commissioner deems appropriate.

Recommendations

The working group must evaluate and develop recommendations on:

1. voluntary value-based payment arrangements for Medicaid providers, including shared savings models, population-based payment models, quality incentive arrangements, and other alternative payment methodologies;
2. strategies to improve quality outcomes, promote access to care, and address health disparities within the Medicaid population;
3. the operational, technological, workforce, and infrastructure investments necessary to support participation in value-based payment arrangements, including consideration of up-front funding, technical assistance, data-sharing capabilities, and administrative simplification; and
4. opportunities to align these payment initiatives with state and federal delivery system reform efforts.

Reporting Requirement

The working group must submit its recommendations to the Human Services and Public Health committees by January 1, 2028. The recommendations must include opportunities for pilot implementation.

§§ 371-373 — PREVAILING WAGE LAW CHANGES

Delays, until January 1, 2027, the effective date of a provision in PA 26-12 that generally requires the benefit portion of the prevailing wage to be determined at the journeyman rate

PA 26-12, § 54, requires (1) the labor (DOL) commissioner, when determining the prevailing wages required on a public works project, to determine the portion that covers payments, contributions, and member benefits at the journeyman rate and (2) employers on prevailing wage projects to keep daily attendance records of the workers on a covered project and submit them weekly to the agency overseeing the project.

This act repeals that provision in PA 26-12, separates its two requirements, and reinstates them with separate effective dates so that the requirement to determine prevailing wage benefits at the journeyman rate is effective January 1, 2027 (instead of October 1, 2026), and the requirement to keep daily attendance records is effective October 1, 2026 (as it was under PA 26-12).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the repealer (§ 371), January 1, 2027, for the reinstated provision on journeymen rates (§ 372), and October 1, 2026, for the reinstated provision on daily attendance records (§ 373).

§ 374 — DOL STUDY OF WORKERS' RIGHTS

Requires the labor commissioner to study the rights of certain workers

The act requires the DOL commissioner to study the rights of workers “under economic pressure in this contentious day and age.” She must submit the study’s findings and recommendations for legislation to the Labor and Public Employees Committee by January 1, 2028.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 375 & 387 — EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

Requires OEC to annually develop a proposed spending plan for released Early Childhood Education Endowment funds; makes minor changes to the law on fund transfers

The Early Childhood Education Endowment, established in PA 25-93, is funded with unappropriated surplus and used by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to support early care and education programs in the state. The act requires OEC to make an annual spending plan and makes minor changes to the law’s provision on fund transfers.

Annual Proposed Spending Plan (§ 387)

The act requires OEC to annually develop a proposed spending plan for released endowment funds that meets existing law on spending from the fund. The plan must list the amount of planned expenditures and how the spending will meet OEC’s policy goals.

Under the act, the OEC commissioner must present the plan to the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board at its first meeting during the fiscal year for which the plan is developed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Fund Transfers (§ 375)

Each fiscal year, the treasurer must transfer the entire amount of estimated current unappropriated surplus (if any) from the General Fund to the Early Childhood Education Endowment. The act specifies that he must do so by June 30 annually.

Under existing law, whenever the comptroller determines that there is a deficit for the immediately preceding fiscal year, funds credited to the Budget Reserve Fund are deemed appropriated to fund the deficit. Under prior law, before this appropriation occurred, the amount necessary to fund the deficit had to be deducted from the amount transferred to the endowment in the preceding fiscal year. The act instead requires transferring the necessary amount from the fund itself but prohibits transferring more than the amount transferred in the preceding fiscal year.

The act also makes several technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 376 — WATERBURY 2025-26 SCHOOL DAYS NOTWITHSTANDING

Allows the Waterbury school board to reduce the number of actual school sessions for the 2025-26 school year to 176 days

Despite existing law that requires school boards to have 180 days of actual school sessions per school year, the act allows the Waterbury school board to reduce that number to 176 days for Waterbury Public Schools for the 2025-26 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 377 — CHARTER SCHOOL PLANNING GRANTS

Requires SDE to use a portion of its FY 27 charter school appropriation to give planning grants to three specified charter schools

The act requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to use \$225,000 of its FY 27 appropriation for charter schools to give \$75,000 planning grants to (1) OLAM Public Charter School in Stamford, (2) PROUD Academy in Ansonia, and (3) Taino CoLAB Academy in Waterbury.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 378 — GRANTS FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Extends to FY 27 the requirement to proportionately reduce grants for health services provided to private school students under state law

Existing law authorizes grants for school districts that must provide health services to private school students under state law. The act extends to FY 27 the requirement to reduce these grants proportionately if the amount appropriated for them does not fully fund them according to the statutory formula. Under prior law, this requirement applied through FY 26.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 379 — MAGNET SCHOOL FUNDING

Reduces FY 27 funding designated for magnet schools not operated by a local or regional board of education

In 2025, the bond act (PA 25-174, § 224) designated \$12 million of SDE's FY 27 magnet school appropriation to be distributed proportionately based on the share of enrolled students in interdistrict magnet schools operated by entities that are (1) not a local or regional board of education, (2) an independent institution of higher education's board of governors (or equivalent), or (3) any other SDE-approved third-party, not-for-profit corporation. This act reduces the amount designated from \$12 million to \$6,250,000. (PA 26-76, § 99, raised the amount from \$6,250,000 to \$6,410,000.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 380 — ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING CONTRACTS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Permits OHE, with OPM approval, to enter into contracts with higher education institutions to commit funds for Roberta B. Willis needs-based scholarships

The act permits the Office of Higher Education (OHE), with OPM's approval, to enter into contracts with Connecticut higher education institutions on and after January 1 annually to commit funds for Roberta B. Willis needs-based scholarships in the following fiscal year. The total amount committed cannot exceed the appropriation for this purpose for the (1) current fiscal year if no budget has been adopted for the following fiscal year or (2) following fiscal year as approved in the state budget.

By law, OHE annually allocates funds for these scholarships to participating higher education institutions in the state. Existing law requires OHE to notify them annually by (1) October 1 about the proportion of funds they will receive the next fiscal year and (2) November 1 about the estimated amount of funds allocated to them in the next fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 381 — TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Starting in FY 27, requires SDE to administer a teacher apprenticeship program within available appropriations

Starting in FY 27, the act requires SDE to administer a teacher apprenticeship program within available appropriations.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 382 — OHE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT NEW PROMISE PROGRAMS

Requires OHE to create a program to support establishing new promise programs

The act requires OHE to establish a program to support the creation of new promise programs throughout the state. Under the act, “promise programs” are scholarship programs that give recipients postsecondary scholarships and associated services, such as mentoring, peer support, and internships.

The act (1) sets a goal of eight new promise programs by January 1, 2031, and (2) requires prioritizing new programs that serve students in alliance districts (see *Background — Alliance Districts*). For this purpose, OHE must:

1. coordinate with interested municipalities and regional coalitions;
2. support the new promise programs with start-up technical assistance, including for funding, stakeholder engagement, program design, evaluation metrics, and sustainability; and
3. hire a consultant with expertise in promise program development and operation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Background — Alliance Districts

By law, the education commissioner has designated 36 alliance districts for five years, beginning with FY 23. The current designation applies to (1) the 33 school districts with the lowest accountability index scores and (2) three previously designated districts that were no longer among the 33 lowest scoring districts. The index is based on several student-centered measures, including statewide assessment results and high school graduation rates, among others.

§§ 383 & 384 — PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTERS

Creates a new SDE grant to establish parent training and information centers; repeals the law creating OEO (which in practice, has not been established)

The act creates a new SDE grant to establish parent training and information centers to (1) train and assist parents of children with disabilities to help the children meet developmental, functional, and academic goals and (2) receive and attempt to resolve special education complaints from students’ families. It also repeals the law creating the Office of the Educational Ombudsperson (OEO), within the Office of Governmental Accountability, which was tasked with receiving and attempting to resolve education complaints from students’ families. (OEO was created last year under PA 25-93, but in practice, is not operational.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Grant Administration

The act authorizes the SDE commissioner to enter into cooperative agreements with and award grants to, in amounts that she determines, one or more parent organizations in the state to establish parent training and information centers. A “parent organization” is a nonprofit organization whose (1) mission is to serve families of children with disabilities and (2) governing board includes (a) a majority of members who are parents of children with disabilities, (b) professionals who work in special education and early intervention-related fields, and (c) people with disabilities or those who otherwise represent people with disabilities.

The commissioner must post in a conspicuous location on SDE’s website (1) the program description, including the amount of grants available; (2) any eligibility requirements for parent organizations to qualify for grants; and (3) the program’s application form.

Duties of Parent Training and Information Centers

The act requires each center to:

1. receive, review, and attempt to resolve any special education complaints from students and students' families, including attempts to resolve complaints in collaboration with schools and educators;
2. give information to the public, agencies, legislators, and others on special education students' issues and concerns and make recommendations for resolving them;
3. provide training and information to parents (including those with low income or limited English proficiency) of children with disabilities to help the children meet developmental, functional, and academic goals; and
4. help parents communicate effectively with those responsible for providing special education and related services to their children.

The act requires SDE to disseminate information about any parent training and information center established under the act by (1) posting the information in a conspicuous location on its website, including information on special education guides and information published by the department, and (2) distributing the information in any other way the department chooses.

Reporting Requirement

Under the act, each parent training and information center must submit an annual report to the Education Committee that at least includes the (1) number and demographics of families the center served; (2) effectiveness of strategies used to reach and serve families, including families with low income or limited English proficiency; and (3) number of families the center helped resolve special education complaints.

§§ 385, 386 & 485 — STUDENT LOAN OMBUDSMAN

Transfers the Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman from DOB to the Office of Higher Education; requires the ombudsman to report to the legislature on the office's 2025 and 2026 activities

The act transfers the Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman from the Department of Banking (DOB) to the Office of Higher Education. Among other things, the ombudsman's office is responsible for (1) helping student loan borrowers resolve complaints and understand their rights and responsibilities and (2) analyzing and monitoring laws that affect borrowers and recommending changes.

Conforming with the transfer, the act:

1. designates the governor, rather than the DOB commissioner, as the appointing authority for the student loan ombudsman;
2. removes the student loan ombudsman account from the Banking Fund (the account, which is used to administer the office's responsibilities, contains licensing and investigation fees DOB collects from private student loan servicers) and designates the ombudsman, rather than the DOB commissioner, as the authorized person to spend funds in the account; and
3. removes the requirement that the ombudsman consult with the commissioner on its student loan borrower education course.

The act also requires the student loan ombudsman to report to the Appropriations, Banking, and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees by January 1, 2027, on the office's activities during 2025 and 2026. (PA 26-76, § 84, repeals § 485 of this act because it was duplicative.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 388 & 389 — REVIEWING BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCIAL CONDITION AND ADDING A MEMBER TO MARB

Creates a process for school boards to ask SDE for a fiscal intervention and oversight plan; requires (1) MARB to review the plan and (2) the OPM secretary and SBE to approve the plan before a school board implements it; requires school boards with a plan to meet with MARB to discuss compliance; adds the SDE commissioner to MARB

The act creates a process by which a local or regional board of education (school board) may ask the SDE commissioner for a fiscal intervention and oversight plan. Under the act, the SDE-created plan must be reviewed by the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB, see *Background — MARB*), and then needs to be approved by the OPM secretary

and State Board of Education (SBE) before the school board implements it. The plans must require school boards to meet with MARB to discuss their financial condition and compliance with the plan.

The act also adds the SDE commissioner to MARB and specifies that its provisions do not affect other state and federal laws that give SBE authority over school boards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

SDE Review and Fiscal Intervention and Oversight Plan

Under the act, when a school board applies to the SDE commissioner, she, in consultation with the OPM secretary, must conduct an initial review of the school board's financial condition. This may include, among other things, (1) meeting with local officials, (2) assessing the school board's budget deficit and its underlying causes, and (3) assessing the financial condition of the relevant municipality or municipalities.

After this initial review, the SDE commissioner must develop a fiscal intervention and oversight plan for the school board, which must at least (1) account for any legal mandates, orders, or settlements affecting the school board's costs and (2) require the school board to appear before MARB to discuss its financial condition and compliance with the plan.

Submission to MARB

The act requires the SDE commissioner to submit her plan to MARB for review. MARB must review the plan and may recommend revisions to support the long-term financial sustainability of the school board and the municipality or municipalities it serves. MARB's review must include checking that the plan:

1. ensures accuracy in the accounting of the school board's expenses and liabilities;
2. improves the school board's financial reporting systems as needed;
3. establishes and maintains transparency in the school board's fiscal operations;
4. requires the school board to notify SDE about any of its contracts that exceed \$100,000;
5. requires the application of LEAN practices and principles; and
6. includes a comprehensive school facilities and administrative optimization initiative.

As part of the review, MARB may require the school board to appear before it and discuss its financial condition and compliance with the plan.

Submission to OPM Secretary and SBE

The act requires MARB to submit the reviewed plan and any recommended revisions to it to the OPM secretary. The secretary must either approve the plan or require the SDE commissioner to revise it. After the OPM secretary approves the plan, the SDE commissioner must submit it to SBE for its approval. When SBE approves it, the school board must implement it.

Background — MARB

MARB is a state board charged with providing technical, financial, and other assistance and oversight to municipalities experiencing fiscal distress. It is composed of state officials and members with business, labor, and municipal government expertise appointed by the governor or legislative leaders. Generally, and depending on a municipality's level of fiscal distress, MARB may (1) require monthly status reports and monitor compliance with financial plans and budgets; (2) review and comment on budgets and approve revenue assumptions; (3) review and comment on, or approve, debt obligations; (4) recommend efficiency measures and hire consultants or a financial manager; and (5) set an interim budget.

§§ 390-395 – SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Provides supplemental education funding for towns, choice school operators (magnet, charter, and vo-ag operators), and SDE administration; funds these grants with General Fund appropriations and a Probate Court Administration Fund transfer; requires an increase in ECS funding for FY 28

Supplemental Education Aid (§§ 390 & 391)

The act appropriates \$183 million in FY 26 to SDE for Supplemental Education and requires SDE to use the funds for specified purposes, including funding to towns and choice school operators, as described below. It also carries forward any unspent funds from this appropriation and makes them available for the same purpose in FY 27.

Aid to Towns. Under the act, \$162.2 million of this amount is for supplemental education aid grants to towns, and SDE must distribute grants to every town, in the amounts specified in the act (totaling approximately \$162 million), in addition to their Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds. (This amount combines with the additional \$10.9 million provided in § 394 for a total of \$172.9 million in supplemental education aid for towns.)

Although the act generally requires these grants to be paid in FY 27, the act provides a \$5 million FY 26 supplemental grant for Hartford, which must be paid by June 30, 2026, out of Hartford's FY 27 supplemental grant. (PA 26-76, § 80, specifies that the \$5 million for Hartford in FY 26 must be deducted from the town's supplemental education aid grant for FY 27.)

Under the act, these one-time funds must be spent only on education and cannot be used to supplant local funding for educational purposes. (PA 26-130, §§ 13, 14 & 16, repealed the nonsupplant provision for all towns except Bridgeport). The act also excludes these funds from a town's minimum budget requirement (MBR) calculation for FY 28 (except PA 26-130, § 16, excludes Bridgeport from this provision). By law, the MBR generally prohibits a town from budgeting less for education than it did in the previous fiscal year, and ECS funds are part of the MBR.

Magnet, Charter, and Vo-Ag Supplemental Grants. The act also reserves portions of the Supplemental Education appropriation to provide one-time grant increases to certain education program operators, as follows:

1. \$5,550,000 for magnet school operators that are not boards of education;
2. \$2,750,000 for magnet schools operated by school boards ("host magnets");
3. \$8,700,000 for charter school operators; and
4. \$800,000 for boards that operate vocational-agricultural centers.

Administration Costs and Local Option MARB Oversight. Additionally, the act reserves \$3 million of the Supplemental Education appropriation for SDE administrative costs related to (1) implementing the supplemental grants and (2) the oversight activities associated with the act's provisions allowing a school board, by a majority vote of the board, to submit to increased oversight by SBE and MARB, (see § 388 above).

ECS Funding for FY 28 (§ 392)

The act requires that ECS funding for FY 28 (the first year of the next biennium budget) be at least the amount provided for FY 27 plus \$152,200,000.

District Relief and Compensatory Use Learning Aid Grants (§§ 393-395)

For FY 27, the act provides a total of \$10,945,502 in additional aid to specified towns through these one-time grants. SDE must distribute the grants, in the amounts specified in the act, to the specified towns by October 31, 2026. The act funds these grants by transferring \$10,945,502 from the Probate Court Administration Fund to the temporary education aid for school districts account that the act creates. As with the other supplemental education aid, the grants must be spent for education purposes, cannot supplant local education funding, and are not included in a town's MBR. (The PA 26-130 amendments to these provisions described above also apply to these grants.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on district relief and compensatory use learning aid grants is effective July 1, 2026, and the ECS funding level for FY 28 is effective July 1, 2027.

§ 396 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PRIORITY LIST GRANT COMMITMENTS

Authorizes school construction state grant commitments totaling \$150.6 million toward total estimated project costs of \$305.6 million

Under the state school construction grant program, the state reimburses towns and local districts for a percentage of eligible school construction costs through state general obligation bonds (with less wealthy municipalities getting a higher reimbursement). The municipalities pay the remaining costs.

The act authorizes school construction state grant commitments totaling \$150.6 million toward total estimated project costs of \$305.6 million. For each project the act authorizes, the table below shows the district, school, project type, total cost and state grant commitment estimates, and state reimbursement rate.

2026 School Construction Grant Commitments

<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Estimated Project Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Grant</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
Milford	Jonathan Law High School	Extension/ Alteration	\$12,650,000	\$4,968,920	39.28%
Norwich	Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet Middle School	New Construction	69,367,713	55,494,170	80.00%
Seymour	Bungay Elementary School	New Construction	60,000,000	38,748,000	64.58%
Stamford	Julia Stark Elementary School	Alteration/ Energy Conservation	14,347,081	8,608,249	60.00%
Waterbury	Roberto Clemente International Dual Language School	Extension/ Alteration	38,755,850	30,589,992	78.93%
Westport	Long Lots Elementary School	New Construction	110,472,124	12,229,264	11.07%
Totals			305,592,768	150,638,595	

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 397 — THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM GRANT REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Lowers the total reimbursement percentage cap on eligible costs a school board may receive for school construction grants from 100% to 95%; creates a new bonus of an additional 20% for any school district that has increased enrollment by 20% or more over a 10-year period

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) school construction grant program reimburses school districts for eligible school construction project costs. The act lowers the total reimbursement percentage cap a school board or an endowed academy may receive under this program from 100% to 95% of eligible costs. By law, the top standard reimbursement rate is 80% (for new construction or renovation projects). However, there are provisions that allow for reimbursement rate bonuses, such as an additional (1) 15% for an early childhood care and education program in an elementary school or (2) 10% for cooperative arrangements between school districts. The act prohibits combining any available bonuses in a way that leads to more than 95% reimbursement for a single project.

The act also establishes a new 20% bonus for any school district that has increased enrollment by at least 20% over the 10-year period immediately preceding the date the school construction project application is submitted to DAS, as long as the total reimbursement percentage does not exceed the act's 95% cap.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 398-403 — SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS ADVISORY COUNCIL RENAME AND RESPONSIBILITY REVISION

Renames the School Building Projects Advisory Council as the School Safety and Security Infrastructure Advisory Council and revises its responsibilities

The act renames the School Building Projects Advisory Council as the School Safety and Security Infrastructure Advisory Council and revises its responsibilities. It shifts the council's focus from school building projects in general to the safety and security aspects of projects, including by changing (1) members and their qualifications and (2) the chairperson from the DAS commissioner or her designee to the emergency services and public protection (DESPP) commissioner or his designee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Advisory Council Responsibilities

Under prior law, the council made recommendations for improvements to the DAS school building projects process to the governor and the Appropriations, Education, and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees. The act instead requires it to make recommendations for improvements to DESPP's school safety and security grant process, including eligibility criteria, to the governor and the Education and Public Safety and Security committees.

The act requires the council to develop recommendations for school safety and security infrastructure projects that meet relevant industry standards. This replaces the council's previous requirement to develop model blueprints that meet certain safety criteria for new school building projects.

Under prior law and the act, the council must conduct studies, research, and analyses, and the act further requires that these be related to school safety and security infrastructure. Existing law, unchanged by the act, also requires the council to periodically review and update the school safety infrastructure criteria as needed.

Membership

The act increases the council's membership from 11 to 13 by (1) adding to the number of members the governor appoints one representative each from a rural, suburban, and urban school district who each have experience in school safety and security planning and (2) removing the member with experience in engineering.

The act changes the qualifications for three members by requiring each to be a person with experience in one of the following: (1) school safety and security planning, (2) school architecture (a licensed architect), and (3) higher education campus safety and security.

Unchanged by the act, the council must include a member with experience in (1) Connecticut Building Code administration and (2) construction and American with Disabilities Act accessibility and expertise for students with disabilities.

Unchanged by the act, the council also consists of the OPM secretary and the DAS, SDE, and DESPP commissioners or their designees. Under prior law, the Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) board chair or his designee was an additional council member. The act replaces the CTECS board chair with the CTECS executive director or her designee.

Terms

The act ends the terms of all current gubernatorially appointed council members on June 30, 2026, and requires the new members to be appointed by September 1, 2026. Under the act, on the day it takes effect, the DESPP commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, becomes council chairperson, and DESPP staff must serve as the council's administrative staff.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

§ 404 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDOWED HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

Authorizes the DAS commissioner to waive the school construction grant requirements to provide grants to the state's three endowed high schools and academies

By law, an endowed high school or academy that has been recognized by SBE to serve as a town's public high school

must enroll students from the town at no cost to the student or family (CGS § 10-34). Eligible endowed schools and academies can apply for school construction grants, and their grant percentage is determined by a ranking calculated using the total populations of each town that uses the school or academy as their designated public high school. Connecticut has three such academies, the Gilbert School in Winchester, the Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, and the Woodstock Academy in Woodstock.

The act authorizes the DAS commissioner to waive any requirement of the school construction grant law that is inconsistent or incompatible with the educational or administrative structure of these schools or academies in order to provide a school construction grant, including the obligation for the school board or town to pay for part of the project's cost (local share).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 405-441 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, AND MODIFICATIONS

Exempts school construction projects in 26 towns and three regional school districts from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to qualify for state reimbursement, receive a higher reimbursement rate, or have their project reauthorized, among other things (commonly referred to as “notwithstandings”)

The act exempts school construction projects in 26 towns and three regional school districts from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to, among other things, (1) qualify for state reimbursement grants, (2) receive higher reimbursement percentages for the grants, or (3) have their project reauthorized due to a change in scope or cost. (These exemptions are commonly referred to as “notwithstandings.”) Generally, other than the specific notwithstanding provisions mentioned below, the projects must meet all other eligibility requirements.

The table below describes the notwithstandings that the act grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, unless otherwise noted below.

Notwithstandings for School Construction Projects

Act §	Town or District	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
405	Greenwich	Old Greenwich School, extension and alteration and roof repair	Allows the entire project to qualify retroactively as an early childhood care and education program (and, as a result, receive a 15 point reimbursement rate bonus) if the project's submitted application included plans for space that would otherwise qualify for the bonus
406	Bristol	Edgewood Pre-K Academy, renovation	Reauthorizes project and allows a change in scope if the cost does not exceed \$28.8 million; waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) Allows the project to qualify for the 15 point early childhood program bonus reimbursement rate if the reauthorization application includes plans for space that would otherwise qualify for the bonus
407	Plainville	Middle School of Plainville, renovation	Authorizes a 10 point reimbursement rate increase (current rate is 65%*)
408	Bridgeport	John Winthrop Elementary School, renovation, extension and alteration	Allows reimbursement bonus of 15% for early childhood care and education program for an existing application (the bonus 15% reimbursement was enacted last year; this project's application was submitted in December 2023)
409	Bridgeport	East End	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026

Act §	Town or District	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
		Elementary School, project unspecified	priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$132 million if the district applies before September 1, 2026 Sets a 95% reimbursement rate instead of 78.57%* (project must include plans and specifications for early childhood care and education program space and result in a net zero school building facility)
410	Westport	Long Lots Elementary School, new construction	Waives the standard building space requirements
411 & 412	Branford	Mary T. Murphy Elementary School, project unspecified Mary R. Tisko Elementary School, project unspecified	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$98 million (per school) if the district applies before October 1, 2026 Authorizes a 15 point reimbursement rate increase (Branford's current rate is 35.71%*)
413	New Britain	Jefferson Elementary School, renovation	Waives the standard building space requirements for purposes of the grant calculation
414	Enfield	Prudence Crandall Elementary School, project unspecified	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$113,996,957 if the district applies before October 1, 2026 Requires construction to begin by June 30, 2030 Waives the standard building space requirements
415	Enfield	Hazardville Memorial Elementary School, project unspecified	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$105,502,202 if the district applies before October 1, 2026 Requires construction to begin by June 30, 2030 Waives the standard building space requirements
416	West Haven	West Haven High School, construction, extension, or major alteration of a gymnasium, including an ice rink	Makes gymnasium, including an ice rink, project eligible for reimbursement Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$4 million if the district applies before October 1, 2026 Gives the town full reimbursement for the gymnasium project (rather than half the town's

Act §	Town or District	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
			rate; the town's 2026 rate is 77.14%)
417	Seymour	Any public school, any energy or infrastructure improvement project financed through a tax-exempt lease purchase agreement entered into between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2027, unspecified energy or infrastructure projects	Makes certain ineligible costs eligible for reimbursement for any existing or future energy or infrastructure improvement projects, including photovoltaic, building management systems, energy conservation, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and roof replacement projects
418	South Windsor	South Windsor High School, project unspecified	Effective July 1, 2026, authorizes a 20 point reimbursement rate increase for any project at this school if the application is submitted by June 30, 2027 (South Windsor's current rate is 42.50%*)
419	Suffield	Suffield High School, roof replacement	Allows replacement of a roof that is less than 20 years old to be eligible for a state reimbursement grant Allows Suffield to change the project's description to a roof replacement and photovoltaic project and then qualify as one
420	Suffield	Suffield Middle School, project unspecified	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$119.5 million if the district applies before July 1, 2026 (PA 26-76, § 45, extends this deadline to July 1, 2027.) Authorizes a 10 point reimbursement rate increase (Suffield's current rate is 51.07%*)
421	Fairfield	Timothy Dwight Elementary School, project unspecified	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$76 million if the district applies before July 1, 2026 Sets a 75% reimbursement rate instead of 26.07%*
422	Fairfield	Tomlinson Middle School, HVAC	Waives the requirement that plans and specifications must be approved by DAS before the project can be let out to bid to be eligible for reimbursement
423	Meriden	Casimir Pulaski Elementary, School project unspecified	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$122 million if the district applies before October 1, 2026
424	Cheshire	Cheshire High School, outdoor	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project

Act §	Town or District	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
		athletic facilities (including synthetic turf field replacement)	with a maximum cost of \$1.5 million if the district applies before July 1, 2027 Sets the allowable project reimbursement rate at 95%, including for any outdoor athletic facility costs that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of this rate (Cheshire's current rate is 50%*)
425	Glastonbury	Glastonbury High School, construction of outdoor athletic facilities including the installation or replacement of synthetic turf fields, and replacement of a track and tennis courts	Makes the outdoor athletic facilities including synthetic turf fields, track, and tennis courts eligible for reimbursement Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$5,525,000 if the district applies before July 1, 2027 Gives the town full reimbursement for the gymnasium project (rather than half the town's rate; the town's 2026 rate is 33.57%) Waives the requirement that plans and specifications must be approved by DAS before the project can be let out to bid to be eligible for reimbursement
426	Glastonbury	Naubuc Elementary School, alteration and code compliance	Waives the competitive bidding process requirement and allows Glastonbury to be reimbursed for ineligible project design fee costs
427	New Haven	10 existing school projects	Waives audit deficiencies related to the costs associated with the projects
428	New Haven	Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy for Global Awareness, new construction Hill Central School, new construction Bowen Field	Repeals § 161 of PA 25-174 that allowed up to \$17,824,348 in reimbursements for otherwise ineligible costs for the two schools and required DAS to offset the remaining ineligible project costs against the amount due to the municipality for Bowen Field project
429	North Branford	North Branford High School, new construction	Waives the requirement to submit change orders within six months after issuance and allows the town to submit them by January 1, 2027 Allows the town to receive up to \$595,000 in reimbursement for certain ineligible costs due to premium time-labor and rework
430	Willington	Preschool through Grade 8, consolidation	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$110 million if the

Act §	Town or District	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
		project	<p>district applies before October 1, 2027</p> <p>Amends an existing notwithstanding allowing a 15 point reimbursement rate increase for an unspecified school construction project in Willington to specifically apply it to this project</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
431	Woodbridge	Beecher Road School, project unspecified	<p>Effective July 1, 2026: Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$118.5 million if the district applies before October 1, 2026</p> <p>Makes the project eligible for the 5 point rate increase passed in the November 2025 housing act (PA 25-1, November Special Session) that starts July 1, 2026, as long as they otherwise meet the criteria (Woodbridge's current rate is 32.14%)</p> <p>Allows replacement of a roof that is less than 20 years old to be eligible for a state reimbursement grant</p>
432	Naugatuck	Any public school, any energy or infrastructure improvement project financed through a tax-exempt lease purchase agreement entered into between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2027, unspecified energy or infrastructure projects	Makes certain ineligible costs eligible for reimbursement for any existing or future energy or infrastructure improvement projects, including photovoltaic, building management systems, energy conservation, HVAC systems, and roof replacement projects
433	Danbury	King Street Primary School, project unspecified	Amends a 2025 notwithstanding that grants the project a maximum cost of \$7 million by (1) extending the application deadline to October 1, 2027, and (2) requiring construction to begin by October 1, 2029
434	Norwalk	Norwalk High School, new construction	Amends a 2020 notwithstanding for the same project to increase the project's maximum cost from \$239 million to \$260,734,812
435	Region 13 (Durham and Middlefield)	Middlefield Memorial School, renovation project	Makes eligible for reimbursement costs associated with site preparation and demolition that were not included as part of the guaranteed maximum price determined for the construction manager's contract prior to the

Act §	Town or District	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
			start of the renovation project
436	Region 15 (Middlebury and Southbury)	Pomperaug Elementary School, new construction	<p>Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$112.3 million if the district applies before October 1, 2027</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
437	Region 15 (Middlebury and Southbury)	Gainfield Elementary School, new construction	<p>Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$111.91 million if the district applies before October 1, 2027</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
438	Region 17 (Haddam and Killingworth)	Haddam-Killingworth High School, unspecified project	<p>Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$151.9 million if the district applies before October 1, 2026</p> <p>Sets the project's reimbursement rate at 51.43%, including for any costs (such as outdoor athletic facilities, gyms, and auditoriums) that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of this rate (51.43% is Region 17's FY 26 rate for general construction)</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
439	Winchester	The Gilbert School, bus loop renovation	<p>Makes the bus loop renovation eligible for reimbursement</p> <p>Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2026 priority list (see § 396 above) for the project with a maximum cost of \$4,685,000 if the district applies before October 1, 2026</p>
440	Norwich	Norwich Free Academy, alteration	<p>Amends a 2025 notwithstanding to set a 95% project reimbursement rate for the project (it was 77.5%)</p> <p>Waives requirements for (1) a competitive bidding process for orders and contracts and (2) DAS approval of plans and specifications before going out to bid</p>
441	Cheshire	Any school, any energy or infrastructure improvement project financed through a tax-exempt lease purchase	Makes certain ineligible costs eligible for reimbursement for any existing or future energy or infrastructure improvement projects, including photovoltaic installations on roofs or free-standing solar carports or free-standing, ground-based solar arrays, building management systems, energy conservation,

Act §	Town or District	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
		agreement and part of an energy performance contract previously executed and duly awarded through a prior procurement process	HVAC systems, and roof replacement projects

*FY 26 reimbursement rates for general construction are shown for reference; actual rates depend upon the year the application is submitted and the final determination of the project type (new or renovation)

§ 442 — SAGA BENEFITS

Sets a standardized \$269 monthly cash benefit for SAGA beneficiaries, thereby eliminating prior law's payment reduction for certain transitional people

The act sets a standardized \$269 monthly cash benefit for State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) beneficiaries (subject to future cost of living adjustments), and in doing so, eliminates prior law's temporary payment reduction for certain transitional people.

By law, SAGA generally provides cash assistance to single or married childless people who have very low incomes, do not qualify for other cash assistance programs, and are considered "transitional" or "unemployable." Under prior law, monthly benefits were \$262 for unemployable people and transitional recipients who must pay for their shelter and \$66 for transitional recipients who do not pay for shelter (these benefit amounts account for annual cost of living adjustments). For the latter, in practice the Department of Social Services sends the transitional person's medical information to an independent reviewer and, if the person is deemed medically unemployable, the person's monthly benefit retroactively increases to \$262.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 443 — MEDICAID PREFERRED DRUG LIST AND ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS

Adds antiretroviral drugs to the Medicaid preferred drug list, allowing the state to negotiate supplemental rebates with drug manufacturers for these drugs

The act adds antiretroviral drugs to the Medicaid preferred drug list, and in doing so, allows the state to negotiate supplemental rebates with drug manufacturers for them. (This group of medications is used to prevent and treat HIV.) By law, the Department of Social Services (DSS), in consultation with the Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, may establish a preferred drug list (formulary) that limits the number of drugs that may be dispensed under the Medicaid program. Nonpreferred drugs in the drug classes included on the preferred drug list are subject to prior authorization. Under prior law, classes of antiretroviral drugs were exempt from prior authorization requirements and could not be included on preferred drug lists.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 444 — PERIODIC REVIEW OF MEDICAID PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Authorizes the DSS commissioner to periodically review available data on the clinical effectiveness of certain Medicaid-covered outpatient prescription drugs

The act authorizes the DSS commissioner to periodically review available data on the clinical effectiveness of Medicaid-covered outpatient prescription drugs that are projected to exceed, after factoring in rebates, (1) a per-consumer net cost of \$25,000 per year or (2) an aggregate annual cost to the program of \$10 million. Under the act, the commissioner may, within available appropriations, contract with a third party to conduct a comparative effectiveness review of any of these prescription drugs. This review must at least include the following:

1. clinical efficacy and outcomes;
2. pricing-related information, such as prices paid by other states or developed nations;

3. the prescription drug's net price to the program compared to its therapeutic benefits, such as the seriousness and prevalence of the disease or condition the drug is treating;
4. the extent of the prescription drug's use and the likelihood that it will reduce the need for other medical care;
5. how many manufacturers produce it; and
6. whether there are pharmaceutical equivalents.

The act excludes from this review any brand-name prescription drug or biologic that (1) is designated under federal law for a rare disease or condition and (2) only has an approved indication for one or more rare diseases or conditions.

The DSS commissioner may make the review results public and share them with any entity or multi-state prescription drug purchasing collaborative that Connecticut is a member of to help negotiate additional supplemental rebate agreements beyond those required under federal law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 445 — WAGE INCREASES FOR NURSING HOME EMPLOYEES

Specifies that for nurses, the wage increases for nursing home employees authorized under PA 25-168 are only for those who solely provide direct patient care

PA 25-168, § 332, requires the DSS commissioner, regardless of the state's nursing home Medicaid reimbursement law and within available appropriations, to increase nursing home reimbursement rates to support wage increases for employees (nurses; nurse's aides; and dietary, housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, and plant operation personnel) as follows: (1) 3% effective July 1, 2025; (2) 3% effective July 1, 2026; and (3) 4% effective January 1, 2027.

This act specifies that the nurse wage increases only apply to nurses who solely provide direct patient care services and supports and do not work in administrative roles. (PA 26-76, § 42 repeals this provision and instead excludes nursing home directors and assistant directors, starting July 1, 2026, from receiving these wage increases.)

Under existing law, if a facility receives a rate adjustment for these wage increases and does not provide them, DSS may decrease the facility's rate by the same amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 446 & 447 — NURSING HOME MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

For nursing homes, establishes an enhanced Medicaid performance payment for improving their quality-based metrics, paid from a pool of \$10 million each year; requires DSS to phase in PDPM; establishes enhanced payments for homes with payor mixes of more than 75% Medicaid residents; allows DSS to recalculate Medicaid reimbursement rates outside of the normal schedule under certain circumstances

The act makes several changes in laws on Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes. Primarily, it:

1. establishes an enhanced Medicaid performance payment for nursing homes that improve their quality-based metrics and requires DSS, beginning in FY 29, to pay it from an annual pool of \$10 million;
2. beginning July 1, 2026, requires DSS to phase in the federal Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) for nursing home resident assessments;
3. establishes an enhanced payment for nursing homes with a payor mix of more than 75% Medicaid residents and, beginning in FY 27, requires DSS to pay it from a pool of \$2.5 million for the first year and \$5 million for each of the following years; and
4. beginning in FY 26, allows the DSS commissioner to recalculate, at any time, a home's acuity-based rate to address (a) temporary licensed bed reductions during renovations, (b) prolonged staffing challenges, and (c) other obstacles that interfere with a home's ability to keep a full patient census and that justify, in her opinion, relief from the minimum allowable patient day requirement in existing law (generally 90% of capacity).

Acuity-Based Enhanced Quality Performance Payments

Existing law requires DSS to implement an acuity-based Medicaid reimbursement rate for nursing homes. (Acuity-based rates generally reimburse nursing homes based on the level of care residents need.)

As part of this transition, existing law authorizes DSS, beginning October 1, 2026, to establish a quality metrics program to pay nursing homes (1) for achieving high-quality outcomes based on the program's quality metrics and (2) to incentivize high-quality services to Medicaid residents based on individualized reports DSS gives the nursing homes.

The act establishes enhanced Medicaid quality performance payments for eligible nursing homes based on their performance in the quality metrics program. Beginning with FY 29, it requires DSS to make these enhanced payments from an annual pool of \$10 million and allows DSS to prorate payments to stay within available funding.

Under the act, a facility's maximum quality score points determine its payment. Maximum quality score points may be awarded for a facility's improvement in its quality metrics and DSS may use the following to determine a facility's points:

1. the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) nursing home quarterly metrics for patient stays of at least 101 days,
2. a consumer satisfaction survey, or
3. Department of Public Health data.

A nursing home is ineligible for these enhanced payments under the act if CMS has (1) identified the home as a special focus facility, due to serious quality of care issues, or special focus facility candidate or (2) given it an abuse icon on CMS's Nursing Home Compare website. The act also prohibits these homes from participating in the quality metrics program.

Rebasing Rates Using the Patient Driven Payment Model

Beginning July 1, 2026, the act requires DSS to calculate quarterly adjustments to the Medicaid nursing home facility reimbursement case-mix index scores using the nursing component of PDPM (see *Background — PDPM*) resident assessment. In order to align Medicaid cost data with PDPM's resident assessment data, it requires DSS to rebase nursing homes' per diem rates using the cost year ending September 30, 2024, for rates that go into effect July 1, 2026.

Additionally, the act requires DSS to phase in Medicaid rate adjustments over a three-year period. It must use phase-in parameters as needed to stay within available appropriations. These parameters may include, among other things, budget adjustment factors, case-mix neutrality factors, and stop loss and stop gain corridors.

Medicaid Utilization Pool

The act requires DSS to give an enhanced Medicaid payment to each nursing home where the resident payor mix is more than 75% Medicaid. To identify eligible nursing homes, the act requires DSS to annually determine each nursing home's payor mix using annual Medicaid cost reports. Nursing homes that receive an enhanced Medicaid payment under the act must use it to support increased Medicaid utilization and enhance access and services for Medicaid residents.

Under the act, these enhanced payments must be made from a pool of up to \$2.5 million for FY 27 and \$5 million for the following fiscal years, and DSS may prorate payments to stay within available funding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision allowing DSS to recalculate a facility's Medicaid rate under certain circumstances is effective July 1, 2026

Background — PDPM

PDPM is a case-mix classification model developed by CMS to determine payments for patients based on their characteristics and services received. States using a previous model, no longer accepted by CMS, for acuity-based nursing home Medicaid payments may transition to this model.

§ 448 — MEDICAID RATE INCREASE FOR FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

Requires DSS to amend the Medicaid state plan to increase reimbursement rates for licensed family planning clinics, give at least \$500,000 in Medicaid state share funds to do so, and use funds appropriated for family planning services for FY 27 for this purpose

The act requires the DSS commissioner to amend the Medicaid state plan to increase reimbursement rates for licensed family planning clinics and give at least \$500,000 in Medicaid state share funds to do so. The commissioner must use funds appropriated for family planning services for FY 27 for this purpose.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 449 — MAPOC MEMBERSHIP

Adds a health care worker labor organization member to MAPOC

The act requires the Human Services Committee chairpersons to appoint a health care worker labor organization representative to the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (MAPOC). (PA 26-146, § 2, also adds a representative of the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership's Dental Policy Advisory Council to MAPOC.) By law, MAPOC monitors and makes recommendations to DSS on Medicaid and other medical assistance programs and reports to the legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 450 — MEDICAID RATE REVIEWS

Requires DSS, when reviewing Medicaid rates, to include rates required to be studied under the recent Medicaid rate study with (1) no corresponding Medicare rate or (2) average five-state benchmark; requires Medicaid behavioral health services rates to include medication administration by licensed home health agencies to people with psychiatric conditions under certain care plans

The act requires the DSS commissioner, when reviewing Medicaid rates, to include rates required to be studied under the Medicaid rate study established under PA 23-186 (*see Background — Medicaid Rate Study*) with no corresponding (1) Medicare rate for the same health care service or (2) average five-state rate benchmark included in the Medicaid rate study.

Under the act, if any state within the Medicaid rate study's five-state rate benchmark group (Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Oregon) has a corresponding rate for the same or a substantially similar health care service, the DSS commissioner must use this rate for comparison in her review. If two or more states in the benchmark group have corresponding rates, the commissioner must use an average of these rates for comparison.

When setting Medicaid behavioral health service reimbursement rates, the act requires the commissioner to include medication administration services by licensed home health care agencies to people with psychiatric diagnoses under a care plan (1) developed and supervised by a licensed behavioral health clinician or prescriber and (2) overseen by the state's behavioral health administrative services organization (currently Carelon Behavioral Health CT).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Background — Medicaid Rate Study

Legislation passed in 2023 directed DSS to study Connecticut's Medicaid reimbursement rates, which have not been broadly adjusted since 2007. A study team, hired by DSS, compared Medicaid reimbursement rates to Medicare reimbursement rates for the same service code or, for services without a corresponding Medicare code, the average Medicaid reimbursement rates across the five-state rate benchmark group.

§ 451 — EXCEPTION FOR ENTITIES PURSUING SMALL-HOUSE STYLE NURSING FACILITY

Waives certain requirements on per-room bed limits for nursing homes developing a new small-house style facility

Starting July 1, 2026, existing law generally prohibits placing newly admitted nursing home residents in a room with more than two beds. The act allows the public health (DPH) commissioner to waive this prohibition for a nursing home actively investing in and developing a new small-house style skilled nursing facility to meet the two-bed limit. The act allows the DPH commissioner to set documentation requirements for the homes to qualify for a waiver in the transitional period before the new facility opens.

The act limits any waiver to one nursing home for each small-house style skilled nursing facility and prohibits any waiver from extending past July 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 452 — UCONN HEALTH CENTER MEDICAID REPORT

Requires UConn Health Center to report on payer mix, increased access to specialists for Medicaid enrollees, and efforts to increase the proportion of Medicaid days

The act requires UConn Health Center to report, by January 15, 2027, to the governor and the Appropriations, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Human Services, and Public Health committees on at least the following:

1. the most recent payer mix for health center services;
2. increasing access to specialists for Medicaid enrollees; and
3. efforts made to increase the proportion of Medicaid days, including increasing the census in the adolescent psychiatric unit and inpatient services provided to people incarcerated in Department of Correction facilities.

“Medicaid days” are the total number of inpatient days a Medicaid-eligible patient stays in a hospital. For the report, UConn Health Center must consult with stakeholders, including medical professionals, community groups, and labor unions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 453 — CONNECTICUT OPTION STUDY AND TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PLAN

Allows OPM to study the feasibility of establishing a Connecticut Option program with the goal of reducing health insurance premiums; authorizes OPM to direct state agencies to pursue federal approval for the Connecticut Option program under certain circumstances; requires OPM to design a plan for transitional health care premium assistance to offset 2027 Access Health CT premium and cost-sharing increases

The act allows the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, within available appropriations, to (1) study the feasibility of establishing a Connecticut Option program with the goal of reducing health insurance premiums and (2) design a plan to provide transitional health care premium assistance that may be funded from the state’s Federal Cuts Response Fund or other funding sources. A Connecticut Option program is a plan to lower health care coverage costs and expand health care coverage.

The study must at least include analyses, conclusions, and recommendations sufficient for the OPM secretary, in consultation with the insurance commissioner, to evaluate and compare program design models. The study must review the efficacy, impact, and reasonableness of proposed program design elements, including:

1. provider reimbursement methodologies;
2. value-based or performance-based contracting arrangements;
3. enrollee cost-sharing and premium affordability targets;
4. incentives or rewards for delivering high-quality, cost-effective health care; and
5. any state-specific premium assistance programs or risk stabilization programs.

State-specific programs reviewed in the study may include (1) a state-operated reinsurance program that may maximize available federal funding under a state innovation waiver and (2) premium support to facilitate a purchase option leveraging the state’s medical assistance program on or off the exchange for people ineligible for the medical assistance program.

The study must also at least:

1. identify any statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement the Connecticut Option program,
2. determine state agency staffing needs to effectively implement the program,
3. analyze the state insurance market and the program’s projected impacts on people who get health care coverage through the exchange, and
4. include required state action or design elements needed to achieve multiple premium savings targets.

The act allows the OPM secretary to file an interim report by January 15, 2027, and requires him to submit a final report by January 31, 2028, to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees. The final report must describe the feasibility of the Connecticut Option program, any recommendations on the program, and a summary of stakeholder engagement and feedback (see § 456).

If the OPM secretary, in consultation with the Insurance commissioner, determines that a Connecticut Option program is feasible after completing the study or related reports, the act authorizes him to direct the relevant state agency to develop and implement (1) a state innovation waiver, (2) a Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration waiver, or (3) any applicable federal waiver required to maximize federal funding for the program or any component part of its design to help achieve health care savings. The act subjects any approval of a Connecticut Option program to the same legislative review requirements as Medicaid waivers and certain Medicaid state plan amendments. These generally allow the Appropriations and Human Services committees to hold a hearing and vote to approve, modify, or deny the application (see § 459).

Transitional Health Care Premium Assistance

Under the act, by October 1, 2026, the OPM secretary must design a plan for transitional health care premium assistance to offset 2027 premium and cost-sharing increases on Access Health CT. The plan must include a state health care premium subsidy to enable an eligible enrollee to get an affordable health plan on Access Health CT by December 31, 2027. “Transitional health care premium assistance” is state-funded subsidies to address the impact of federally funded premium subsidies for people who purchase coverage through Access Health CT.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 454 & 455 — BASIC HEALTH PROGRAM

Requires DSS to seek approvals to establish a BHP, or continue Covered Connecticut as a state-funded program, if CMS fails to renew the federal waiver currently supporting Covered Connecticut; sets related planning and reporting requirements

The Covered Connecticut program provides Medicaid-like coverage, at no cost to participants, to people with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but still at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In practice, the program is partially federally funded through a Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver and DSS must apply to CMS to periodically renew or make changes to the waiver. The act allows DSS, in consultation with OPM and after applying to CMS to approve, renew, or continue this waiver, to develop an application to establish a basic health program (BHP) authorized under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) (see *Background — Basic Health Program*).

Under the act, if CMS denies or fails to approve the Covered Connecticut Section 1115 waiver by July 1, 2027, DSS must either (1) seek any federal approvals needed to establish a BHP and take all necessary actions to maximize federal funding or (2) take steps needed to continue Covered Connecticut as a state-funded program, starting January 1, 2028.

If the DSS commissioner establishes a BHP, she must coordinate benefit administration and provision under the BHP in accordance with the ACA. If she determines that the cost of medical assistance given to eligible individuals in the BHP will exceed federal subsidies, or if federal changes affect funding, program eligibility, or program administration, the commissioner may develop a plan to respond to these changes, in consultation with OPM. Eligible individuals (1) have household incomes above 133% but no more than 200% of the FPL; (2) are under age 65; (3) are ineligible for state medical assistance programs (for example, Medicaid); and (4) are otherwise eligible to buy a qualified health plan through Access Health CT.

If federal ACA funds for the BHP exceed the cost of medical assistance that would otherwise be given to eligible individuals, the DSS commissioner must use the excess funds to reduce premiums and cost sharing or provide additional benefits for people eligible for the BHP.

The act requires the DSS commissioner to forward any application for federal approval or changes to the BHP to the Appropriations and Human Services committees at least 30 days before seeking federal approval.

The DSS commissioner must also report every six months, starting by January 1, 2027, and continuing until January 1, 2029, to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees. The report must describe activities and planning to sustain Covered Connecticut as an affordable coverage option for qualified people, including a status report and contingency planning for the Section 1115 waiver renewal, and, if needed, efforts to sustain the program through the BHP authority or a state-funded alternative.

The act also establishes a separate, nonlapsing BHP account, which contains any money required by law to be deposited into it (for example, federal subsidies) and DSS must use the funds solely to operate the BHP.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the BHP account is effective from the CMS approval date for the state’s BHP program.

Background — Basic Health Program

The ACA allows states to establish BHPs for people (1) ineligible for Medicaid; (2) under age 65; (3) with household income between 133% and 200% of the FPL (individuals with incomes under 133% of the FPL qualify for Medicaid); and (4) ineligible for minimal essential health care coverage (for example, State Children’s Health Insurance Program (HUSKY B in Connecticut)) or who cannot afford their employer’s coverage.

The federal law has cost-sharing limits and requires that state BHPs have benefits at least as robust as those in the state’s “essential health benefits package” available to someone buying insurance through its health insurance exchange.

States that operate a BHP are eligible for federal subsidies equaling 95% of the premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions that the federal government would have spent if BHP enrollees had received their assistance when enrolling in an exchange health plan.

The law requires states to establish funds into which the federal subsidies are deposited and that can be used only to reduce BHP enrollees' premiums and cost sharing or to give them additional benefits (42 U.S.C. § 18051).

§ 456 — STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR CONNECTICUT OPTION PROGRAM AND BHP

Requires OPM to hold stakeholder engagement meetings to develop the Connecticut Option program or the BHP

The act requires the OPM secretary, in developing the Connecticut Option program or the BHP, to hold a series of stakeholder engagement meetings, to the extent possible. The meetings must include potential stakeholders, including (1) representatives of hospitals, health centers, health care providers, health insurers, HUSKY Health plan enrollees, and Access Health CT enrollees; (2) legislators from the Appropriations, Human Services, Insurance and Real Estate, and Public Health committees; and (3) other people with health equity and health coverage policy expertise, including Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health representatives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 457 — SAFETY NET MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

Establishes a safety net mitigation working group to advise on, monitor, and coordinate the state's response to significant federal changes impacting safety net programs

The act establishes a safety net mitigation working group to advise on, monitor, and coordinate the state's response to significant changes to federal law or policy that impact public health, social services, or other safety net programs.

The working group must include the Access Health CT chief executive officer, as well as the following officials or their designees:

1. the OPM secretary;
2. the developmental services, insurance, labor, mental health and addiction services, public health, revenue services, and social services commissioners; and
3. the Appropriations, Human Services, Housing, and Insurance and Real Estate committee chairpersons, who must jointly choose the working group's chairpersons (PA 27-76, § 102, adds ranking members of these committees to the working group and requires chairpersons and ranking members to jointly choose the working group's chairpersons).

The working group must:

1. convene by August 24, 2026;
2. review any significant changes in federal law or policy that impact public health, social services, or other safety net programs;
3. consider regulatory, administrative, or legislative measures to mitigate adverse programmatic, procurement, or service outcomes and recommend these measures to OPM and the legislative committees included on the working group; and
4. solicit input from stakeholders, including municipal governments and community-based providers, and independent experts (like academic researchers and policy organizations) as needed.

The act requires the Human Services Committee administrative staff to function in that capacity for the working group.

The act requires the working group to report annually, starting by February 1, 2027, and continuing until February 1, 2029, to the Appropriations, Housing, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees. The reports must include:

1. the estimated impact of changes to federal policies, guidance, or programs on Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) due to recent or upcoming federal action or inaction;
2. implementation of federal law on work and community engagement requirements for Medicaid and SNAP under P.L. 119-21 (the federal FY 25 Reconciliation Law, commonly referred to as H.R. 1 or the One Big Beautiful Bill Act);
3. the estimated number of beneficiaries who have lost and are expected to lose Medicaid or SNAP benefits since work and community engagement requirement implementation; and
4. a summary of actions taken to improve user experiences and streamline communication with Medicaid and SNAP participants.

These actions include (1) efforts to engage benefit recipients in relevant decision-making processes, (2) a long-term plan to give information and support to benefit recipients and providers to minimize disenrollment of eligible people, and (3) statistics on DSS's customer service call center and actions DSS has taken to improve them.

The working group terminates when it submits its final report or on February 1, 2029, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 458 — “MEDICAL FRAILTY” ASSESSMENT

Requires the DSS commissioner to identify parameters for an effective “medical frailty” assessment, if needed to verify exemptions from work and community engagement requirements under SNAP and Medicaid

To the extent needed to verify exemptions from SNAP work requirements and Medicaid community engagement requirements under federal law, the act requires the DSS commissioner to identify parameters for an effective assessment of “medical frailty” for a Medicaid recipient or applicant. The act allows her to consider existing definitions in state or federal laws, definitions in other states, and medical codes used to identify pertinent diagnoses.

The act requires the commissioner to maximize the use of this information and medical codes to effectuate ex parte eligibility determinations to the extent federal law allows. The commissioner must give regular updates on the parameters to the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 459 — LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF MEDICAID STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Generally extends legislative review requirements to cover any proposed SPA to provide medical assistance through a Medicaid managed care organization

State law requires the DSS commissioner to submit federal waiver applications, renewals, and amendments and certain Medicaid state plan amendments (SPAs) to the Appropriations and Human Services committees before submitting them to the federal government for approval. The act extends this requirement to cover any proposed SPA to provide medical assistance through a Medicaid managed care organization, except for medical assistance provided through a BHP (see §§ 454 & 455).

By law, under this process, the committees may hold a hearing and must approve, deny, or modify the SPA application within specified deadlines or it is deemed approved. The committees' decision is binding. Any application DSS submits to the federal government must be in line with the committees' modifications, if any, or approval. If the committees deny an application, the law prohibits DSS from submitting it to the federal government.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 460 & 461 — FORMULARY REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERIC DRUGS AND BIOSIMILAR PRODUCTS

Requires health benefit plans to make certain generic drugs and biosimilar products available on formularies with lower cost sharing relative to the respective reference product already on the formulary

Under the act, health benefit plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, must make certain generic drugs and biosimilar products available on formularies with lower cost sharing (including out-of-pocket costs) relative to the respective reference product (the comparative brand-name drug or biological product) already on the formulary. For biosimilar products, the formulary must include at least one biosimilar product on the formulary in a lower cost sharing tier than the reference product.

The generic drug or biosimilar product must:

1. be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration;
2. be marketed based on that approval; and
3. have a lower net drug cost (the cost to a covered person under the plan of a brand-name or generic drug, or biological or biosimilar product minus all applicable discounts and rebates) than the reference product.

The act authorizes the insurance commissioner to adopt implementing regulations.

Applicability of Requirements

These formulary requirements apply as long as the generic drug or biosimilar product has a lower net drug cost than the reference drug or product. Health benefit plans also may not restrict enrollees from using a pharmacy of the enrollee's choice unless the reference product is similarly restricted. And if the generic drug or biosimilar product has a lower net drug cost than the reference product or drug and none of the products are included on the formulary, the health benefit plan must not impose a more restrictive formulary exception process for the generic drug or biosimilar product than for the reference drug or product. A formulary exception process is generally the process to request coverage, due to medical necessity, for a drug not on the formulary.

The act specifies that it does not require:

1. health benefit plans to cover (a) a reference product after a generic drug or biosimilar product is approved or (b) any drug or product that the formulary developers determine is no longer medically appropriate or cost-effective,
2. health benefit plan coverage or enrollee cost sharing for generic drugs or biosimilar products that are not permitted under applicable federal or state laws, or
3. health benefit plans to include on the formulary generic drugs or biosimilar products if the formulary developers did not include the reference products due to clinical concerns about their safety or efficacy based on scientific evidence.

The act's requirements apply only to coverage and cost sharing for generic drugs, biosimilar products, and brand-name drugs dispensed by pharmacies as outpatient prescriptions. They do not apply to those provided by a hospital, physician, or other healthcare provider while performing health care services that are paid for by the health benefit plan as part of the payment for medical benefits.

The act also does not prevent a health benefit plan from including on its formulary multiple generic drugs or biosimilar products with lower net drug costs than reference products. Lastly, the act specifies that its requirements will not interfere with a pharmacy's or pharmacist's compliance with the state's Pharmacy Practices Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 462 — COVERED CONNECTICUT

Allows, rather than requires, Covered Connecticut to cover dental and nonemergency medical transportation services, removes references to OHS, and allows DSS to make changes needed for federal waiver approval

Benefits and Coverage

Prior law required Covered Connecticut to provide dental and nonemergency medical transportation services. The act removes this requirement and instead allows DSS to cover these services under the program, starting January 1, 2027.

Prior law limited coverage to in-network health care providers and in-network services unless the insurance commissioner deems the health carrier's network inadequate. The act applies this limit on or before January 1, 2028, and makes it subject to federal approval.

Prior law required DSS, through the program, to give enough premium and cost-sharing subsidies to ensure fully subsidized coverage. The act narrows this requirement to only apply to premium coverage.

Office of Health Strategy Duties and References

The act removes references to the Office of Health Strategy (OHS), transfers duties assigned to it under prior law, and makes conforming changes. The act:

1. removes the requirement that DSS consult with OHS to administer the program and pursue federal waivers, and
2. allows DSS, rather than OHS, to seek a Section 1332 waiver under the ACA, and correspondingly requires DSS, rather than OHS, to comply with related reporting requirements and implement the waiver if granted.

(Section 1332 waivers, also called State Innovation Waivers, allow states to seek federal approval to waive certain ACA requirements while generally retaining ACA protections. Other provisions of the act eliminate OHS and generally transfer its functions to other agencies.)

Federal Waiver Changes

After the Covered Connecticut program was first established, DSS submitted a Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver to CMS to request federal matching funds for the program. (Section 1115 waivers allow states to test new approaches

in Medicaid while maintaining federal funding.) CMS subsequently approved the waiver, which is funded by the federal government through December 31, 2027. The act allows the DSS commissioner to make program design changes needed to meet requirements for approval, renewal, or continuation of the Section 1115 waiver. If the state does not receive necessary federal approvals for Covered Connecticut, the act allows the DSS commissioner to seek approval for a BHP (see §§ 454 & 455).

Reporting Requirements

Prior law required DSS to report annually by January 1 to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees, to describe Covered Connecticut operations, finances, and progress. The act maintains the annual reporting requirement but removes the January 1 due date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 463 — RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INSPECTIONS

Requires DOH to use \$250,000 of its FY 27 RAP appropriation for housing unit inspections

The act requires DOH to use \$250,000 of its FY 27 Rental Assistance Program (RAP) appropriation from the General Fund for housing unit inspections checking for compliance with state and local health, housing, building, and safety codes.

RAP is a state-funded program that helps very low-income families afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Recipients of RAP certificates may choose any private rental housing that meets program requirements, such as housing quality standards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 464 — ONE-TIME MUNICIPAL GRANT PAYMENTS

Appropriates approximately \$100 million in FY 26 for one-time grant payments to municipalities and carries forward any unspent funds to FY 27 for the same purpose; requires each municipality to report to OPM on its use of the grant

The act appropriates \$100,000,006 in FY 26 to OPM for one-time payments to municipalities and carries forward any unspent funds to FY 27 for the same purpose. The act specifies payment amounts for each municipality and requires them, by January 1, 2027, to report to OPM on how they used the grant. (PA 26-76, § 54, amends this provision to specify that Bridgeport's payment must be excluded from its minimum budget requirement calculation.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 466 — YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION GRANTS

Specifies how a portion of the funds appropriated to the Judicial Department in FY 27 for youth services prevention must be distributed

Under the act, approximately \$8.033 million is appropriated to the Judicial Department in FY 27 for youth services prevention (see § 1). The act allocates \$7.595 million of these funds for grants to specified organizations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 467 — ELECTION-RELATED FUND TRANSFER

Makes a one-time transfer of \$3.25 million from the Citizens' Election Fund to the secretary of the state in FY 27 for municipal early voting grants and a public information campaign

For FY 27, the act makes a one-time transfer of \$3.25 million from the Citizens' Election Fund to the secretary of the state for (1) early voting grants to municipalities (\$2.25 million) and (2) a public information campaign (\$1 million).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 468 & 469 — LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF PCA AND CHILDCARE MOUS

Gives legislative approval to recent MOUs with the PCA and childcare provider unions

The act approves two memoranda of understanding (MOUs) submitted to the legislature on May 1, 2026, including any attachments or appendices to them, and any provisions that supersede a law or regulation. One of the MOUs is between the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Workforce Council and the New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199, SEIU. The other is between the Office of Early Childhood and the Connecticut State Employees Association SEIU Local 2001.

Existing law generally (1) allows the PCA Workforce Council and Office of Early Childhood to collectively bargain with certain PCAs and childcare providers, respectively, over state payment rates and other working conditions and (2) requires their agreements to be submitted to the legislature for approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 470 — FINISH LINE SCHOLAR PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

Requires completion of an associate's degree to be eligible for the Finish Line Scholar Program and modifies BOR's reporting requirements

Qualifying Student Requirements

By law, the Finish Line Scholars program awards grants to students who enrolled at Connecticut State Community College (CT State) and received a Mary Ann Handley program award (see *Background — Mary Ann Handley Award*) and then enroll in a bachelor's program at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities or Charter Oak State College. To be eligible for an award under the program, students must also (1) be classified as an in-state student, (2) meet certain enrollment and academic progress requirements, (3) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and (4) accept all available financial aid.

Under prior law, a student must have completed at least 60 credits at CT State through the Mary Ann Handley program to qualify for the Finish Line Scholars' program. The act instead requires students to have received an associate's degree. (PA 26-76, § 56, further specifies that this degree must have been earned during the fall 2025 semester or any following semester.)

Reporting Requirements

By law, the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) is required to submit a report by November 1, 2026, March 1, 2027, and each following semester, to the Appropriations and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees. The report must include information on:

1. the number of students (a) enrolled during each semester, (b) receiving minimum awards, and (c) receiving awards for the unpaid portion of eligible institutional costs, as well the average amount of those awards;
2. the average number of credit hours students (a) enrolled in each semester and (b) completed each semester; and
3. student completion rates by degree program.

The act (1) changes the deadlines to January 1, 2027; June 1, 2027; and each following quarter, and (2) additionally requires the report to include the average amount of institutional aid awarded to (a) Finish Line Scholars recipients by Student Aid Index (SAI) groups, and (b) students who did not receive a Finish Line Scholars award by the same SAI group. The "Student Aid Index" is the index used to determine financial aid eligibility based on a student's FAFSA.

Background — Mary Ann Handley Award

In 2019, the legislature required BOR to establish a tuition-free community college program, which is known as the Mary Ann Handley Award (formerly known as PACT). It is offered to certain high school graduates (or transition program students) who enroll as part- or full-time CT State students. Award eligibility depends on a student's enrollment status, in-state student classification, and academic progress during matriculation.

§§ 471-475 — FY 26 DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS AND REDUCTIONS

Makes deficiency appropriations for FY 26 in the General Fund and STF and reduces appropriations in the General Fund, STF, and Insurance Fund

The act appropriates a total of \$231,750,000 from the General Fund and \$17,541,500 from the Special Transportation Fund (STF) to cover deficiencies in various state agencies and programs for FY 26. It also reduces FY 26 appropriations from the (1) General Fund by \$152,076,000; (2) STF by \$13,191,500; and (3) Insurance Fund by \$3,000,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 476 — LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES

Requires OLM to apply to legislative employees the same terms, including a 2.5% general wage increase, for FY 27 as required under a collective bargaining agreement with other state employees

The act requires the Office of Legislative Management (OLM) to apply to legislative employees for FY 27, terms consistent with those in Article 20 (except § 3) of the tentative agreement for a successor collective bargaining agreement between the state and the Connecticut Employees Union Independent, NP-2 Bargaining Unit (CEUI), ratified on January 8, 2026, approved as required by law, and applicable to FY 27. Article 20 of the agreement generally requires employees to receive a 2.5% general wage increase, plus annual increments and top step lump sum payments for FY 27 (§ 3 covers a safety shoe allowance).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 478-480 — RESERVED AMOUNTS FROM FY 26 AND FY 27 LINE ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

Earmarks certain amounts from line items in agency budgets

The act earmarks certain amounts from line items in agency budgets for various purposes, as shown in the table below.

Reserved Amounts from FY 26 and FY 27 Line Item Appropriations

§	Agency	Appropriation For	Earmarked For	Amount
478	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)	Various Grants (FY 27)	Schaghticoke, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and Golden Hill Paugussett tribes for storm damage clean-up and hazardous tree removal on their reservations	\$100,000
479	DEEP	Various Grants (FY 27)	Mashantucket Pequot, Mohegan, Schaghticoke, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and Golden Hill Paugussett tribes for hunting and fishing license fees	50,000
480	Department of Transportation (DOT)	Rail Operations (FY 26)	Shore Line East ¹	3,000,000
		Rail Operations (FY 27)		4,000,000

¹PA 26-76, § 55, instead requires both earmarks to be from DOT's FY 27 Rail Operations appropriation; (2) requires \$4,000,000 to be earmarked for the Shore Line East rail line and \$3,000,000 for increasing service on the line; and (3) makes a technical correction. PA 26-21, § 5, has the same earmarks for Shore Line East.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the DOT earmark is effective upon passage.

§ 484 — REPORTING ON THE DESPP-SCSU SOCIAL WORK AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

Requires the DESPP commissioner, POST, and the SCSU president to annually report to the legislature on the status of the DESPP-SCSU social work and law enforcement project

The act adds a reporting requirement to the law establishing a social work and law enforcement project at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). Specifically, it requires the DESPP commissioner, POST, and the SCSU president to jointly report on the status of the project and its associated expenditures to the Appropriations and Public Safety and Security committees. They must do so by January 1, 2027, and annually after. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Background — Related Act

PA 26-76, § 106, alters, from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027, the date by which the DESPP commissioner must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SCSU to establish the project and requires the MOU to be for at least \$850,000 and address expanding and supporting the social work and law enforcement project, in addition to its establishment.

§§ 486 & 487 — GOVERNOR’S GUARD ACCOUNTS

Renames the “Governor’s Guards account” as the “Governor’s Foot Guards account” and establishes subaccounts in the Governor’s Guards horse account for each horse guard company

The act renames the “Governor’s Guards account” as the “Governor’s Foot Guards account” and limits this account’s proceeds to foot guard programs. As under prior law, the account is a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund.

The act also establishes two subaccounts within the Governor’s Guards horse account: the “First Company Governor’s Horse Guard account” and the “Second Company Governor’s Horse Guard account.” These accounts must be used solely for the respective company’s activities in Avon and Newtown. (PA 26-76, § 63, eliminates these subaccounts and instead requires money in the Governor’s Guards horse account to be allocated and accounted for by each unit.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 488 — PILOT PAYMENTS FOR MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT LAND

Requires PILOT payments for Mashantucket Pequot reservation land to be based on all land taken into trust by the federal government, rather than only those lands included within the 1983 settlement boundary

The act expands the Mashantucket Pequot reservation lands that are eligible for the 100% reimbursement rate under the payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) program.

Under prior law, Mashantucket Pequot reservation land was eligible if it was (1) designated within the 1983 settlement boundary and (2) taken into trust by the federal government for the Mashantucket Pequots. The act removes the settlement boundary criteria, thus providing PILOT payments on forgone property taxes on all land taken into trust for this tribe, regardless of whether it is within the 1983 settlement boundary area.

By law, the PILOT program gives annual grants to municipalities and fire districts to compensate them for forgone property tax revenue for (1) state-owned property, municipally owned airports, and tribal reservation land and (2) private nonprofit college and hospital property. PILOT grant amounts are generally determined by multiplying the assessed value of the PILOT-eligible property by the statutory reimbursement rate for the given property.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 489 — LEGISLATIVE INTERN STIPEND

Codifies a \$500 stipend for legislative interns

Each year, the General Assembly provides legislative internships to undergraduate college students, who may receive college credit after completing their service. The act codifies a \$500 stipend for each legislative intern. Additionally, it eliminates a provision requiring the Legislative Staff Internship Committee to pay at least half of the intern stipend, with

the remainder covered by appropriations to the committee for this purpose (in practice, legislative interns were not paid a stipend).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 490 — FEDERAL CUTS RESPONSE FUND

Increases, by \$50 million, the FY 26 appropriation from the Federal Cuts Response Fund to OPM

The act increases the FY 26 appropriation from the Federal Cuts Response Fund to OPM by \$50 million (from \$330.8 million to \$380.8 million). By law, the purpose of this appropriation is to (1) respond to the policy impacts of the federal FY 25 Reconciliation Law (commonly referred to as H.R. 1 or the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (P.L. 119-21)) and (2) mitigate federal funding reductions for state programs. (Section 259 of the act correspondingly transfers this same amount to the fund from the General Fund for FY 26.)

SA 26-1 authorizes the OPM secretary to transfer any part of this appropriation to any agency in any appropriated fund to carry out the appropriation's intent. It allows the legislative leaders, by majority vote, to disapprove any expenditure or transfer of these appropriated funds. Any unspent funds remaining in the Federal Cuts Response Fund after FY 27 must be returned to the Budget Reserve Fund, after which the former fund terminates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-76—sSB 477

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS, A MUNICIPAL OPTION TO ABATE DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES ON CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND, ALLOCATIONS OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027

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§§ 18-20 & 82 — HOSPITAL PROVIDER TAX TECHNICAL FIXES

Makes technical fixes to hospital tax provisions in the budget act

§ 22 — MUNICIPAL CHARTER AMENDMENT PROCESS EXCEPTION

Temporarily allows municipalities with populations greater than 20,000, but less than 30,000, to start the charter revision process with a majority, rather than a two-thirds, vote of the appointing authority's membership

§§ 23 & 24 — CORNFIELD POINT ASSOCIATION'S CHARTER

Doubles the maximum assessment a specific special taxing district is allowed to impose on property owners, capping it at \$1,000 per improved lot and \$200 per unimproved lot

§ 25 — HARTFORD REVALUATION DELAY

Allows Hartford to delay implementing its 2026 revaluation until October 1, 2027

§§ 26, 27 & 95-98 — HEALTH CARE GROWTH AND QUALITY BENCHMARKS AND PRIMARY CARE SPENDING TARGETS

Makes technical and minor changes to the revised methodology for assessing compliance with health care cost growth benchmark, cost drivers, quality benchmark, hospital growth benchmark, and primary care spending targets

§§ 28 & 57 — HOSPITAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES

Amends a budget act provision on translation services for notices of hospital financial assistance policies, to clarify that hospitals must translate the notice if a set threshold of the community speaks a given language; repeals a budget act provision that requires hospitals to deem patients as meeting their financial assistance programs' income requirements if the patients are enrolled in certain public assistance programs

§§ 29-31 — FUEL CELL PROJECTS IN ANSONIA

Makes a specific fuel cell project in Ansonia eligible for a buy-all NRES tariff, authorizes the state to contract with the project owner and the Green Bank to select state electricity accounts to be beneficial accounts for the project, makes the project eligible for a natural gas rebate, and allows the Siting Council to reopen the petition on the project; sets a new project completion deadline for a separate fuel cell project in Ansonia selected in the SCEF program

§ 32 — SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY GAS REBATE

Removes selection deadline for SCEF gas rebates

§ 33 — HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ACCOUNT REPORTS

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§ 34 — ADDITIONAL FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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§ 35 — COST NOTIFICATION FOR INFUSION AND INJECTION SERVICES

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§ 36 — LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND SUPERVISING AUTHORITIES NEAR ELECTIONS SITES

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§§ 37-39 — AUTOMATIC ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

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§ 40 — MEDICAID RATE PARITY FOR OPTOMETRISTS

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§ 41 — MODIFICATION OF INSURANCE DEPARTMENT STUDY REQUIREMENT

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§ 44 — WAIVES TWO-BED PER ROOM LIMIT FOR CERTAIN NURSING HOMES

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§ 45 — SUFFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTWITHSTANDING

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§ 47 — REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANT

Changes the recipient and purpose of an FY 27 regional performance incentive program grant

§ 48 — CONNECTICUT STATE BIRD

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§ 49 — NORTHWEST RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY GRANT-IN-AID

Gives a \$500,000 grant-in-aid to the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority

§ 50 — ANGEL INVESTOR TAX CREDIT PROGRAM CHANGES

Modifies requirements for businesses to qualify for tax credits under the angel investor tax credit program, including reducing the minimum percentage of a business's employees that must live in Connecticut

§ 51 — STATEWIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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§ 52 — LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

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§ 53 — YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDING

Changes how DOL must allocate youth employment and training funds to the regional workforce development boards from specified percentages to a need-based formula

§ 54 — BRIDGEPORT ONE-TIME PAYMENT AND THE MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT

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§ 55 — FUNDS EARMARKED FOR SHORE LINE EAST

Modifies funding earmarks in PA 26-68 for Shore Line East

§ 56 — FINISH LINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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§ 58 — REPEAL OF GREYFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM CHANGES

Repeals provisions in the budget adjustments act that made changes to a greyfield revitalization program

§ 59 — CONNECTICUT WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY GAP PLAN

Modifies the budget adjustments act by altering the workforce and productivity gap contribution plan that OPM must submit to the General Assembly

§ 60 — FUNDS EARMARKED FOR OFFICE OF HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE STUDY

Earmarks funds for an Office of Healthcare Advocate study on the accreditation of health services at Department of Correction facilities

§§ 61 & 62 — CT INNOCENCE FUND REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT

Renames the innocence project revolving loan account created by PA 26-68, §§ 250 & 251

§ 63 — GOVERNOR'S GUARD ACCOUNTS

Eliminates the subaccounts established in the budget adjustment act and instead requires money in the Governor's Guards horse account to be allocated and accounted for by each unit

§§ 64 & 65 — FREE AND REDUCED BUS FARES

Requires (1) DOT, rather than SDE, to administer a free bus pass program for students and (2) DOT to spend \$2.5 million of its FY 27 bus operations appropriation to issue related grants and provide discounted CTtransit bus fares for veterans and students

§ 66 — WORKFORCE NAVIGATOR

Requires the regional workforce navigator position created by PA 26-12 to be held by a regional workforce development board's employee, rather than a board member

§§ 68, 87 & 88 — CHANGES TO CARRYFORWARDS IN PA 26-68

Modifies specified carryforwards in PA 26-68

[§ 69 — STATE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFIED SERVICE EXEMPTION](#)

Modifies the exemption of certain positions from the state employee classified service under PA 26-68

[§ 70 — FARM INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT](#)

Applies expanded eligibility for the farm investment tax credit to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, rather than January 1, 2028

[§ 71 — FOOD RESOURCE GRANTS](#)

Allows DoAg to use GO bonds authorized in FY 23 to make grants to food systems and for food system enhancements

[§ 72 — CONNECTICUT DATA PRIVACY ACT EXEMPTION](#)

Exempts precise geolocation data DOT uses for certain purposes from the CTDPA

[§§ 73-75 — PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS](#)

Requires presidential electors to pledge they will vote for the presidential candidate they were elected to support; establishes procedures for removing electors who fail to vote for their pledged candidate and nullifying their votes

[§ 76 — ANALYSIS OF HOSPITAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORTING](#)

Makes a clarifying change to PA 26-68 on the transfer, from OHS to OHA, of oversight of hospital community benefit reporting

[§§ 77 & 78 — UNLICENSED HEALTH CARE FACILITIES](#)

Lowens the budget act's civil and criminal penalties for opening, managing, or operating a health care facility without a required DPH license or certificate

[§ 79 — EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FY 26 FUNDS](#)

Carries forward unspent endowment funds and allows them to be used for authorized expenses in FY 27 and beyond

[§ 80 — HARTFORD SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION AID](#)

Specifies that the \$5 million PA 26-68 provides in supplemental FY 26 education aid for Hartford must be deducted from Hartford's FY 27 supplemental amount

[§ 81 — FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA TAX CREDIT](#)

Repeals a duplicate budget act provision extending the increased redemption rate for film and digital media tax credits claimed against the sales tax

[§ 83 — HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ACCOUNT](#)

Specifies that DSS must pay Medicaid supplemental payments from the hospital supplemental payment account

[§ 84 — REPEAL OF DUPLICATE STUDENT LOAN OMBUDSMAN REPORTING REQUIREMENT](#)

Repeals a duplicate reporting requirement on the Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman's 2025 and 2026 activities

[§ 85 — ICHRA TAX CREDIT](#)

Requires that the tax credit against certain state business taxes for qualified small businesses (those with fewer than 50 employees) that offer employees an ICHRA, as established by PA 26-68, be offered through the state's health insurance exchange

[§§ 89-92 — MODIFICATIONS TO TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT PROVISIONS](#)

Modifies provisions of the budget adjustment act related to Tweed-New Haven Airport and Airport Authority

§ 93 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY BONDS

Allows, rather than requires, certain bond-related actions taken under delegated authority to be subject to board approval

§ 94 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Specifies that if East Haven or New Haven submits, or the two jointly submit, a proposal to DECD to establish an airport development zone surrounding Tweed-New Haven Airport, the proposal must be for census tracts within the municipality that submits it (or within both for a joint proposal)

§ 99 — MAGNET SCHOOL FUNDING

Modifies provision in PA 26-68 by increasing FY 27 funding designated for magnet schools not operated by a local or regional board of education

§ 100 — YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION GRANTS

Modifies grants in PA 26-68 from the Judicial Department's appropriation for Youth Services Prevention

§ 101 — SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR NON-ELECTRONIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Limits the budget act's sales and use tax exemption for non-electronic school supplies to supplies purchased for non-business purposes; requires DRS to issue related policies and procedures

§ 102 — SAFETY NET MITIGATION WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Adds to the working group the ranking members of the Appropriations, Housing, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees and requires committee chairpersons and ranking members to jointly choose the working group's chairpersons

§ 103 — AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSING IN NEWTOWN

Modifies a provision in the budget adjustment act that requires DOT to allow Newtown to build an at-grade rail crossing on the Housatonic Railroad, subject to certain conditions

§ 105 — TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS DURING CODIFICATION

Requires the Legislative Commissioners' Office to make necessary technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes when codifying the act

§ 106 — SOCIAL WORK AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Alters when the DESPP commissioner must enter an MOU with SCSU for the social work and law enforcement project; requires the MOU to be for at least \$850,000 and address expanding and supporting the project

§ 107 — SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDA NOTIFICATIONS

Makes a provision on school budget referenda notifications in PA 26-68 effective upon passage instead of October 1, 2026

§§ 1-7 — PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FILING DEADLINES

Allows taxpayers in certain municipalities to claim a property tax exemption for specified property and grand lists even though they missed the applicable filing deadline to claim the exemption or provide required documentation, as applicable

The act allows taxpayers in six municipalities to claim certain property tax exemptions for the property and grand lists shown in the table below, even though they missed the filing deadline to claim the exemption or provide required documentation, as applicable. It does so by waiving the deadline if the taxpayer files for the exemption by July 31, 2026, and pays the statutory late filing fee. The tax assessor must confirm that he or she received the fee, verify the property's

eligibility for the exemption, and subsequently approve the exemption. The municipality must refund any taxes, interest, or penalties paid on the property as if the claim was timely filed.

Exemption Deadline Waivers Under the Act

§	Municipality	Grand List	Exemption
1	Berlin	2025	Machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, biotechnology, and recycling (CGS § 12-81(76))
4	Middletown	2024	
6	Waterbury	2025	
2	Lebanon	2025	Property owned by, or held in trust for, a corporation organized exclusively for scientific, educational, literary, historical, or charitable purposes and used exclusively for these purposes, or preserving open space land (CGS § 12-81(7))
3	Meriden	2025	
5	Middletown	2025	
7	West Hartford	2025	

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 8 — PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR QUALIFYING PROPERTY OWNERS

Allows municipalities to abate all or part of the delinquent property taxes owed for qualifying land on the 2013 and 2014 grand lists

The act allows a municipality, by vote of its legislative body (or board of selectmen if the legislative body is a town meeting), to abate all or part of the delinquent property taxes owed to it for qualifying land on the 2013 and 2014 grand lists. To qualify for the abatement, the parcel must be less than 6,000 square feet and have been under the same continuous ownership for at least 45 years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 9 — VALIDATION OF PROPERTY TAX-RELATED ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS IN WILTON

Validates certain property tax-related actions and proceedings in Wilton

The act validates the actions and proceedings of Wilton's officers and officials related to (1) mailing the assessment increase notice for the 2025 grand list and (2) assessment appeals hearings held by the town's board of assessment appeals. It does this regardless of the statutory requirements for publishing the grand list, equalizing assessments, notifying property owners about increases or decreases in property valuations, and assessment appeals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 10, 21, 86, 104 & 108 — CARRYFORWARDS

Carries forward certain agencies' unspent funds and requires that they be used in FY 27 for specified purposes

The act carries forward unspent balances from FY 26 appropriations and requires that they be used for other purposes in the same agency, as listed in the table below. (PA 26-68 contains numerous other carry forward provisions for FY 27.)

Funds Carried Forward for FY 27

§	Agency	FY 26 Purpose	FY 27 Purpose	Amount
10	Office of Legislative Management	Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering	Same as FY 26	Up to \$45,000
21	Auditors of Public Accounts	Personal Services	Other Expenses	Up to \$200,000
86	Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)	Various Grants, for High Poverty Community Leadership Development	Leadership development of a community development corporation and its operations in Hartford's South End	Up to \$500,000

§	Agency	FY 26 Purpose	FY 27 Purpose	Amount
104	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Angel of Edgewood, Inc.	Up to \$100,000
108	DECD	Various Grants	Grant to Rich Dae Foundation	Up to \$175,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 11-12 & 67 — CHANGES TO FY 27 EARMARKS FOR SDE GRANTS

Shifts the funding sources for, and makes various other changes to, FY 27 earmarks for SDE grants; adds earmarks for various purposes

The FY 26-27 biennial budget act earmarked specified amounts from the State Department of Education's (SDE) Other Expenses line item appropriation in FYs 26 and 27. PA 26-68, § 12, shifts the funding sources for, and makes various other changes to, the amounts earmarked for specified purposes in FY 27. This act additionally:

1. increases, from \$210,000 to \$220,000, the amount earmarked for a grant to the Stamford Public Education Foundation (§ 11);
2. shifts the funding source for a \$500,000 grant to the State Education Resource Center (SERC) for disconnected youth programming from SDE's Various Grants line item to its SERC line item (§ 12); and
3. shifts a \$75,000 grant earmarked in FYs 26 and 27 for the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County for the Bridgeport Public Schools Debate League to the United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut for the same debate league and specifies that the amount earmarked for FY 26 carries forward for the same purpose in FY 27 (§ 67).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 13-17 — COMPENSATION FOR JUDGES AND CERTAIN OTHER STATE OFFICIALS

Increases the salary and other compensation for judges and certain other judicial officials by approximately 4.35% starting in FY 27; correspondingly increases the salary of certain other state officials whose salary, by law, is tied to that of judges

Starting on July 1, 2026, the act increases the following by approximately 4.35%: (1) salaries for judges, family support magistrates, family support referees, and judge trial referees; (2) additional amounts that certain judges receive for performing administrative duties; and (3) salaries of certain officials whose compensation, by law, is determined in relation to the salary of the chief justice or a Superior Court judge or a state referee's per-diem rate (including, starting with the next term for these offices, the governor and other constitutional officers).

The act also makes technical changes, including removing obsolete language.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Judicial Salaries

The table below shows the act's changes to judicial salaries starting in FY 27.

Judicial Salaries

Position	Prior Salary	Salary Under the Act Starting July 1, 2026
Supreme Court chief justice	\$248,936	\$259,764
Chief court administrator (if a judge)	239,210	249,616
Supreme Court associate judge	230,334	240,354
Appellate Court chief judge	227,786	237,695

<i>Position</i>	<i>Prior Salary</i>	<i>Salary Under the Act Starting July 1, 2026</i>
Appellate Court judge	216,336	225,775
Deputy chief court administrator (if a Superior Court judge)	212,381	221,620
Superior Court judge	208,059	217,109
Chief family support magistrate	181,101	188,979
Family support magistrate	172,361	179,859
Family support referee	269/day*	280/day*
Judge trial referee	312/day*	326/day*

*Plus expenses, mileage, and retirement pay

As under existing law, judges with at least 10 years of judicial or other state service also receive semiannual longevity payments equal to a specified percentage of their annual salary.

Administrative Judges

The law pays judges extra compensation for taking on certain administrative duties. The act increases these annual payments, which are in addition to the judges' annual salaries, from \$1,419 to \$1,481 starting on July 1, 2026. The judges who receive this additional amount are (1) the appellate system's administrative judge; (2) each judicial district's administrative judge; and (3) each chief administrative judge for (a) facilities, administrative appeals, the judicial marshal service, or judge trial referees, and (b) the Superior Court's family, juvenile, criminal, or civil divisions.

Related Increases

The act's provisions result in salary, rate, or maximum compensation increases for other officials or judges whose compensation is tied to those of judges or judge trial referees. Specifically:

1. the salaries of workers' compensation administrative law judges vary depending on service time and are tied to those of Superior Court judges (CGS § 31-277),
2. the salaries of probate court judges vary depending on probate district classification and range from 45% to 75% of a Superior Court judge's salary (CGS § 45a-95a),
3. senior judges receive the same per-diem rates as state referees (CGS §§ 51-47b(a) & 52-434b),
4. the probate court administrator's salary is the same as that of a Superior Court judge (CGS § 45a-75), and
5. the maximum compensation a retired judge may receive equals the highest annual salary during the fiscal year for the judicial office the judge held at retirement (CGS § 51-47b(b)).

Additionally, existing law generally makes the salary for the (1) governor equal to the salary for the Connecticut Supreme Court chief justice and (2) lieutenant governor, secretary of the state, state treasurer, state comptroller, and state attorney general equal to the salary for Superior Court judges. For these six officials, any salary increase does not take effect until the start of the next term for that office (CGS §§ 3-2, -11, -77, -111 & -124).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 18-20 & 82 — HOSPITAL PROVIDER TAX TECHNICAL FIXES

Makes technical fixes to hospital tax provisions in the budget act

The act makes technical fixes to effectuate certain hospital provider tax-related provisions in the budget act (PA 26-68, §§ 357, 361 & 362). Specifically, the act (§ 20) repeals provisions (1) changing the definitions that are applicable to most provisions related to the tax by inserting children's general hospitals into the "hospital" term (a conforming change) and adding a definition for "health system" that is the same as an existing statutory term (§18) and (2) requiring the tax and related supplemental payments to hospitals to revert to the structure and amounts in effect on June 1, 2025, under specified circumstances (§ 19). It replaces these provisions with substantially similar ones. It also corrects a statutory reference related

to new information reporting requirements (§ 82).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the repealer and information reporting provisions are effective upon passage.

§ 22 — MUNICIPAL CHARTER AMENDMENT PROCESS EXCEPTION

Temporarily allows municipalities with populations greater than 20,000, but less than 30,000, to start the charter revision process with a majority, rather than a two-thirds, vote of the appointing authority's membership

State law has a procedure that a municipality may use to revise its charter. Generally, this process must be started by a (1) resolution adopted by two-thirds of its entire appointing authority (see *Background — Municipal Appointing Authorities*) or (2) petition signed by at least 10% of the municipality's electors (meaning eligible voters).

The act creates a limited exception for any municipality with a population greater than 20,000 but less than 30,000, based on the 2020 federal decennial census. From May 7, 2026, until December 31, 2026, an eligible municipality may instead start the process by a majority vote of the entire appointing authority (rather than a two-thirds vote, as the law generally requires). As under existing law, the process may also be started by a petition signed by at least 10% of the municipality's electors.

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, once the process is initiated, the appointing authority must appoint a charter commission within 30 days. The commission must consider changes that the appointing authority or petitioners, as applicable, recommend and others the commission decides are needed. The law sets out public hearing requirements and the process for the appointing authority to vote on the proposed changes. Voters can petition to hold a referendum on any of the commission's proposed changes that the appointing authority votes to reject, and voters must ultimately vote on the changes, regardless of whether the appointing authority initially approved them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Municipal Appointing Authorities

A municipality's appointing authority is the (1) town's board of selectmen, town council, or board of directors; (2) city's common council or other body empowered to make ordinances; or (3) borough's board of burgesses (CGS § 7-187).

§§ 23 & 24 — CORNFIELD POINT ASSOCIATION'S CHARTER

Doubles the maximum assessment a specific special taxing district is allowed to impose on property owners, capping it at \$1,000 per improved lot and \$200 per unimproved lot

The act amends Cornfield Point Association's special act charter. This special taxing district for a shoreline community was previously allowed to impose an annual assessment of up to \$500 per lot with a dwelling or cottage on it and up to \$100 per vacant lot. The act doubled these caps, making them \$1,000, and \$200, respectively.

The act also specifies that this charter change is not to be invalidated because of the association's failure to timely file its request for legislation with the secretary of the state (see *Related Act*).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Related Act

PA 26-132 eliminates a statutory requirement that a unit of local government (such as a town or taxing district) seeking a change to its special act powers (generally its charter) file a copy of the request with the secretary of the state before the legislative session begins.

§ 25 — HARTFORD REVALUATION DELAY

Allows Hartford to delay implementing its 2026 revaluation until October 1, 2027

By law, municipalities must revalue their real property once every five years. The act allows Hartford to delay implementing its 2026 revaluation by one year, until the 2027 assessment year, if its legislative body approves. The act correspondingly allows Hartford (specifically, its rate maker) to prepare new tax bills to reflect this delay. Under the act, Hartford's subsequent revaluations are not delayed, and it must resume following its set five-year revaluation schedule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 26, 27 & 95-98 — HEALTH CARE GROWTH AND QUALITY BENCHMARKS AND PRIMARY CARE SPENDING TARGETS

Makes technical and minor changes to the revised methodology for assessing compliance with health care cost growth benchmark, cost drivers, quality benchmark, hospital growth benchmark, and primary care spending targets

The act makes technical changes to the revised methodology required under PA 26-68 for assessing compliance with health care cost growth benchmark, cost drivers, quality benchmark, hospital growth benchmark, and primary care spending targets.

It also makes related minor changes to requirements created under PA 26-68, § 365, for the Office of Policy Management (OPM) secretary, such as specifying that the preliminary results that the secretary must provide each hospital are to be based on the prior year's data.

The act also repeals duplicative provisions in PA 26-68 (§§ 132-137) on the transfer of oversight of the health care cost growth and quality benchmarks and primary care spending target from the Office of Health Strategy to OPM.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the section that repeals duplicative provisions is effective upon passage.

§§ 28 & 57 — HOSPITAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES

Amends a budget act provision on translation services for notices of hospital financial assistance policies, to clarify that hospitals must translate the notice if a set threshold of the community speaks a given language; repeals a budget act provision that requires hospitals to deem patients as meeting their financial assistance programs' income requirements if the patients are enrolled in certain public assistance programs

The budget act requires each hospital to have a written financial assistance policy, consistent with federal regulations requiring nonprofit hospitals to have these policies in order to maintain their tax-exempt status. It also requires hospitals to include a notice about their financial assistance policy on each patient bill, with a statement on the first page that translation services for the notices are available if a language is spoken by at least 1,000 people or 5% of the community served by the hospital facility or likely to be affected or encountered by the facility. Instead of requiring the statement on translation services, this act directly requires hospitals to translate the notice if the population threshold is met.

This act also repeals a budget act provision requiring hospitals with financial assistance programs, starting in 2027, to consider patients as meeting the program's income requirements if the patients are enrolled in certain public assistance programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on translation services is effective October 1, 2026.

§§ 29-31 — FUEL CELL PROJECTS IN ANSONIA

Makes a specific fuel cell project in Ansonia eligible for a buy-all NRES tariff, authorizes the state to contract with the project owner and the Green Bank to select state electricity accounts to be beneficial accounts for the project, makes the project eligible for a natural gas rebate, and allows the Siting Council to reopen the petition on the project; sets a new project completion deadline for a separate fuel cell project in Ansonia selected in the SCEF program

NRES Fuel Cell Project

The act makes a specific fuel cell project in Ansonia ("project number NE 53142") eligible for a Non-Residential Energy Solutions (NRES) program tariff under which electric distribution companies (EDCs; Eversource or United Illuminating) purchase all of the project's energy and renewable energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis (a "buy-all" tariff), under terms applicable to a municipal customer. It does so regardless of (1) utility-related laws that, among other things, limit NRES to zero-emissions projects (fuel cells are generally considered low-emissions projects), and (2) the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's (PURA) decisions and rulings in the proceeding for the NRES program review for the fourth year of the program.

The act authorizes the state, acting through the administrative services commissioner, to contract with the project owner and the Connecticut Green Bank to select electricity accounts for the state that would be beneficial accounts for any power generated by this fuel cell project. Generally, beneficial accounts are additional accounts customers designate to benefit from a facility's energy or related products.

When determining the project's eligibility, the act allows PURA to consider the financial condition of the municipality where the project is proposed to be located (Ansonia).

The act also defines the project as a “customer-side distributed resource” for purposes of eligibility for a natural gas rebate. This provision requires each EDC to give a rebate to customers with customer-side distributed resource projects that use natural gas. By law, the rebate is equal to the customer’s retail delivery charge for natural gas and EDCs may recover their rebate costs from the federally mandated congestion charge on electric bills.

By law, the Siting Council has jurisdiction over energy generation projects and must approve certain projects through a declaratory ruling unless the council finds a substantial adverse environmental effect. For this fuel cell project, the council declined to issue a declaratory ruling, stating that the petition from the project developer was incomplete. The act allows the council to reopen the petition upon the petitioner’s application and allows the council to consider the financial condition of the municipality where the project is proposed to be located (Ansonia).

SCEF Fuel Cell Project (§ 31)

The act changes the deadline for a different project in Ansonia. “Project number 3066” is a 3.996 megawatt fuel cell project in Ansonia that was selected in the fourth year of the Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF) program. Regardless of existing law or PURA’s regulations and procedures, the act makes the deadline for completing the project three years after the act passes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 32 — SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY GAS REBATE

Removes selection deadline for SCEF gas rebates

The law generally requires each gas company (the Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, the Southern Connecticut Gas Company, and Eversource) to have a program that gives rebates to customers that use natural gas for a SCEF (for example, a fuel cell). Under prior law, to get the rebate, projects must have been selected to participate in the SCEF program by December 31, 2023. The act removes this deadline, requiring the companies to give these rebates to SCEFs regardless of when they are selected to participate in the program.

By law, the rebate is equal to the retail delivery charge for transporting natural gas to the SCEF, and a gas company may recover the costs of providing the rebates through its decoupling mechanism, authorized under existing law. (PA 26-127, § 19, includes an identical provision.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 33 — HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ACCOUNT REPORTS

Adds the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to the recipients of required DSS reports on the budget act’s hospital supplemental payment account

The budget act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, starting by January 1, 2027, to annually report to the Appropriations and Public Health committees on the collection of funds for deposit into the hospital supplemental payment account and how the account’s funds were used during the prior calendar year. This act also requires the reports to be sent to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

The budget act creates the hospital supplemental payment account, to be used by DSS to make Medicaid supplemental payments to hospitals, hospital-affiliated medical groups, and faculty practice plans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 34 — ADDITIONAL FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

Modifies the budget adjustments act by (1) increasing, from one day to 20 days, the minimum number of production days needed to qualify for the additional film and digital media production tax credit that act created and (2) requiring DECD to notify eligible production companies about the credit

PA 26-68, § 275, creates an additional film and digital media production tax credit available for the 2027 and 2028 income years for production expenses or costs incurred for state-certified qualified productions for which principal photography shooting occurs in Bridgeport, Hartford, or New Haven, or any combination of these cities. This act (PA 26-76) increases, from one day to 20 days, the minimum number of production days needed to qualify for the credit.

Under PA 26-68, § 275, unchanged by this act, (1) eligible companies apply to DECD for a voucher (also known as an eligibility certificate) for the credit; (2) the credit equals a percentage of their production expenses and costs, ranging from 30% to 50%, with a minimum threshold of \$100,000; and (3) the total amount of credits is capped at \$1.5 million.

This act requires DECD to notify eligible production companies about the additional credit created by PA 26-68, § 275, when the department issues eligibility certificates for the other film and digital media production tax credit available under state law. More specifically, for these companies, DECD must determine, based on information provided in the company's application for the latter credit, whether the company's production reasonably anticipates that principal photography shooting will occur in Bridgeport, Hartford or New Haven, or any combination of these cities, for at least 20 days, and that production expenses or costs will at least be \$100,000. If DECD determines a company may qualify for the additional credit, the department must give the company written notice about that, including a description of the minimum production expenses or costs threshold and the application requirements to apply for the credit. The notice must also identify an estimated amount reserved for the company from the \$1.5 million total and, if requested, the remaining balance of unreserved funds available.

This act specifies that any (1) notice or reservation does not constitute final approval for the credit and does not guarantee that a voucher will be issued and (2) voucher issued must be subject to a company's completion of its production, submission and approval of its voucher application, verification of its expenses and costs, and satisfaction of the legal requirements for the credit and compliance with other applicable legal provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, and applicable to income years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

§ 35 — COST NOTIFICATION FOR INFUSION AND INJECTION SERVICES

Allows health carriers and utilization review companies to give a notification required in the budget act electronically

Starting January 1, 2027, PA 26-68, § 216, requires health carriers (insurers, HMOs, fraternal benefit societies, and hospital or medical service corporations) and utilization review companies, when preauthorizing or pre-certifying infusion or injection services provided at infusion centers, to give the insured written notification that these services provided at hospital-based off-campus outpatient infusion centers may cost more than those provided at non-hospital-based infusion centers. This act also allows that notice to be provided electronically.

This notification requirement applies to individual and group health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut that cover (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 36 — LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND SUPERVISING AUTHORITIES NEAR ELECTIONS SITES

Creates additional exemptions from PA 26-42, § 57, on prohibited acts by officers and supervising authorities near elections sites

PA 26-42, § 57, generally prohibits certain acts near elections sites and subjects violators to certain penalties. Elections sites include, for example, (1) polling places, (2) early voting and same-day election registration locations, and (3) absentee ballot drop boxes.

Among other things, PA 26-42 generally prohibits (1) officers and agents authorized by any state or the federal government to use force against, search, detain, or arrest people, and (2) those that supervise or have control over these officers and agents, hereinafter "officers and supervising authorities," from knowingly being within 250 feet of elections sites. However, these officers and supervising authorities may be within this perimeter for several reasons under that act, including voting while off-duty as allowed by state law. This act also allows officers and supervising authorities to vote while on duty.

This act also specifies that these officers and supervising authorities may access, travel to and from, or remain at law enforcement unit buildings that (1) were constructed and occupied by a municipal or state law enforcement agency before July 1, 2026; (2) are operated by one of these agency types; and (3) are located within 250 feet of an elections site. The act defines "law enforcement unit buildings" as any building or structure used by police officers when performing their official duties, including headquarters, stations, substations, and barracks.

Similarly, the act also allows off-duty officers and supervising authorities to remain within 250 feet of an elections site as long as necessary while present at another place or location within this perimeter (for example, doing business at a nearby location).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 37-39 — AUTOMATIC ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Repeals and replaces PA 26-42, § 9, on automatic absentee ballot applications; repeals a provision that delayed its effective date

PA 26-42, § 9, established procedures for voters to automatically receive absentee ballot applications for elections, primaries, and referenda they were eligible to vote in. This act repeals that provision and establishes different procedures for doing so. This act also makes a conforming change by repealing PA 26-68, § 55, which delayed implementation of PA 26-42, § 9.

Under this act, any elector (voter) may submit a request to their local town clerk to automatically receive absentee ballot applications for elections, referenda, and primaries in a form and way set by the secretary of the state. The town clerk must issue an absentee ballot application for applicable election contests to each active voter who submits a request by the earlier of (1) 90 days before the election contest or (2) as soon as practicable. The application must have the voter's information already filled in (information of a person helping the voter with the application does not need to be prefilled).

Before issuing automatic applications, the registrars of voters and the town clerk must compare the list of voters that will receive automatic applications against the municipality's official active registry (list of active voters in the town). They must do so in order to (1) identify voters that are scheduled to receive automatic applications but are no longer active voters in the town and (2) remove them from automatic absentee ballot status.

Additionally, under this act, voters must also lose their automatic status if (1) they notify the clerk in writing they no longer want automatic applications, (2) an automatic absentee ballot application sent to the voter is returned as undeliverable, or (3) the voter is placed on the inactive registry list.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, except the repeal and conforming change are effective upon passage.

§ 40 — MEDICAID RATE PARITY FOR OPTOMETRISTS

Requires the DSS commissioner to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates for optometrists so that they equal ophthalmologist rates and seek federal approval to amend the Medicaid state plan if needed

The act requires the DSS commissioner to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates for licensed optometrists so that they equal those of licensed physicians (presumably, ophthalmologists) for performing the same medical service or procedure in Current Procedural Terminology codes 92004 (new patient comprehensive eye examinations), 92014 (existing patient comprehensive eye examinations), 92015 (determining eye refractions), and 92250 (computerized corneal topography). It requires the commissioner to seek federal approval to amend the Medicaid state plan if needed to adjust the rates.

PA 21-2, June Special Session, § 333, already required the DSS commissioner to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates for licensed (1) nurse-midwives to receive the same rates as licensed obstetrician-gynecologists for performing the same services or procedures and (2) podiatrists to receive the same rates as licensed physicians for performing the same services or procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 41 — MODIFICATION OF INSURANCE DEPARTMENT STUDY REQUIREMENT

Makes an Insurance Department study requirement in PA 26-68 contingent on the availability of appropriations

The act directs the Insurance Department to conduct a study required in § 217 of PA 26-68, provided there are available appropriations. In which case, as required by PA 26-68, the department, in consultation with the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, must study and report on the following to the legislature by October 1, 2027:

1. potential ways to lower the cost of infusion and injection services provided at hospital-based off-campus outpatient facilities,
2. appropriate patient protections for stop-loss insurance policies used with self-funded employee health benefit plans, and
3. surprise bills for ground ambulance services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 42 — WAGE INCREASES FOR NURSING HOME EMPLOYEES

Eliminates a budget act provision that restricted wage increases for nursing home employees authorized under PA 25-168 for nurses to only those who solely provide direct care; excludes nursing home directors and assistant directors, starting July 1, 2026, from these wage increases

PA 25-168, § 332, requires the DSS commissioner, regardless of the state's nursing home Medicaid reimbursement law and within available appropriations, to increase nursing home reimbursement rates to support wage increases for employees (nurses; nurse's aides; and dietary, housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, and plant operation personnel) as follows: (1) 3% effective July 1, 2025; (2) 3% effective July 1, 2026; and (3) 4% effective January 1, 2027.

This act repeals a provision in the budget act (PA 26-68, § 445) that restricted these wage increases for nurses to only those who solely provide direct patient care services and supports and do not work in administrative roles.

Instead, the act excludes nursing home directors and assistant directors, starting July 1, 2026, from receiving these wage increases.

Under existing law, if a facility receives a rate adjustment for these wage increases and does not provide them, DSS may decrease the facility's rate by the same amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 43 — DSS CON DETERMINATIONS

Amends PA 26-74 to allow DSS to set lower occupancy rates to determine bed need when making CON decisions for projects that relocate beds to comply with a two-bed per room limit

By law, nursing homes must generally receive certificate of need (CON) approval from DSS when relocating licensed beds or decreasing bed capacity, among other things. DSS must consider various factors, including whether there is a clear public need for the request based on the bed need in nearby towns. Under PA 26-74, a service area with a demonstrated bed need is one whose nursing home occupancy is above 96% for at least two consecutive quarters.

Additionally, starting July 1, 2026, existing law generally prohibits placing newly admitted nursing home residents in a room with more than two beds. This act creates an exception to the threshold in PA 26-74 to allow the DSS commissioner to establish bed need based on an occupancy that is lower than 96% for projects that relocate nursing home beds in order to comply with this two-bed per room limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 44 — WAIVES TWO-BED PER ROOM LIMIT FOR CERTAIN NURSING HOMES

Waives two-bed per room limit for state-established nursing homes that serve people transitioning from correctional facilities or receiving DMHAS services

Existing law allows the Department of Correction (DOC), the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and DSS to establish nursing homes for people who require a nursing home level of care and (1) are transitioning from a correctional facility in the state or (2) receive DMHAS services. Starting July 1, 2026, existing law generally prohibits placing newly admitted nursing home residents in a room with more than two beds. The act waives this requirement for any state-established nursing homes described above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 45 — SUFFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTWITHSTANDING

Amends a notwithstanding for a school construction project at Suffield Middle School passed in the budget act to extend the application deadline to be on the 2026 priority list

Through legislation, the state can exempt school construction projects from certain statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants. (These exemptions are commonly referred to as "notwithstandings.")

PA 26-68, § 420, waives the filing deadline for an unspecified project at Suffield Middle School to be included on the 2026 priority list if the district applies before July 1, 2026. This act (1) extends this deadline to July 1, 2027, and (2) makes a technical correction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 46 — AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER CONTRACTS

Removes a requirement that ALPR contracts between public agencies and private vendors bar storing the contracting agency's ALPR data with ALPR data the vendor stores under a contract with a different agency or person

PA 26-14, §§ 13-15 sets various restrictions and requirements related to automated license plate readers (ALPRs). Among other things, it prohibits public agencies from entering or renewing contracts with private vendors for ALPR system usage or data unless the contract bars the vendor from engaging in certain activities with respect to ALPR data collected in the state.

This act removes a provision from PA 26-14 that requires these contracts to bar the vendor from holding or storing the contracting agency's ALPR data with ALPR data it holds or stores under a contract with a different agency or other person.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 47 — REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANT

Changes the recipient and purpose of an FY 27 regional performance incentive program grant

PA 26-68, § 52, requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to distribute a \$250,000 regional performance incentive program grant to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for FY 27 for a pilot program to consolidate public service answering points. This act changes the purpose of this to a study on the consolidation of public service answering points.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 48 — CONNECTICUT STATE BIRD

Designates Sue Bird as an additional state bird during the month of March

Under existing law, the Connecticut state bird is the American robin. The act designates Suzanne (Sue) Bird as a second state bird during the month of March. (Sue Bird was a top University of Connecticut basketball player.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 49 — NORTHWEST RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY GRANT-IN-AID

Gives a \$500,000 grant-in-aid to the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority

The act requires, by June 30, 2026, a \$500,000 grant-in-aid to be given to the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority. The grant must come from a nonlapsing account established by the OPM secretary for the purpose of winding down the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 50 — ANGEL INVESTOR TAX CREDIT PROGRAM CHANGES

Modifies requirements for businesses to qualify for tax credits under the angel investor tax credit program, including reducing the minimum percentage of a business's employees that must live in Connecticut

The act makes changes to the angel investor tax credit program, which, generally, allows angel investors who make cash investments of at least \$25,000 in the qualified securities of certain Connecticut businesses to be eligible for a personal income tax credit equal to 25% of their investment. By law, an "angel investor" is generally an investor whom the Securities and Exchange Commission considers to be an accredited investor. A "Connecticut business" is any business, other than a cannabis business, whose principal place of business is in Connecticut.

To qualify for the tax credit, existing law requires the investments to be in Connecticut businesses that meet several criteria, including that the business:

1. applied for and received approval from Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (CI) to get credit-eligible investments;
2. had gross revenues of less than \$1 million in the most recent income year;

3. has less than 25 employees;
4. has been operating in Connecticut for fewer than seven consecutive years;
5. is primarily owned by the management of the business and their families; and
6. received less than \$2 million in investments from credit-eligible angel investors.

Prior law additionally required that 75% of the business's employees live in Connecticut. The act reduces this percentage to 50% and, beginning July 1, 2026, requires applications to CI from a business and a related person to be treated as a single Connecticut business under the program.

Existing law and the act define "related person" in relation to a corporation claiming a credit as:

1. a corporation, partnership, association, or trust controlled by that corporation;
2. an individual, corporation, partnership, association, or trust that is in control of that corporation;
3. a corporation, partnership, association, or trust controlled by an individual, corporation, partnership, association, or trust that is in control of that corporation; or
4. a member of the same controlled group as that corporation.

For the purposes of the "related person" definition and the angel investor tax credit program, the act adds a definition for "control," which is (1) for corporations, direct or indirect ownership of stock possessing at least 50% of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of the corporation entitled to vote and (2) for trusts, direct or indirect ownership of at least 50% of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of the trust. For determining the ownership of a corporation's stock, partnership's or association's capital or profits, or trust's beneficial interest, the definition generally requires that:

1. direct or indirect ownership of these assets by or for a corporation, partnership, estate, or trust is considered to be owned proportionately by or for its shareholders, partners, or beneficiaries;
2. an individual is considered as owning the asset, directly or indirectly, by or for his or her family; and
3. the family of an individual includes only his or her brothers and sisters (full and half siblings), spouse, ancestors, and lineal descendants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 51 — STATEWIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Requires the OPM secretary to establish a statewide language access implementation plan for executive branch agencies; sets annual reporting requirements to the legislature on the plan's implementation

The act requires the OPM secretary, by January 1, 2027, to consult with certain officials to develop a statewide language access implementation plan for state agencies and update it at least every two years. The plan applies to any executive branch department, board, commission, office, or other agency.

The plan must be designed to (1) improve access to public services and benefits and (2) increase meaningful access to public programs, hearings, meetings, appeals, workforce development, licensure, identification documents, and other governmental opportunities that support family economic engagement and mobility.

The act specifies that these provisions do not (1) require any state agency to translate any of the agency's printed or electronic forms or applications before any deadlines or phases in the plan, (2) limit the plan to written forms or applications, or (3) alter any separate obligations under state or federal law relating to disabilities (see *Background — Federal Law*).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Consultation

The act requires the OPM secretary, when making the plan, to consult the administrative services, social services, and public health commissioners and any other department heads or stakeholders he deems appropriate.

Plan Contents

The act requires the plan to do the following:

1. assess the language access needs of individuals with limited-English proficiency (LEP) in the state, using the U.S. Census Bureau's most recently published American Community Survey and any available relevant state agency service data;
2. identify the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by LEP individuals in the state;
3. inventory public-facing printed and electronic forms, applications, notices, websites, public meetings, hearings, appeals, complaint processes, application processes, workforce development programs, and other civic or

- governmental interactions and service delivery points used by state agencies;
4. identify high-priority, public-facing documents and interactions for phased translation and interpretation, including hearings, meetings, complaint processes, and workforce development programs that need live interpretation or sign language access;
 5. designate a limited number of these documents and interactions for the first implementation phase;
 6. establish a phased implementation schedule for state agencies, including designating what should be included in the first implementation phase, in a way that maximizes administrative efficiencies and minimizes unnecessary costs by using, where practicable, (a) centralized procurement of translation and interpretation services; (b) shared language access services templates and glossaries across state agencies; (c) existing personnel; (d) technology-assisted translation tools with appropriate review by state agency personnel for accuracy, accessibility, and public use; and (e) other strategies identified by the OPM secretary;
 7. establish recommended standards for translation and interpretation services, plain language notices of available services, sign language access, accessibility, and agency reporting;
 8. include recommendations for potentially expanding language access requirements, as appropriate, to local and regional boards of education, higher education constituent units, health care facilities or institutions receiving state funds or federal funds administered by the state, and state contractors; and
 9. identify any necessary legislation, appropriation, administrative action, or procurement changes for implementing the plan and any recommended expansion.

Under the act, a “high-priority public-facing document” is any printed or electronic form, notice, or instruction needed to apply for, obtain, maintain, or renew a public benefit, public service, vital record (birth, marriage, fetal death, or death certificates), or identification document that is identified in the statewide plan.

Reporting

Starting by January 15, 2027, the act requires the OPM secretary to annually report to the Appropriations, Education, Government Administration and Elections (GAE), Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Human Services, and Public Health committees. The report must include (1) a plan summary and any updates; (2) any estimated costs or cost savings with using centralized procurement, shared services, existing personnel, technology-assisted translation tools, and phased implementation of the plan; (3) any expansion recommendations; and (4) any legislative recommendations.

Background — Federal Law

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 generally prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives federal funds or other federal financial assistance, which has been interpreted to include the requirement to provide “meaningful access” to people with LEP. Other federal laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 1557 of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, place additional requirements on state and local governments to ensure those with LEP can access governmental benefits and services.

§ 52 — LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

Requires JCLM to develop a legislative language access plan and report to the legislature

By January 1, 2027, the act requires the Joint Committee on Legislative Management (JCLM) to develop a legislative language access plan for public hearings and meetings and online notices and content to improve access for people with LEP or people who need sign language access. The plan must (1) prioritize legislative documents and interactions for translation or interpretation services or sign language access; (2) establish procedures for requesting translation or interpretation services for legislative public hearings or meetings; and (3) include any implementation recommendations for any necessary legislation, appropriation, or administrative action.

Starting by January 15, 2027, JCLM must annually report to the Appropriations and GAE committees with (1) a summary of the plan and any revisions and (2) any legislative or appropriation recommendations for implementing it.

By July 1, 2027, JCLM must post information on the legislature’s website about language assistance service availability and how to request these services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 53 — YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDING

Changes how DOL must allocate youth employment and training funds to the regional workforce development boards from specified percentages to a need-based formula

The act changes how the Department of Labor (DOL) must allocate youth employment and training funds to the regional workforce development boards. It also specifies that these funds are for services to people ages 14 to 24.

Prior law set the percentage of the funds that each board must receive (32.5% to Capitol Workforce Partners; 22.5% to The Workforce Alliance; 12.5% to The Workplace, Inc.; 22.5% to the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Inc.; and 10% to the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board).

The act instead requires these funds to be allocated based on a formula the DOL commissioner sets in collaboration with the boards that uses available data, including each workforce development region's number of (1) students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch; (2) economically disadvantaged youth, as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent American Community Survey; and (3) at-risk students. The act allows the commissioner, in consultation with the boards, to update the formula to reflect current conditions in these regions.

However, under the act, the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board's funding allocation (under the initial formula and any updates) cannot be less than the amount allocated to it in FY 26.

Under the act, an "at-risk student" generally is a high school student in danger of not graduating for reasons such as not earning enough credits to graduate, being chronically absent, or behavioral and other disciplinary issues, such as suspensions and expulsions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 54 — BRIDGEPORT ONE-TIME PAYMENT AND THE MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT

Amends a provision in the budget adjustment act providing one-time municipal payments to specify that Bridgeport's payment is not considered part of its education budget for purposes of the state's minimum budget requirement law

PA 26-68, § 464, appropriates \$100,000,006 in FY 26 to OPM for one-time payments to municipalities and carries forward any unspent funds to FY 27 for the same purpose. It also specifies the payment amount for each municipality.

This act amends this provision to specify that Bridgeport's payment is not considered part of the city's budgeted appropriation for education and must be excluded from its minimum budget requirement (MBR) calculation. By law, the MBR generally prohibits a town from budgeting less for education than it did in the previous fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 55 — FUNDS EARMARKED FOR SHORE LINE EAST

Modifies funding earmarks in PA 26-68 for Shore Line East

PA 26-68, § 480, earmarked funds from the Department of Transportation's (DOT) FY 26 and FY 27 appropriations for Rail Operations (\$3 million and \$4 million, respectively) for Shore Line East. This act (1) requires both earmarks to be from DOT's FY 27 Rail Operations appropriation; (2) requires \$4 million to be earmarked for the Shore Line East rail line and \$3 million for increasing service on the line; and (3) makes a technical correction. PA 26-21, § 5, has identical provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 56 — FINISH LINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Specifies (1) a time frame within which students must have earned their associate's degree to qualify for the Finish Line Scholars program, as modified by PA 26-68, and (2) that students must have maintained their eligibility while previously participating in the Mary Ann Handley program to qualify

Prior law required a student to have completed at least 60 credits at Connecticut State Community College (CT State) through the Mary Ann Handley program to be eligible for the Finish Line Scholars program. PA 26-68, § 470 eliminates this and instead requires the student to have received an associate's degree. This act specifies that the associate's degree must have been earned during the fall 2025 semester or any following semester.

The act further modifies program eligibility requirements, specifying that a student must have not only participated in the Mary Ann Handley program, but also maintained eligibility throughout their participation.

By law, the Finish Line Scholars program awards grants to students who enrolled at CT State and received a Mary Ann Handley program award (debt-free community college program) and then enroll in a bachelor's program at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities or Charter Oak State College.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 58 — REPEAL OF GREYFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM CHANGES

Repeals provisions in the budget adjustments act that made changes to a greyfield revitalization program

The act repeals PA 26-68, § 207, which limited a greyfield revitalization program to greyfields in East Hartford and the statutorily designated Capital City Economic Development District and expanded the program's scope to include greyfield renovations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 59 — CONNECTICUT WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY GAP PLAN

Modifies the budget adjustments act by altering the workforce and productivity gap contribution plan that OPM must submit to the General Assembly

PA 26-68, § 274, requires the OPM secretary to submit a plan to the General Assembly, by January 1, 2027, that includes a workforce and productivity gap contribution portion that must have four items, including a formula for an annual surcharge for each income or tax year an employer maintains a productivity gap.

This act (PA 26-76) eliminates the second item in the workforce and productivity gap contribution plan concerning an augmented productivity tax exemption that ensures that any augmented productivity achieved by an employer is permanently exempt from Connecticut taxation.

This act also changes the fourth item in the plan, which requires it to include the establishment of a workforce and economic stability account. PA 26-68, § 274, requires the account to be used (1) for depositing the collected surcharges in and (2) exclusively for workforce retraining, technical education, and career transition programs for displaced employees. This act instead requires the account's surcharge collected funds to be used for grants to employers to (1) acquire generative or assistive artificial intelligence technologies that demonstrate a measurable increase in per-worker output without a corresponding reduction in headcount and (2) train staff on those technologies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 60 — FUNDS EARMARKED FOR OFFICE OF HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE STUDY

Earmarks funds for an Office of Healthcare Advocate study on the accreditation of health services at Department of Correction facilities

The act reserves up to \$100,000 of the DOC FY 27 Other Expenses appropriation and makes the funds available to the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA) to study DOC facilities attaining accreditation for health services, including mental health services, from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 61 & 62 — CT INNOCENCE FUND REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT

Renames the innocence project revolving loan account created by PA 26-68, §§ 250 & 251

PA 26-68, §§ 250 & 251, created the "innocence project revolving loan account," to be used by the judicial branch to issue loans to claimants who may qualify for wrongful incarceration compensation from the state. This act keeps these provisions but renames the account the "CT innocence fund revolving loan account."

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 63 — GOVERNOR’S GUARD ACCOUNTS

Eliminates the subaccounts established in the budget adjustment act and instead requires money in the Governor’s Guards horse account to be allocated and accounted for by each unit

The budget adjustment act (PA 26-68, § 487) established two subaccounts within the Governor’s Guards horse account. This act eliminates these subaccounts and instead requires money in the Governor’s Guards horse account to be allocated and accounted for by each unit (First and Second Company). Funds generated by, or attributed to, a specific unit must be credited to that unit and spent only on maintaining horses related to that unit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 64 & 65 — FREE AND REDUCED BUS FARES

Requires (1) DOT, rather than SDE, to administer a free bus pass program for students and (2) DOT to spend \$2.5 million of its FY 27 bus operations appropriation to issue related grants and provide discounted CTtransit bus fares for veterans and students

PA 26-21, § 7, requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to administer a program to give local or regional boards of education grants to buy passes for state-owned or -controlled public buses (CTtransit buses) and give them for free to their public school students in grades 9-12.

This act instead requires DOT to administer the program and expands it to also include transit district-provided public bus service.

This act also requires DOT to spend \$2.5 million of its FY 27 bus operations appropriation from the Special Transportation Fund to (1) give grants under the student bus pass program (see above) and (2) provide discounted CTtransit bus fares for veterans and public school students in grades 9-12. (Existing law generally requires the DOT commissioner to give up to a 50% fare discount for CTtransit buses to veterans, seniors, youth, and people with disabilities. It also allows school boards to buy passes for use on these buses at the discounted rate and either give them for free to their public school students in grades 9-12 or sell them to these students at cost or for a reduced cost (CGS § 13b-38j).)

Under the act, a “veteran” is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service) (CGS § 27-103).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the DOT appropriation provision is effective upon passage.

§ 66 — WORKFORCE NAVIGATOR

Requires the regional workforce navigator position created by PA 26-12 to be held by a regional workforce development board’s employee, rather than a board member

PA 26-12, § 27, requires the membership of each of the state’s regional workforce development boards to include a regional workforce navigator. This act removes that requirement and instead requires each board to employ a regional workforce navigator.

As under PA 26-12, the workforce navigator must coordinate with the boards, the Governor’s Workforce Council, and DOL to connect people in adult education programs, and public school students in grades 9 through 12, with workforce opportunities such as internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing opportunities, and credentials offered in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 68, 87 & 88 — CHANGES TO CARRYFORWARDS IN PA 26-68

Modifies specified carryforwards in PA 26-68

The act modifies specified carryforwards in PA 26-68, as described in the table below.

Changes to Carryforwards for FY 27

§	PA 26-68		This Act
	Agency and FY 26 Appropriation	Carryforward Amount and Purpose	
68	DECD, Various Grants	Up to \$1,150,000 for a grant to Working Cities Challenge/ Middletown Works	Requires that the grant be made to Working Cities Challenge and \$150,000 of it be used for Middletown Works
87	Judicial Department, Youth Services Prevention	Up to \$100,000 transferred to DECD, Various Grants, for a grant to My Architecture Workshops	Increases the maximum carryforward amount to \$200,000
88	SDE, Other Expenses	Up to \$25,000 for a grant to Burns Latino Academy for musical instruments and instruction	Increases the maximum carryforward amount to \$90,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 69 — STATE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFIED SERVICE EXEMPTION

Modifies the exemption of certain positions from the state employee classified service under PA 26-68

PA 26-68, § 181, exempts certain positions, including positions titled “agency legal director” and “first assistant commissioner of Revenue Services” from the state employee classified service, which excuses them from various civil service exams and other hiring and promotion procedures.

This act specifies that “agency legal director” does not include the agency legal director of the Department of Revenue Services or the OPM general counsel. The act also amends this provision to remove the position of first assistant commissioner of Revenue Services from being exempted.

It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 70 — FARM INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

Applies expanded eligibility for the farm investment tax credit to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, rather than January 1, 2028

PA 26-75, § 2, expands who qualifies as an eligible farmer under the farm investment tax credit program to include Connecticut taxpayers whose federal gross income from farming for the income or tax year is at least \$250,000. Under PA 26-75, this change applied to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2028. Under this act, it instead applies to income and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 71 — FOOD RESOURCE GRANTS

Allows DoAg to use GO bonds authorized in FY 23 to make grants to food systems and for food system enhancements

PA 22-118 authorized \$10 million in general obligation (GO) bonds in FY 23 to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) for grants for food resource organization capital improvements. This act also allows DoAg to use these funds to make grants (1) to food systems and (2) for food system enhancements. (PA 26-68, § 312, also extends grant eligibility to food systems.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 72 — CONNECTICUT DATA PRIVACY ACT EXEMPTION

Exempts precise geolocation data DOT uses for certain purposes from the CTDPA

The act exempts precise geolocation data DOT uses for certain purposes from the Connecticut Data Privacy Act

(CTDPA). Specifically, it is precise geolocation data that has been deidentified or aggregated from personal data and that DOT collected, used, processed, shared, or transferred for (1) transportation planning; (2) traffic management and operations; (3) highway safety analysis; (4) infrastructure design, maintenance, or performance monitoring; or (5) public sector research done by or for an authorized state agency.

By law, the CTDPA establishes a framework for controlling and processing personal data. Among other things, it requires a controller (an individual or legal entity that determines the purpose and how to process personal data) to limit the collection of personal data and establish security practices, among other things.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 73-75 — PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

Requires presidential electors to pledge they will vote for the presidential candidate they were elected to support; establishes procedures for removing electors who fail to vote for their pledged candidate and nullifying their votes

By law, when a voter casts a ballot for a presidential candidate, the ballot is cast for a slate of presidential electors who have pledged to vote for that candidate when all state electors convene to choose the president and vice president of the United States.

The act specifically requires candidates for presidential elector and individuals who fill a vacancy for these offices to execute a pledge that they will vote for the candidate they are pledged to vote for. It permanently disqualifies any person who fails to vote for their pledged candidate from serving as a presidential elector in the future. Additionally, the act establishes procedures for rejecting an elector's ballot if it is cast for anyone other than the pledged candidate.

State law previously required presidential electors to vote for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates under whose names they ran on the official ballot, but did not nullify their vote if they failed to do so.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes, including specifying how electors must be chosen if the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which Connecticut has joined, is activated.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Presidential Elector Pledges

Under the act, each (1) presidential elector candidate nominated by a political party under state law or (2) person who files a candidacy for presidential elector with a political party designation, must execute the following pledge:

"If chosen for the office of presidential elector, I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots for the nominees for President and Vice President of the political party by which I was nominated."

The act specifies that if a political party's nominee for President or Vice President dies or withdraws before the meeting of electors, the presidential elector's pledge above must apply to the successor nominee.

Similarly, a person who files a candidacy without a political party designation or who registers a candidacy for a write-in candidate must execute the following pledge:

"If chosen for the office of presidential elector, I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots for the candidate for President listed on this filing and for such candidate's running mate as Vice President."

In either case, a copy of the executed pledge must be included in the filed certificate of endorsement, candidacy for nomination, or registration, as applicable.

Relatedly, to be chosen to fill a vacancy for these offices, a person must execute the following pledge:

"I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots consistent with the pledge of the presidential elector who I am replacing."

Voting of Presidential Electors

By law, all the state's presidential electors must meet at the secretary of the state's (SOTS) office at noon on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday of the December following their election. Prior law required each elector to vote for his or her pledged candidate. The act instead sets procedures for nullifying the ballots of electors who do not vote for their pledged candidate.

Under the act, SOTS must give presidential electors their ballots and then preside over the voting process. Presidential electors must mark their ballots, sign them, and legibly print their names. After completing their ballots, electors must present them to SOTS, who may accept them only if marked for the candidate the electors are pledged for.

If a ballot is marked for another candidate or an elector refuses to vote for the pledged candidate or comply with the act's procedures, the elector forfeits the office, creating a vacancy. As under existing law, the remaining presidential electors

choose a new elector by ballot.

The act specifies that each time a vacancy is filled, the procedures above must be repeated until all ballots are accepted.

Certificate of Votes

Federal law sets procedures states must follow when transmitting the results of the presidential electors' meeting. First, the electors must make and sign six certificates of their votes, seal them with their appointment certificates, and then transmit them to certain people specified by federal law. The act requires SOTS to provide these certificates and assist in this process.

Under the act, if an elector refuses to sign the certificates of votes, they forfeit the office of presidential elector, and a vacancy is created. The vacancy must be filled as described above and the procedures above repeated until all ballots are accepted and the certificates of votes are signed.

Certificate of Ascertainment of Appointment

Under federal law, SOTS must issue a certificate of ascertainment of appointment for presidential electors once the winners have been declared and transmit it to the U.S. Archivist. Generally, this certificate is the official list of people declared to be the state's presidential electors.

If the list of electors has changed since SOTS issued the certificate (for example, filling a vacancy), the act requires SOTS to immediately amend the certificate, issue it, and transmit it to the U.S. Archivist by the most expeditious available method, as required under federal law for the original list.

Relatedly, the act generally requires SOTS to note these and related procedures in the original certificate filed with the U.S. Archivist.

§ 76 — ANALYSIS OF HOSPITAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORTING

Makes a clarifying change to PA 26-68 on the transfer, from OHS to OHA, of oversight of hospital community benefit reporting

The budget act eliminates the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and generally transfers its powers, duties, and functions to other agencies. This includes transferring OHS's oversight of hospital community benefit reporting to OHA. This act removes a budget act provision that requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to annually summarize and analyze hospital community benefit program reporting, clarifying that OHA is the agency taking over those functions from OHS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 77 & 78 — UNLICENSED HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Lowers the budget act's civil and criminal penalties for opening, managing, or operating a health care facility without a required DPH license or certificate

The budget act allows the Department of Public Health (DPH), after a hearing, to impose a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day against anyone who opens, manages, or operates a health care facility without a required DPH license (or certificate for nursing facility management services). This act lowers the maximum daily civil penalty to \$5,000.

The budget act also generally makes this action a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, and sets a maximum \$5,000 daily fine for this offense. This act lowers the criminal penalty to a class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to three months in prison, and sets a maximum \$2,000 daily fine for this offense.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 79 — EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FY 26 FUNDS

Carries forward unspent endowment funds and allows them to be used for authorized expenses in FY 27 and beyond

Existing law requires any Early Childhood Education Endowment funds that are not spent by the end of the fiscal year to be deposited back into the endowment. The act overrides this provision to carry forward endowment funds released for FY 26. Under the act, these funds remain available to the Office of Early Childhood for authorized expenses in FY 27 and beyond, until the funds are fully spent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 80 — HARTFORD SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION AID

Specifies that the \$5 million PA 26-68 provides in supplemental FY 26 education aid for Hartford must be deducted from Hartford's FY 27 supplemental amount

PA 26-68, § 391, generally requires supplemental education grants to be paid to towns in FY 27, but it requires \$5 million of the amount specified for Hartford's supplemental education aid grant to be distributed to the city in FY 26. This act specifies that this \$5 million must be deducted from the supplemental amount that Hartford will receive for FY 27.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 81 — FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA TAX CREDIT

Repeals a duplicate budget act provision extending the increased redemption rate for film and digital media tax credits claimed against the sales tax

The act repeals a duplicate provision in the budget act (PA 26-68, § 223) that extends, to the 2026 and 2027 income years, the increased redemption rate for film and digital media tax credits claimed against the sales tax. A separate provision (PA 26-68, § 268) makes the same change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 83 — HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ACCOUNT

Specifies that DSS must pay Medicaid supplemental payments from the hospital supplemental payment account

The budget act (PA 26-68) creates several Medicaid supplemental payment pools, sets a payment schedule for each one beginning with FY 27, and establishes a hospital supplemental payment account. This act amends it to specify that DSS must pay the Medicaid supplemental payments from the hospital supplemental payment account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 84 — REPEAL OF DUPLICATE STUDENT LOAN OMBUDSMAN REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Repeals a duplicate reporting requirement on the Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman's 2025 and 2026 activities

The act repeals a duplicate budget act provision (PA 26-68, § 485) requiring the student loan ombudsman to report on its office's 2025 and 2026 activities (§ 386 of that act also requires it).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 85 — ICHRA TAX CREDIT

Requires that the tax credit against certain state business taxes for qualified small businesses (those with fewer than 50 employees) that offer employees an ICHRA, as established by PA 26-68, be offered through the state's health insurance exchange

This act requires that the tax credit established in PA 26-68, § 263, for qualified small businesses that offer employees an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA, see *Background — ICHRA*) be offered through the state's health insurance exchange. The act leaves unchanged the application and approval processes, including the issuance of certification letters for approved credits, set out in PA 26-68. This act additionally requires that the commissioner of revenue services give Access Health CT a copy of each certification letter and further allows him to enter a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the exchange's chief executive officer (CEO) to facilitate the credit's administration by sharing additional information, including tax returns and related information. Under the act, Access Health CT's CEO cannot further disclose any tax returns or information the commissioner shares to a third party without the commissioner's permission, and these tax returns and information can only be used by the exchange as set out in the MOU.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage and applicable to income and taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Background — ICHRA

Established by federal rule in 2019, an ICHRA allows employers to reimburse employees for buying individual health coverage (for example, through the individual insurance exchange, Access Health CT).

§§ 89-92 — MODIFICATIONS TO TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT PROVISIONS

Modifies provisions of the budget adjustment act related to Tweed-New Haven Airport and Airport Authority

This year's budget adjustment act makes various changes related to Tweed-New Haven Airport (PA 26-68, §§ 166-169, 171 & 172). Among other things, it:

1. modifies the appointments of Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority's board of directors 30 days after the local building official and fire marshal issue a building permit for a passenger terminal facility, meeting certain requirements, on the side of the Tweed-New Haven Airport next to East Haven;
2. starting immediately after building permit issuance, generally requires affirmative votes from at least 10 board members for certain specified actions;
3. expands the authority's powers and duties;
4. defines the term "airport project" for the laws governing Tweed-New Haven Airport; and
5. requires the state treasurer to annually make certain payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) grants to East Haven and New Haven, after the OPM secretary certifies that a passenger terminal facility on the side of the Tweed-New Haven Airport next to East Haven (see above) has opened and is operational.

This act makes various modifications to the provisions described above. Specifically, the act:

1. specifies that the passenger terminal facility must be located on the East Haven side of the airport (rather than the side of the airport next to East Haven) for the provisions on modified authority board appointments, actions that require affirmative votes from at least 10 board members, and PILOT payments (§§ 90 & 91);
2. specifies that the terms of authority board members appointed by the South Central Regional Council of Governments terminate when the East Haven mayor makes his two additional initial appointments (§ 91);
3. adds amendments to authority bylaws to the list of specified actions that require 10 affirmative board votes after building permit issuance (§ 91);
4. eliminates a provision specifying that the authority's bylaws are considered procedures (§ 89) (existing law sets a specific process by which the board must adopt written procedures for certain actions it takes (CGS § 15-120k));
5. further expands the authority's powers by allowing it to (a) manage, maintain, supervise, and operate any improvements or additions to the airport (in addition to the airport itself as under existing law) and (b) operate the authority, subject to applicable federal law and regulations (§ 92);
6. specifies that the authority's power to contract with any person in relation to a financing project extends to a "participating corporation" (legal business entity, quasi-public authority, or government entity) (§ 92);
7. specifies that a "financing project" includes an airport project (in addition to an airport project's leasing, licensing, or operation) and makes minor changes to the items and activities that are considered airport project costs (§ 89); and
8. specifies that the treasurer must begin PILOT payments after the OPM secretary certifies that East Haven has approved a building permit for the facility (rather than after the facility has opened and is operational), but not before July 1, 2027 (§ 90).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 93 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY BONDS

Allows, rather than requires, certain bond-related actions taken under delegated authority to be subject to board approval

This year's budget act changes the authority of the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority to issue bonds (PA 26-68, § 170). Among other things, it allows the authority's board to adopt a resolution delegating authority to its chairperson or vice-chairperson or the authority's executive director or another officer to take certain actions related to bonds (set their sale date, receive bids or proposals, sell them, and take other actions). This act allows, instead of requires, these actions taken under delegated authority to be subject to board approval. It also makes a minor change on revenue bonds and how they specify their repayment sources.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 94 — TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Specifies that if East Haven or New Haven submits, or the two jointly submit, a proposal to DECD to establish an airport development zone surrounding Tweed-New Haven Airport, the proposal must be for census tracts within the municipality that submits it (or within both for a joint proposal)

The budget act requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to establish an airport development zone surrounding Tweed-New Haven Airport if East Haven or New Haven submits a proposal to do so or both municipalities submit one jointly. This act specifies that the proposal must be for census tracts within the municipality that submits it (or within both if a joint proposal).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 99 — MAGNET SCHOOL FUNDING

Modifies provision in PA 26-68 by increasing FY 27 funding designated for magnet schools not operated by a local or regional board of education

PA 26-68, § 379, reduced the portion of the State Department of Education's (SDE's) FY 27 magnet school appropriation designated for certain magnet schools from \$12 million to \$6,250,000. This act amends PA 26-68 by raising the amount from \$6,250,000 to \$6,410,000. The funds are for interdistrict magnet schools operated by entities that are (1) not local or regional boards of education; (2) independent institutions of higher education's board of governors (or equivalent); or (3) other SDE-approved third-party, not-for-profit corporations. The money must be distributed proportionately based on the share of enrolled students in the schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 100 — YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION GRANTS

Modifies grants in PA 26-68 from the Judicial Department's appropriation for Youth Services Prevention

PA 26-68, § 16, reserves specified amounts from the Judicial Department's FY 26 Youth Services Prevention appropriation for grants to certain organizations. This act (1) eliminates a \$200,000 grant to My Architecture Workshops, Inc. and (2) requires that any unspent funds released to the remaining grantees carry forward until they are fully spent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 101 — SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR NON-ELECTRONIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Limits the budget act's sales and use tax exemption for non-electronic school supplies to supplies purchased for non-business purposes; requires DRS to issue related policies and procedures

PA 26-68, § 272, exempts from the state's 6.35% sales and use tax non-electronic school supplies, like backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, and paper. This act instead limits the exemption to non-electronic school supplies that are purchased for non-business purposes.

Additionally, it directs the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) to issue policies and procedures that (1) identify which school supplies qualify for the exemption and (2) set criteria for determining when a purchase is for business purposes. DRS must post these policies and procedures on its website and submit them to SOTS for posting on the eRegulations System at least 15 days before they take effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, and applicable to sales occurring on or after that date.

§ 102 — SAFETY NET MITIGATION WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Adds to the working group the ranking members of the Appropriations, Housing, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees and requires committee chairpersons and ranking members to jointly choose the working group's chairpersons

The budget act establishes a safety net mitigation working group to advise on, monitor, and coordinate the state's response to changes in federal law or policy that impact public health, social services, or other safety net programs. Working

group members include, among others, the Appropriations, Housing, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committee chairpersons, who must jointly choose the working group's chairpersons. This act adds the ranking members for these committees to this working group and requires the chairpersons and ranking members to jointly choose its chairpersons.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 103 — AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSING IN NEWTOWN

Modifies a provision in the budget adjustment act that requires DOT to allow Newtown to build an at-grade rail crossing on the Housatonic Railroad, subject to certain conditions

The budget adjustment act generally requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to allow Newtown to build an at-grade pedestrian crossing on the Housatonic Railroad, if the crossing is (1) approved by Newtown and the Housatonic Railroad and (2) built according to DOT's recommendations (PA 26-68, § 180). This act additionally specifies that this requirement applies to building a public, at-grade crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists across the roadway and track of the Housatonic Railroad's Stepney Branch (rather than as part of the Housatonic Valley Rail Trail). It also requires that the crossing be (1) located at approximately Milepost 0.0 in Newtown and (2) approved by the Maybrook Railroad Company, in addition to Newtown and the Housatonic Railroad Company.

The act additionally specifies that the Housatonic and Maybrook Railroad companies, and their respective successors, are "owners" of the railroad for the purposes of the state law on owners' liability for land made available for public recreation. (By law, a land owner who makes it freely available to the public for recreation (such as hiking or bicycling) is generally not liable for any injury to a person or property that is caused by the owner's act or omission (CGS § 52-557g).)

The act also makes related minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 105 — TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS DURING CODIFICATION

Requires the Legislative Commissioners' Office to make necessary technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes when codifying the act

The act requires the Legislative Commissioners' Office to make technical, grammatical, and punctuation changes as necessary, including corrections to internal references, to codify it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 106 — SOCIAL WORK AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Alters when the DESPP commissioner must enter an MOU with SCSU for the social work and law enforcement project; requires the MOU to be for at least \$850,000 and address expanding and supporting the project

The law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, to establish a social work and law enforcement project at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). It correspondingly required the DESPP commissioner to enter an MOU with SCSU by January 1, 2026, to establish the project.

The act instead requires DESPP to enter the MOU by January 1, 2027. It also requires the MOU to (1) be for at least \$850,000, and (2) address expanding and supporting the social work and law enforcement project, in addition to its establishment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 107 — SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDA NOTIFICATIONS

Makes a provision on school budget referenda notifications in PA 26-68 effective upon passage instead of October 1, 2026

PA 26-68, § 252, explicitly allows a school superintendent to issue written notice through the school district's schools to inform parents or legal guardians that a referendum about the district is coming up, subject to certain requirements. This act moves up the effective date from October 1, 2026, to upon PA 26-68's passage (May 26, 2026).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-134—HB 5442

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR AND TAX AGREEMENTS RELATED TO CERTAIN CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

SUMMARY: This act makes changes to the municipal uniform solar capacity tax created by PA 25-173, § 57, and the property tax exemption provisions in PA 25-173, § 58. Principally, this year's act:

1. expands the scope of solar photovoltaic systems subject to the uniform solar capacity tax to include those that were permitted to operate on or after July 1, 2025, but before July 1, 2026, which is a year earlier than prior law, and makes these systems responsible for one less year of the tax than those permitted on or after July 1, 2026;
2. limits the solar-related property tax exemption created by PA 25-173 to facilities that are permitted to operate on or after July 1, 2025; and
3. reverts a property tax exemption for certain Class I renewable energy sources to how it existed before PA 25-173. The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the municipal uniform solar capacity tax provisions are effective July 1, 2026.

§ 3 — MUNICIPAL UNIFORM SOLAR CAPACITY TAX

By law, the municipal uniform solar capacity tax applies to owners of “solar photovoltaic systems,” which are equipment and devices:

1. that primarily collect solar energy and generate electricity by photovoltaic effect,
2. that have a nameplate capacity over one megawatt (MW) that exceeds the load for the location where the equipment and devices are located (nameplate capacity generally refers to a facility's maximum output under specific conditions designated by the manufacturer), and
3. for which the owner receives permission to operate from an electric distribution company or a municipal electric utility by a certain date.

Under prior law, the tax applied to these systems that were permitted to operate on or after July 1, 2026. The act expands this to systems permitted on or after July 1, 2025.

For each municipality in which a solar photovoltaic system (or any part of it) is located, existing law requires the system's owners to notify the municipality's finance department, or, if none, the municipality's tax collector of the effective date of their permission to operate the system. They must do so within seven days after receiving permission. The act limits these requirements to systems permitted on or after July 1, 2026. For systems that were permitted on or after July 1, 2025, but before July 1, 2026, the act requires their owners to notify the same entities but by July 10, 2026.

Existing law establishes a “uniform solar capacity tax year,” from July 1 to June 30, as an accounting period to calculate the tax. For any system that receives permission to operate in uniform solar capacity tax years starting on or after July 1, 2026, the tax must be paid annually for a period of 20 uniform solar capacity tax years at a rate of \$10,000 per MW of nameplate capacity, including any fractional portion. The act applies this rate to systems that received their permission on or after July 1, 2025, but before July 1, 2026, but only requires they pay the tax for 19 uniform solar capacity tax years.

Existing law allows municipalities to enter into agreements with system owners to stabilize or freeze the tax. The act specifies that the terms of these agreements apply instead of the tax, even if they entered into an agreement before July 1, 2025, and that this allowance includes agreements related to the property tax.

By law, the tax does not apply to systems located on certain types of property, such as state-owned land, brownfields, or solar canopies, or systems that are part of a microgrid serving a critical facility, such as a hospital, police station, or public shelter.

§§ 1 & 2 — PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

PA 25-173, § 58, created, starting with the 2025 assessment year, a property tax exemption for Class I renewable energy sources that consist of equipment and devices that primarily collect solar energy and generate energy by photovoltaic effect. The act limits this exemption to equipment and devices whose owners receive, on or after July 1, 2025, permission to operate from an electric distribution company or municipal electric utility. Existing law, unchanged by the act, also limits this exemption by applying it only to equipment and devices with the primary purpose of generating electricity and not to

any real property where the equipment or devices are located or installed.

PA 25-173, § 58, applied the same limitation regarding real property starting with the same assessment year to an existing property tax exemption for Class I renewable energy sources (other than nuclear power generating facilities) (1) installed on or after January 1, 2014; (2) for commercial or industrial purposes; and (3) with a nameplate capacity that does not exceed the location's load or, if the facility is participating in virtual net metering, the aggregated load of its beneficial accounts. The act eliminates the limitation for this exemption and reverts it to prior law, which did not explicitly exclude the real property.

The act makes a corresponding change requiring municipalities to amend their 2025 grand lists and issue certificates of correction to reflect the act's changes to the exemption created by PA 25-173.

PA 26-6—sHB 5127
General Law Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT CARDS AND HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE SERVICES

SUMMARY: Beginning January 1, 2027, this act prohibits health care and veterinary care providers from:

1. promoting or offering third-party financing to consumers in certain ways;
2. receiving financial incentives or compensation related to promoting or offering third-party financing to a consumer;
3. completing any part of a consumer's application for third-party financing or submitting one on their behalf;
4. charging a third-party financing account for a health care or veterinary service, or any portion of its cost, before the service is provided, unless the provider's cost is incurred earlier;
5. discussing third-party financing terms and conditions with a consumer without providing a written disclosure form; and
6. charging a third-party financing account for all or part of the cost of ancillary products unless the consumer (a) receives a receipt for the product or (b) consents in writing to purchase the product (it also specifies a 30-day period for the return and refund of most ancillary products).

Under the act, "third-party financing" is a line of credit, loan, or open-end credit plan (such as a credit card) that is offered or extended by a third party. It does not include a line of credit or loan from a health care or veterinary provider who is the creditor.

The act specifies that it does not affect agreements providers enter into before January 1, 2027.

Violations of the act are Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act violations that are enforceable by the attorney general, and not by private causes of action or class actions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

APPLICABLE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES

The act applies to licensed (1) individuals, facilities, and institutions that provide health care services to patients and an entity's employees, agents, or independent contractors acting within the scope of their authority and (2) veterinarians and their employees, agents, and independent contractors acting within the scope of their authority.

Under the act, "health care and veterinary services" are services and products provided to a patient by a health care provider, or to an animal by a veterinary care provider, within the provider's scope of practice. They include hospital, medical, surgical, dental, vision, and pharmaceutical services or products.

PROHIBITIONS ON PROMOTING OR OFFERING THIRD-PARTY FINANCING

Beginning January 1, 2027, the act prohibits health and veterinary care providers from advertising, marketing, soliciting, promoting, or offering third-party financing:

1. by using the provider's or practice's brand on a sign;
2. by giving a consumer access to software or a website (by giving an address, hyperlink, or quick response (QR) code) if it includes the provider's or practice's branding and is used by or for a third party for this type of financing;
3. to a consumer who is under general anesthesia, conscious or moderate sedation, or nitrous oxide;
4. while providing health care services to the patient; or
5. when the consumer is in part of a facility used for services, such as an examination or operating room, unless (a) the facility does not have a separate area or (b) relocating a consumer to a separate area from the one where the consumer's animal is receiving services would not risk harm to the animal, in the provider's professional judgment (PA 26-100, § 38, applies this provision when relocating the animal would risk harm to it).

DISCUSSING THIRD-PARTY FINANCING AND DISCLOSURE FORM

Beginning January 1, 2027, the act requires providers who discuss terms and conditions of third-party financing to give consumers the following written disclosure in at least 14-point type and in the language the provider primarily uses with the consumer:

"THIRD-PARTY FINANCING DISCLOSURE

Any discussion of third-party financing involves a credit card, line of credit or loan to help you finance or pay for treatment by this provider. Such lending product IS NOT A PAYMENT PLAN WITH THIS PROVIDER. It is a credit

card, line of credit or loan from a third-party lender. Your provider does not work for this company. Your provider may not complete or submit any application for third-party financing on your behalf.

You do not have to apply for third-party financing to pay your provider. You may pay your provider in another manner. Your provider may offer its own payment plan. You are encouraged to explore any public or private insurance options that may cover your treatment.

The lender or creditor may offer a "promotional period" to pay back the amount borrowed without interest. You should carefully consider the terms of the promotion, and whether you may owe interest if the promotional balance is not paid in full. Furthermore, if you miss a payment or do not make a payment on time, you may have to pay a penalty and/or a higher interest rate. If you do not pay the money that you owe to the creditor or lender, your missed payments can appear on your credit report and could hurt your credit score. You could also be sued by the creditor or lender if you do not repay the money you owe.

If your provider has completed or submitted an application for third-party financing on your behalf, you may file a complaint by contacting the office of the Attorney General at (health care provider or veterinary care provider inserts the address of the Attorney General's Internet web site) or by calling (health care provider or veterinary care provider inserts the telephone number of the office of the Attorney General).

(Consumer's signature)."

Under the act, a provider can state that he or she accepts third-party financing as payment without providing the disclosure if the financing's terms and conditions are not discussed.

ANCILLARY PRODUCTS — RETURN AND REFUND

Beginning January 1, 2027, the act sets a 30-day return and refund period for ancillary products bought from providers by consumers using third-party financing. This does not apply if the product (1) was customized in a way that would prevent another person or animal from using it or (2) after being sold to the consumer, was used, damaged, tampered with, or stored in a way that did not match the manufacturer's instructions and may have caused adulteration, contamination, or compromise.

Under the act, an "ancillary product" is any product, but not a health care or veterinary service, that is sold by the provider to a consumer who purchased a health care or veterinary service from the provider. It does not include food for animals.

PA 26-8—sHB 5350

General Law Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS, HEMP AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION

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[§§ 1-30, 32-47, 55, 60, 64, 66, 68-69, 70, 72, 79, 87-89, 91-93, 99, 102 & 109-113 — CANNABIS DEFINED](#)

Renames "marijuana" as "cannabis" throughout the statutes; specifies extracted resin from the plant is considered cannabis, exempts certain cannabinoids derived from hemp from being considered cannabis

[§ 13 — STATEWIDE CANNABIS, HEMP, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT BOARD](#)

Renames the Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board, reduces its membership, and expands the purposes of its meetings to include controlled substances issues; exempts its quarterly meeting-related records from disclosure under FOIA

[§§ 23-25, 27, 29, 32, 34, 39, 47, 53, 63-64, 66, 68-69, 77, 79, 81-84 & 86 — QUALIFYING OUT-OF-STATE PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS](#)

Generally allows qualifying out-of-state patients and their qualified caregivers to buy and possess, among other things, medical cannabis in the same way and under the same conditions as Connecticut qualifying patients and their caregivers

§§ 31 & 67 — DISPENSARIES AND HYBRID RETAILERS

Eliminates the requirement that cannabis or medical cannabis be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist; allows automated systems to record and upload data to the state's electronic prescription drug monitoring program; specifically allows pharmacists, dispensary technicians, and other registered employees to perform most authorized activities; eliminates the minimum on-site presence requirement for pharmacists, though in-person consultations must be scheduled upon request

§§ 32 & 87 — “DISPENSARY” IN ADVERTISING

Allows retailers to use the term “dispensary” in their advertising

§§ 44 & 52 — DEADLINES FOR SAMPLES THAT FAILED LABORATORY TESTING

Generally sets a 60-day deadline to dispose of medical cannabis and cannabis samples that fail testing

§§ 47, 66 & 68 — PERSONAL DATA RETENTION

Prohibits retailers and hybrid retailers from retaining any personal data they obtain for age verification purposes for more than 24 hours without written consent

§ 48 — CANNABIS REGULATORY WORKING GROUP

Establishes a cannabis regulatory working group to (1) study and recommend new or amended regulations or policies and procedures on cannabis and (2) propose cannabis legislation

§ 49 — 30 DAY CREDIT LIMIT

Generally prohibits retailers, hybrid retailers, or dispensary facilities from borrowing money or being extended credit for more than 30 days from a cultivator, micro-cultivator, or producer

§ 50 — MINIMUM EMPLOYEES REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY

Allows cannabis establishments to deliver or transport cannabis with only one employee when transporting to another cannabis establishment, testing laboratory, or research program if the vehicle is equipped with certain devices and containers

§ 51 — FENCE HEIGHT

Prohibits requiring a producer, cultivator, or micro-cultivator that cultivates cannabis outdoors to maintain a perimeter fence that is more than eight feet tall

§ 53 — IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Broadens the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating because it poses an “immediate threat to public health and safety”; allows law enforcement officers to summarily close a business and seal the premises upon court order

§§ 54, 56, 59, 62, 71 & 74-76 — CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

Allows a change in ownership or control in an equity joint venture after five years of final licensure; allows the social equity applicant to ask the Social Equity Council to perform a nonfinancial review of the change; sets requirements for the council when conducting the review; requires the person acquiring ownership or control to pay certain fees and outstanding balances before the change is effective

§ 54 — SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL

Allows the Social Equity Council to conduct investigations related to its purposes and duties; consolidates its required reporting by eliminating its monthly reporting requirement and instead adds the BPRC to the quarterly report's recipients

§ 57 — ADDING BACKERS OR PROVISIONAL LICENSEES

Allows an applicant or provisional licensee that is a social equity applicant to apply to the DCP commissioner for a one-time replacement of an original backer, if the backer is not a social equity applicant

§§ 58, 65, 73, 78 & 80 — POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SUBMISSION

Extends the maximum effective period of cannabis policies and procedures until July 1, 2028; requires the policies and procedures that DCP and the Social Equity Council submit for posting on the eRegulations system to also be submitted to the General Law Committee

§ 64 — MICRO-CULTIVATORS RETAIL FACILITIES

Allows micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer or retailer endorsement to locate the facility within the same disproportionately impacted area as the premises; limits the sales types micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer endorsement may make

§§ 66 & 68 — MEDICAL CANNABIS PRODUCT SALES TO CONSUMERS

Allows retailers to sell other consumers certain products that were previously only available to qualifying patients; requires certain cannabis establishments to reserve these products for exclusive sale for at least 14 days after release

§ 79 — THC LEVELS

Eliminates the cap on THC by dry-weight-bases for cannabis flower (PA 26-100, § 54, reverts back to existing law by restoring the cap for flower), other plant material, and concentrates, and prohibits DCP from limiting their dosage, potency, or concentration; allows edibles to have a variance reflecting testing method uncertainty of up to +/- 10% of existing law's five mgs limit; eliminates DCP's ability to adjust certain maximum THC percentages for public health reasons or when there is a shortage

§ 79 — IONIZING RADIATION REMEDIATION

Specifies that permitted remediation practices must include remediating cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material by ionizing radiation

§§ 85, 93-98, 104-108 & 115 — INFUSED BEVERAGES

Increases the allowable THC levels from (1) three to five mgs for infused beverages sold in package stores and (2) three mgs to 10 mgs for ones sold in a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, or retailer; allows for a testing method uncertainty of +/- 10% in the reported THC value; allows infused beverage manufacturers to sell infused-beverages for off-premises consumption and allows them to sell certain other beverages for on-premises consumption; allows infused beverages to be tested by out-of-state laboratories; modifies the container labeling requirements to additionally follow ASTM standards; eliminates obsolete references to legacy infused beverages

§ 90 — DISCLOSING MATERIAL CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL

Requires parties to a transaction with a social equity applicant that results in a material change to a cannabis establishment to submit certain information to the Social Equity Council, which the council must post on its website

§§ 94 & 99-101 — HEMP MANUFACTURERS MAKING CANNABINOIDS AND INTERMEDIATE HEMP DERIVATIVES

Beginning December 1, 2026, allows hemp manufacturers to manufacture certain cannabinoids and intermediate hemp derivatives (extracts with a total THC concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis); requires manufacturers to exclusively sell these cannabinoids to certain cannabis establishments and the derivatives to the same establishments and infused beverage manufacturers

§ 103 — FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANUFACTURER

Allows food and beverage manufacturers to manufacture, market, cultivate, and store hemp and hemp products under the same procedures and requirements as for certain other cannabis establishments

§ 114 — DCP RECOMMENDATIONS ON MICRO-RETAILER LICENSE

Requires DCP to submit recommended legislation to establish a micro-retailer license for adult-use cannabis

SUMMARY: This act makes various unrelated changes to laws on cannabis, hemp, and THC-infused beverages. It also makes numerous minor, technical, and conforming changes, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except when otherwise noted below.

§§ 1-30, 32-47, 55, 60, 64, 66, 68-69, 70, 72, 79, 87-89, 91-93, 99, 102 & 109-113 — CANNABIS DEFINED

Renames “marijuana” as “cannabis” throughout the statutes; specifies extracted resin from the plant is considered cannabis, exempts certain cannabinoids derived from hemp from being considered cannabis

Renaming

The act renames “marijuana” as “cannabis” in the general statutes. Under prior law, marijuana and cannabis had the same legal definition under state law. The act also makes changes to the definition of cannabis.

Changes to Definition (§ 16)

Broadly, under prior law, “cannabis” was all parts of a plant or species of the genus cannabis, whether growing or not, including its resin extracted from any part of the plant. The act specifies this includes extracted resin from the (1) plant’s mature stalks, (2) fiber produced from the mature stalks, or (3) oil or cake made from the seeds. As under existing law, “cannabis” does not include the plant’s mature stalks, the fiber produced from the mature stalks, or the oil or cake from the seeds. (But as under existing law, every high-THC hemp product is cannabis.)

The act eliminates cannabimon from the “cannabis” definition and specifically excludes cannabimon (CBN), cannabigerol (CBG), cannabichromene (CBC), or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp. (PA 26-100, § 49, eliminates these exemptions and reverts back to existing law.)

§ 13 — STATEWIDE CANNABIS, HEMP, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT BOARD

Renames the Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board, reduces its membership, and expands the purposes of its meetings to include controlled substances issues; exempts its quarterly meeting-related records from disclosure under FOIA

The act renames the “Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board” as the “Statewide Cannabis, Hemp and Controlled Substances Enforcement Board.” It correspondingly expands the purposes of the board’s quarterly meetings to include identifying areas of need and enforcement opportunities concerning controlled substance sales and examining developments in national trends and best practices for controlled substance enforcement. Existing law already requires them to meet about these enforcement topics for cannabis and hemp. The act eliminates the requirement that these meetings examine (1) scientific developments and public health studies on cannabis and hemp and (2) developments in the cannabis and hemp industries.

The act exempts the quarterly meetings, and documents related to them, from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). (Instead of exempting these meetings from FOIA disclosure, PA 26-100, § 48, allows the board’s discussion of identified areas of need and enforcement opportunities about illegal cannabis and controlled substance sales to be held in an executive session and exempts executive session records from FOIA disclosure.)

The act also reduces board membership by removing the public health commissioner and the Social Equity Council’s executive director. (PA 26-100, § 48, adds the Social Equity Council’s executive director back to the board.) As under existing law, the board still includes the attorney general, the chief state’s attorney, and the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), emergency services and public protection, mental health and addiction services, and revenue services commissioners, or their designees.

§§ 23-25, 27, 29, 32, 34, 39, 47, 53, 63-64, 66, 68-69, 77, 79, 81-84 & 86 — QUALIFYING OUT-OF-STATE PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS

Generally allows qualifying out-of-state patients and their qualified caregivers to buy and possess, among other things, medical cannabis in the same way and under the same conditions as Connecticut qualifying patients and their caregivers

The act generally allows qualifying out-of-state patients and caregivers to acquire, distribute, transfer, possess, and use medical cannabis in the same way as Connecticut qualifying patients and their caregivers.

A “qualifying out-of-state patient” is a resident of another U.S. state or jurisdiction with a valid credential there to use medical cannabis. A “qualifying out-of-state caregiver” is a resident of another U.S. state or jurisdiction who (1) is at least age 18 and a parent, guardian, or person with legal custody of the patient, and (2) holds a valid out-of-state credential. This credential is a card or other physical document the state or jurisdiction issues to allow the (1) patient to use medical cannabis or (2) caregiver to take responsibility for managing a qualifying patient’s medical cannabis use.

Sales

The act allows dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers (those licensed to sell both adult-use and medical cannabis) to dispense, sell, or distribute medical cannabis to qualifying out-of-state patients and their qualified caregivers. They may do this if the patient or caregiver who is purchasing the medical cannabis, at the time of purchase, provides:

1. the valid qualifying out-of-state credential (which they must have with them at all times while in this state and in possession of the medical cannabis),
2. a DCP registration form that the patient or caregiver signs that includes their name,
3. an acknowledgement that they understand the Connecticut medical cannabis laws and regulations on out-of-state patients and their caregivers and that they will be ineligible in the medical market if they violate any of these laws or regulations and are prohibited from transporting the cannabis over state lines or internationally, and
4. any other information the DCP commissioner reasonably requires.

The act requires each dispensary facility or hybrid retailer to submit the DCP registration form it receives from the out-of-state qualifying patient or their caregiver to DCP.

Liability

Under the act, a qualifying out-of-state patient or caregiver who complies with Connecticut law on medical and adult-use cannabis is not subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner. This includes being subject to any civil penalty or denied any right or privilege, including being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional board, for using medical cannabis if the amount possessed does not exceed five ounces. This immunity does not apply to any medical cannabis use that endangers the health or well-being of others or ingesting cannabis in certain areas, such as a moving vehicle, a workplace, or school grounds.

§§ 31 & 67 — DISPENSARIES AND HYBRID RETAILERS

Eliminates the requirement that cannabis or medical cannabis be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist; allows automated systems to record and upload data to the state’s electronic prescription drug monitoring program; specifically allows pharmacists, dispensary technicians, and other registered employees to perform most authorized activities; eliminates the minimum on-site presence requirement for pharmacists, though in-person consultations must be scheduled upon request

Pharmacist Requirements Reduced

The act eliminates the requirement that cannabis or medical cannabis be dispensed to a qualifying patient or caregiver by a licensed pharmacist, and correspondingly eliminates the requirement that pharmacists conduct remote order entry verification. The act broadly allows a dispensary facility’s or hybrid retailer’s licensed pharmacist, dispensary technician, or other registered employee, to perform the establishment’s authorized activities, including all activities related to the sale, handling, or management of cannabis or medical cannabis products.

Prior law only allowed the pharmacist or dispensary technician to upload data to the electronic prescription drug monitoring program. The act also allows the data to be uploaded through an automated upload from the hybrid retailer’s point-of-sale system. But it requires the pharmacist to conduct a daily audit of the uploaded data.

Prior law required dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers to have a licensed pharmacist on premises for at least eight

consecutive hours per calendar week when the location was open, with telehealth consultations being available the other times. The act instead requires them to ensure one is available when the location is open, either on-site or by telehealth, with the pharmacist available for an in-person consultation upon a qualifying patient's or caregiver's request. But the act specifies that it does not require them to maintain a pharmacist for more than 35 hours a week. The act also eliminates the requirement that individual telehealth pharmacists be employed by a hybrid retailer for at least 20 hours per week.

The act also eliminates the requirement for pharmacists who consult with qualifying patients or caregivers to annually complete at least five contact hours of continuing professional education on the cannabis industry, state pharmacy laws, or the treatment of debilitating medical conditions.

As under existing law, dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers must still conspicuously post a sign with the name of the licensed pharmacist who is available for consultation.

Training

Under the act, a dispensary facility and hybrid retailer's registered employees who sell any cannabis or medical cannabis to a qualifying patient, qualifying out-of-state patient, or caregiver must take at least one hour of educational training on each of the following topics:

1. types, availability, dosage, and methods of administering marijuana for palliative use;
2. professional ethics;
3. state and federal patient privacy laws and regulations; and
4. developments in medical cannabis product use.

DCP Regulations for Dispensary Facilities

The act requires the DCP commissioner to adopt or amend regulations to implement these provisions for dispensary facilities (such as those on uploading data and offering telehealth services). Regardless of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act's (UAPA) regulation adoption process, in order to carry out the act's purposes and protect public health and safety and before adopting the required regulations, the commissioner must issue policies and procedures to implement these provisions. These policies and procedures have the force and effect of law.

At least 15 days before the policies and procedures take effect, the act requires the commissioner to post them on DCP's website and submit them to the General Law Committee and the secretary of the state (SOTS) to be posted on the eRegulations system. A policy or procedure is no longer effective once SOTS codifies the final regulation or as of July 1, 2028, whichever occurs earlier.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 32 & 87 — “DISPENSARY” IN ADVERTISING

Allows retailers to use the term “dispensary” in their advertising

The act allows retailers to use the term “dispensary” in their marketing, advertising, or promotional materials, or on any sign, branding item, logo, or label.

Prior law only allowed dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers to use the word “dispensary” or any variation of the word for advertisement purposes.

By law, a “retailer” is a person, excluding a dispensary facility or hybrid retailer, that is licensed to (1) purchase cannabis from producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers, and food and beverage manufacturers and (2) sell cannabis to consumers and research programs.

§§ 44 & 52 — DEADLINES FOR SAMPLES THAT FAILED LABORATORY TESTING

Generally sets a 60-day deadline to dispose of medical cannabis and cannabis samples that fail testing

The act generally sets a 60-day deadline to dispose of medical cannabis and cannabis batches that fail sample testing. It also requires each cannabis establishment to submit cannabis or medical cannabis to a cannabis testing laboratory for testing based on standards set in DCP regulations, rather than based on statute.

By law, a “cannabis establishment” is a cannabis producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or packager, delivery service, or transporter.

Existing law requires each cannabis establishment to submit cannabis samples to a cannabis testing laboratory for

testing. For a sample that fails, cannabis establishments may repeat the test, remediate the samples and then retest, or dispose of the batch, as appropriate. The act generally retains these procedures, but sets specific deadlines for compliance.

Testing

Under the act, if the cannabis samples taken from a batch pass the laboratory testing, then the batch must be released for sale. If the sample fails, the cannabis establishment that submitted it has 60 days after the failed testing to repeat the testing, submit a remediation plan to DCP, or dispose of the entire batch based on posted DCP procedures, unless the cannabis establishment requests a 60-day extension from DCP. The commissioner may only grant two requests for any batch.

Within 60 days after a repeated test, if the samples pass, then the batch may be released for sale.

Remediation Plan

For each remediation plan submitted to DCP, the commissioner must, within 60 days after receiving the plan:

1. review the plan to determine whether it is sufficient to ensure public health and safety;
2. approve or reject the plan based on the determination; and
3. send the cannabis establishment that submitted the plan a written notice with the approval or rejection and, for rejections, the reasons for the rejection.

If the commissioner does not send the written notice within 60 days, the remediation plan is deemed approved.

If the commissioner approves the remediation plan, or if the remediation plan is deemed approved, the cannabis establishment must remediate the cannabis batch with the failed samples and repeat all required laboratory testing. If the samples pass, then the whole batch must be released for sale, but if it fails, then the batch must be disposed of within 60 days based on the procedure above unless an extension is requested and granted.

§§ 47, 66 & 68 — PERSONAL DATA RETENTION

Prohibits retailers and hybrid retailers from retaining any personal data they obtain for age verification purposes for more than 24 hours without written consent

The act prohibits retailers and hybrid retailers from keeping any personal data they obtain from consumers for age verification purposes for more than 24 hours without written consent. “Personal information” is any information linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable individual. It does not include de-identified data or publicly available information.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

§ 48 — CANNABIS REGULATORY WORKING GROUP

Establishes a cannabis regulatory working group to (1) study and recommend new or amended regulations or policies and procedures on cannabis and (2) propose cannabis legislation

The act establishes a cannabis regulatory working group to (1) study cannabis regulations adopted or proposed, and policies and procedures issued or proposed, by the DCP commissioner and the Social Equity Council; (2) recommend new or amended cannabis regulations or policies and procedures; and (3) propose cannabis legislation.

The working group consists of four members, with each of the General Law Committee’s House and Senate chairpersons and ranking members appointing one member, who may be a legislator. The committee’s chairpersons must select the working group’s chairpersons from among the members.

The act requires initial appointments to the working group to be made by October 31, 2026, with the appointing authority filling any vacancy. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the working group’s first meeting by December 1, 2026.

The act requires the General Law Committee’s administrative staff to serve as the working group’s administrative staff.

The working group must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the General Law Committee by January 1, 2027. The working group ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

§ 49 — 30 DAY CREDIT LIMIT

Generally prohibits retailers, hybrid retailers, or dispensary facilities from borrowing money or being extended credit for more than 30 days from a cultivator, micro-cultivator, or producer

The act broadly prohibits retailers, hybrid retailers, and dispensary facilities from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from any cultivator, micro-cultivator, or producer. (PA 26-100, § 59, further prohibits a cannabis establishment from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from a cannabis testing laboratory.)

§ 50 — MINIMUM EMPLOYEES REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY

Allows cannabis establishments to deliver or transport cannabis with only one employee when transporting to another cannabis establishment, testing laboratory, or research program if the vehicle is equipped with certain devices and containers

Regardless of any medical cannabis or adult-use cannabis law, the act allows cannabis establishments to deliver or transport cannabis with only one employee when transporting to another cannabis establishment, testing laboratory, or research program if the vehicle is equipped with certain devices and containers to prevent diversion, theft, or loss. The vehicle must have:

1. an electronic recording device that records the vehicle's interior at all times while the vehicle is used to deliver or transport cannabis;
2. an electronic tracking device that tracks, in real time, the vehicle's geospatial location through a global positioning system while the vehicle is delivering or transporting cannabis; and
3. a secure container that holds all the cannabis being delivered or transported and is permanently affixed to the vehicle.

The act allows the DCP commissioner to adopt policies and procedures and regulations to implement these provisions.

§ 51 — FENCE HEIGHT

Prohibits requiring a producer, cultivator, or micro-cultivator that cultivates cannabis outdoors to maintain a perimeter fence that is more than eight feet tall

Regardless of any medical or adult-use cannabis law, the act prohibits requiring a producer, cultivator, or micro-cultivator that cultivates cannabis outdoors to maintain a perimeter fence that is more than eight feet tall.

§ 53 — IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Broadens the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating because it poses an "immediate threat to public health and safety"; allows law enforcement officers to summarily close a business and seal the premises upon court order

Existing law allows municipalities to take certain actions if any business poses an "immediate threat to public health and safety." They may, by the legislative body's vote, prohibit these businesses from operating in the municipality and apply to the Superior Court for an order directing the municipality's chief law enforcement officer to take possession and control of any related merchandise from the business, including any cannabis, cannabis product, cigarette, tobacco, or tobacco product, any merchandise associated with those items, and any proceeds from them. In addition to these actions, the act allows the court to direct the officer to summarily close the business and seal the premises.

The act also broadens the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating by adding additional violations to what is considered an "immediate threat to public health and safety." Existing law includes, among other things, the presence of any cigarette, tobacco product, e-cigarette liquid, electronic nicotine delivery system, or liquid nicotine container alongside any cannabis or cannabis product. Under the act, the presence of the following is also considered an immediate threat:

1. any nicotine product that is displayed alongside any cannabis or cannabis product or otherwise being sold unlawfully;
2. any schedule I or II controlled substance;

3. any product offered or sold for human consumption that any federal, state, or local government agency acting within the scope of its authority has deemed unsafe based on reports that the product has caused personal injury or illness; or
4. any unlawful firearm.

The act also deems any documented unauthorized sale of any product to an underaged person to be an immediate threat.

By law, a violation is a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violation, and violators must additionally be assessed a civil fine of \$30,000 for each violation. Anyone who aids or abets these violations must also be assessed a \$30,000 civil fine for each violation. The law also imposes a \$10,000 civil fine on people who manage or control certain commercial property and knowingly make the area available for use in violation of the laws on cannabis or cannabis product sales. In all three cases, each day a violation continues is a separate offense. If the municipality institutes the civil enforcement action, any imposed penalty must be paid to the municipality.

Background — CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the DCP commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in certain cases, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

§§ 54, 56, 59, 62, 71 & 74-76 — CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

Allows a change in ownership or control in an equity joint venture after five years of final licensure; allows the social equity applicant to ask the Social Equity Council to perform a nonfinancial review of the change; sets requirements for the council when conducting the review; requires the person acquiring ownership or control to pay certain fees and outstanding balances before the change is effective

Existing law generally prohibits cultivators, producers, dispensary facilities, and micro-cultivators from increasing their ownership in an equity joint venture by more than 50% for seven years after receiving final licensure. The law also requires the Social Equity Council to develop criteria for evaluating ownership and control of any equity joint venture.

Change After Year Five

The act generally prohibits entering or renewing a contract after the act's passage in which an equity joint venture's ownership or control would change and the venture would not be controlled and at least 50% owned by someone who qualifies as a social equity applicant.

The act allows a change if at least five years have passed since the final license was issued and at least 90 days before the change, the equity joint venture:

1. submits written notice to the council disclosing that the venture intends to make the change and
2. sends written notice to the social equity applicant disclosing that he or she may, within 60 days before the change is effective, submit a written request for the council to perform an optional nonfinancial review of the change.

If the council receives a written request, it must complete the review within 30 days before the change becomes effective to determine whether the social equity applicant (1) has retained legal counsel to advise him or her on the change; (2) understands the structure and implications; (3) understands the financial terms; (4) has engaged with his or her business partners, if any, to ensure that the change is appropriate; and (5) consents to the change free of any coercion or undue pressure. The review must also determine whether the change complies with the organizational documents.

The council must also, at least 30 days before the change, send a written notice to the social equity applicant and the equity joint venture disclosing the review's results. (PA 26-100, § 50, (1) specifies that the timelines applicable to the reviews are based on the change's proposed effective date and (2) gives the council more time to complete the review and send its decision notice by requiring them to be done at least 15, rather than 30, days before the change's proposed effective date.)

Under the act, to finalize the change, the person acquiring the ownership or control, must pay the council:

1. an \$8,000 nonrefundable transaction fee, which must be deposited into the social equity innovation account, and
2. the outstanding balance on all loans issued to the equity joint venture or the social equity applicant as part of the canna-business revolving loan program, which provides, among other things, low-interest loans to social equity

applicants to rehabilitate, renovate, or develop unused or underused real property for use as a cannabis establishment.

The act specifies that this provision does not allow the council to delay or reject any change because of the results of the optional nonfinancial review. Any change that is made in violation of this provision is void and has no effect. (PA 26-100, § 50, eliminates this provision and instead allows the council to refer the venture to DCP for administrative enforcement actions if it concludes that there was coercion or undue pressure or the change does not comply with organizational documents.)

(PA 26-100, § 50, among other things, adds provisions that (1) prohibit social equity applicants from entering into certain agreements that may limit control and (2) require annual reporting and recordkeeping by certain cannabis establishments that obtain approval from the council.)

Regulations

The act requires the council to adopt regulations to implement these provisions. Regardless of the UAPA's regulation adoption process, to carry out these provisions and before adopting the regulations, the council must issue policies and procedures, by October 1, 2026, to implement the act's provisions. These policies and procedures have the force and effect of law. At least 15 days before the policies and procedures take effect, the act requires the council to post them on its website and submit them to SOTS to be posted on the eRegulations system. A policy or procedure is no longer effective once SOTS codifies the final regulation or, if the regulations have not been submitted to the Regulation Review Committee, October 1, 2027, whichever occurs earlier.

Under the act, the council may refer any violation of these policies or procedures or regulations to DCP for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of up to \$10 million or action against the cannabis establishment's license.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except a technical change (§ 74) is effective October 1, 2026.

§ 54 — SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL

Allows the Social Equity Council to conduct investigations related to its purposes and duties; consolidates its required reporting by eliminating its monthly reporting requirement and instead adds the BPRC to the quarterly report's recipients

Duties

The act allows the Social Equity Council to conduct investigations it needs to carry out its duties for complaints or concerns that are brought before the council by a social equity applicant and relate to the protection, enforcement, or advancement of equity under the adult-use cannabis laws.

The act also specifies that various actions it may take are done to carry out its duties.

Report

Under prior law, the Social Equity Council had to submit (1) a monthly report to the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus (BPRC) and (2) quarterly reports to the governor, legislative leaders, and Appropriations and General Law chairpersons.

The act consolidates the reporting by eliminating the monthly reporting requirement and instead adds BPRC to the quarterly report recipients. These reports have similar requirements, except the monthly report required the council to report on planned expenditures for the following month while the quarterly report covers expenditures already made. The monthly report also required the pending social equity applicant applications to be broken down by municipality, assembly district, and senate district, while the quarterly report requires pending social equity applicant applications, social equity plans, and workforce development plans to be broken down by how long they have been pending.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 57 — ADDING BACKERS OR PROVISIONAL LICENSEES

Allows an applicant or provisional licensee that is a social equity applicant to apply to the DCP commissioner for a one-time replacement of an original backer, if the backer is not a social equity applicant

Existing law generally prohibits additional backers from being added to a cannabis establishment application between

the lottery entry or initial license application and when the final license is awarded.

The act allows an applicant or provisional licensee that is a social equity applicant to apply to the DCP commissioner, in a way he sets, for a one-time replacement of an original backer, if the backer is not a social equity applicant.

§§ 58, 65, 73, 78 & 80 — POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SUBMISSION

Extends the maximum effective period of cannabis policies and procedures until July 1, 2028; requires the policies and procedures that DCP and the Social Equity Council submit for posting on the eRegulations system to also be submitted to the General Law Committee

Prior law required DCP and the Social Equity Council to issue policies and procedures to implement various cannabis provisions that are effective until final regulations are adopted or either September 22, 2026, or October 1, 2026. The act extends the maximum effective period of these policies and procedures until July 1, 2028.

The act requires the policies and procedures related to adult-use cannabis that DCP and the Social Equity Commission must submit for posting on the eRegulations systems to also be submitted to the General Law Committee. As under existing law, they must submit the policies and procedures at least 15 days before they are effective.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 64 — MICRO-CULTIVATORS RETAIL FACILITIES

Allows micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer or retailer endorsement to locate the facility within the same disproportionately impacted area as the premises; limits the sales types micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer endorsement may make

Under prior law, micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer or retailer endorsement had to locate the facility (1) on the same premises as the micro-cultivator or (2) within 100 feet of the premises measured from the point that is closest to the premises. The act also allows them to locate a facility within the same disproportionately impacted area as the premises.

Prior law also allowed micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer endorsement to sell medical cannabis to qualified (in-state) patients and caregivers through a delivery service or using their own employees. The act narrows the sales types allowed to in-state patients by only allowing a micro-cultivator to sell to them through a delivery service.

§§ 66 & 68 — MEDICAL CANNABIS PRODUCT SALES TO CONSUMERS

Allows retailers to sell other consumers certain products that were previously only available to qualifying patients; requires certain cannabis establishments to reserve these products for exclusive sale for at least 14 days after release

Regardless of any adult-use or medical marijuana laws, the act allows a retailer or hybrid retailer to sell the following medical use cannabis products to consumers:

1. cannabis concentrates;
2. topical treatments, except transdermal patches;
3. creams;
4. tablets and capsules;
5. rosins; and
6. products intended for sublingual absorption (under the tongue).

The act requires producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product packagers, product manufacturers, and food and beverage manufacturers to reserve these medical use cannabis products for sale exclusively to dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers for at least 14 days after the products are released to the market.

It also requires hybrid retailers to reserve these products for qualifying in- or out-of-state patients and caregivers for 14 days after receiving a shipment.

The act requires DCP to adopt regulations on additional medical use cannabis product sales.

§ 79 — THC LEVELS

Eliminates the cap on THC by dry-weight-bases for cannabis flower (PA 26-100, § 54, reverts back to existing law by restoring the cap for flower), other plant material, and concentrates, and prohibits DCP from limiting their dosage, potency, or concentration; allows edibles to have a variance reflecting testing method uncertainty of up to +/- 10% of existing law's five mgs limit; eliminates DCP's ability to adjust certain maximum THC percentages for public health reasons or when there is a shortage

Prior law prohibited cannabis establishments from selling to consumers (1) cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration over 35% on a dry-weight basis or (2) cannabis products (including concentrates) with a total THC concentration over 70% on a dry-weight basis. The act eliminates the THC cap for cannabis flower, other plant material, and concentrates by removing (1) cannabis flower and other plant material from the 35% cap and (2) concentrates from the 70% cap. (PA 26-100, § 54, reverts back to existing law by restoring the 35% cap for cannabis flower.)

It also prohibits DCP from limiting the dosage, potency, or concentration of cannabis products, cannabis flower, or other cannabis plant material (even if intended to address public health, market access, or shortage concerns).

The act requires any cannabis flower or cannabis plant material that contains a total THC percentage greater than 30% to include a warning that it is a high-potency product and may increase the risk of psychosis. This is already a requirement for cannabis concentrates.

Under the act, "other cannabis plant material" is cannabis trim and all parts of any plant or species of the genus cannabis, or any biological group below, excluding (1) the growing plant and its seeds, (2) cannabis flower or hemp, and (3) an uprooted clone or uprooted cutting of the cannabis plants.

Edibles

Prior law required DCP to issue policies and procedures and adopt regulations to set appropriate dosage, potency, concentration, and serving size limits and delineation requirements for edible cannabis products and beverages, as long as a standardized serving contains no more than five milligrams (mgs) of THC (unless it is a medical marijuana product). The act allows edibles to have a variance in THC value, reflecting cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty, of up to plus or minus 10%.

§ 79 — IONIZING RADIATION REMEDIATION

Specifies that permitted remediation practices must include remediating cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material by ionizing radiation

Existing law requires the DCP commissioner to issue policies and procedures and adopt regulations establishing permitted remediation practices. The act specifies this must include allowing remediating cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material by one or more exposures to ionizing radiation if it fails any laboratory testing due to microbial contamination.

§§ 85, 93-98, 104-108 & 115 — INFUSED BEVERAGES

Increases the allowable THC levels from (1) three to five mgs for infused beverages sold in package stores and (2) three mgs to 10 mgs for ones sold in a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, or retailer; allows for a testing method uncertainty of +/- 10% in the reported THC value; allows infused beverage manufacturers to sell infused-beverages for off-premises consumption and allows them to sell certain other beverages for on-premises consumption; allows infused beverages to be tested by out-of-state laboratories; modifies the container labeling requirements to additionally follow ASTM standards; eliminates obsolete references to legacy infused beverages

Increased Allowable THC Levels

The act increases the allowable THC levels in an infused beverage to be sold or offered for sale within the state. Under prior law, infused beverages could have up to three mgs of THC per container. The act increases this amount to (1) five mgs if the infused beverage is sold at a package store and (2) 10 mgs if it is sold at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, or retailer. The act specifies the actual amount of THC can vary due to cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty, by up to plus or minus 10% of the reported THC value. By law and unchanged by the act, infused beverages cannot contain

alcohol. The act specifies that these beverages may contain caffeinated coffee or tea.

On-premises Beverage Sales

The act allows an infused beverage manufacturer to sell beverages at retail for on-premises consumption if the beverages are:

1. manufactured on the premises;
2. sold and consumed in a room or area separate from the manufacturing area; and
3. not infused or alcoholic beverages and do not contain THC (the act would allow certain CBD drinks to be sold for on-premises consumption, for example).

Packaging Amount

The act increases, from four to 12 containers, the number of infused beverage containers that may be sold in a package. As under existing law, the containers must hold at least 12 fluid ounces.

Off-premises Infused Beverage Sales

Under the act, an infused beverage manufacturer may sell infused beverages at retail for off-premises consumption if the beverages are manufactured on the premises and sold in a room physically separate from where they were manufactured. The manufacturer cannot sell more than 12 containers per day to a consumer.

The act requires these manufacturers to assess a \$1 fee on each container it sells at retail. Existing law assesses the same fee for infused beverages sold at certain cannabis establishments and package stores. This fee is not subject to any sales tax or treated as income. Beginning April 1, 2027, and every six months after, each manufacturer must remit payment to DCP for each container sold during the previous six-month period. DCP must deposit the funds into the consumer protection enforcement account that is used to protect public health and safety, educate consumers and licensees, and ensure compliance with cannabis and liquor laws.

As under existing law, infused beverages may only be sold to those age 21 and older.

Interstate Transportation and Derivative Resale Prohibited

The act specifies that the infused beverage law does not authorize (1) interstate transportation of any product in violation of federal law, including the U.S. Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. § 1639o et seq.), and (2) intermediate hemp derivatives (see below) to be further distributed for resale. Generally, an intermediate hemp derivative is an oil or concentrate that is extracted using certain methods directly and exclusively from raw hemp and has a total THC concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

Hemp

The act extends existing law's requirement on where an infused beverage manufacturer must obtain hemp oil to cover all hemp. (Under the act, these beverages must be made with either hemp, hemp oil, or an intermediate hemp derivative. Other hemp products cannot be used.) Under prior law, manufacturers could only get hemp oil for infused beverage manufacturing that is intended to be sold or offered in the state from certain producers or growers. As under existing law for hemp oil, the act requires the hemp to be extracted:

1. from hemp grown by a (a) hemp producer, as evidenced by a producer-issued certificate of authenticity, or (b) licensed hemp grower regulated by a state, territory, or federally recognized Indian tribe and in accordance with a state or tribal plan the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved, as evidenced by a grower-issued certificate of authenticity, or
2. by a person who is actively credentialed by a state or federally recognized Indian tribe to extract hemp and in a tribe-credentialed facility.

Out-of-State Laboratories

The act allows infused beverages to also be tested by similarly qualified out-of-state laboratories, rather than only DCP-regulated laboratories. As under existing law, each lot of an infused beverage in final form must be tested. These tests must be conducted using a representative sample and by collecting a minimum number of sample increments relative to the lot

size.

Labeling

The act modifies the labeling requirements for infused beverage containers by additionally requiring containers to have a symbol that satisfies ASTM International standard D8441. As under existing law, containers must also have a symbol that indicates the infused beverage is not legal or safe for those younger than age 21, which must be in a certain size and format that the DCP commissioner approves. Both symbols must be prominently displayed on the container.

§ 90 — DISCLOSING MATERIAL CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL

Requires parties to a transaction with a social equity applicant that results in a material change to a cannabis establishment to submit certain information to the Social Equity Council, which the council must post on its website

Existing law requires anyone who enters a transaction that results in a material change to a cannabis establishment to file a written notice with the attorney general that includes the information he needs to determine if the transaction would violate antitrust laws. Under prior law, this information was not subject to FOIA disclosure and could only be made public for relevant administrative or judicial action or proceedings.

Under the act, certain information on these transactions must be given to the Social Equity Council for posting to its website.

Specifically, within 30 days after the effective date of any transaction that results in a material change to a social equity applicant's cannabis establishment license, all parties to the transaction must submit written notice to the Social Equity Council. The notice must disclose the following information about the transaction:

1. its effective date;
2. each party's identity;
3. the nature of each cannabis establishment, broken down by license type; and
4. the nature, and a detailed description of, each material change made to a cannabis establishment.

The act requires the council to post a copy of each written notice it receives on its website.

§§ 94 & 99-101 — HEMP MANUFACTURERS MAKING CANNABINOIDS AND INTERMEDIATE HEMP DERIVATIVES

Beginning December 1, 2026, allows hemp manufacturers to manufacture certain cannabinoids and intermediate hemp derivatives (extracts with a total THC concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis); requires manufacturers to exclusively sell these cannabinoids to certain cannabis establishments and the derivatives to the same establishments and infused beverage manufacturers

Manufacturing Allowed

Under the act, starting December 1, 2026, a hemp manufacturer may manufacture (1) CBG, CBN, or a DCP- approved manufactured cannabinoid and (2) intermediate hemp derivatives to be incorporated into a manufacturer hemp product.

Permitted Sales

The manufacturer must offer and sell (1) these cannabinoids exclusively to a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, or food and beverage manufacturer and (2) the derivative to the cannabis establishments listed above or an infused beverage manufacturer.

Intermediate Hemp Derivatives

Under the act, an "intermediate hemp derivative" is an oil or concentrate that is extracted directly and exclusively from raw hemp plant material and contains a total THC concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis. Commercial extracts are extracted by:

1. adding heat;
2. decarboxylation;
3. adding a Class 3 organic solvent as defined by the most recent U.S. Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, or another solvent

- the DCP commissioner approves;
- 4. ethanol extraction;
- 5. carbon dioxide extraction;
- 6. a solventless extraction method, including using ice water, rosin pressing, dry sifting, or steam distillation; or
- 7. an extraction process not listed if the DCP commissioner approves the process.

Purchasing These Products

Under prior law, an infused beverage manufacturer could not use any hemp product other than hemp oil to manufacture infused beverages. The act allows intermediate hemp derivatives to be used, in addition to hemp oil, beginning on December 1, 2026. It also broadly allows cannabis establishments to purchase these cannabinoids or derivatives after that date.

For these establishments and manufacturers, the act requires that the cannabinoids or derivatives be manufactured according to the act's requirements and tracked as separate batches throughout the manufacturing process to document their disposition. Once the establishment or infused beverage manufacturer receives the cannabinoid or derivative, it is deemed cannabis and the licensee must comply with all the cannabis laws and regulations. The act requires cannabis establishments and infused beverage manufacturers, as applicable, to retain (1) a copy of the certificate of analysis for the cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative they purchased from a manufacturer and (2) invoices and transport documents that show the quantity of the cannabinoid or derivative purchased and the date they received it.

Regulations

The act allows the DCP commissioner to adopt regulations to implement these provisions, including provisions on product tracking information, security, and transportation. Regardless of the UAPA regulation adoption process, the commissioner must issue policies and procedures to implement this provision. These policies and procedures have the force and effect of law.

At least 15 days before the policies and procedures take effect, the act requires the commissioner to post them on DCP's website and submit them to SOTS to be posted on the eRegulations system. A policy or procedure is no longer effective once SOTS codifies the final regulation or July 1, 2028, whichever occurs earlier.

Storage Requirements

The act extends existing law's infused beverage manufacturer hemp oil storage and labeling requirements to intermediate hemp derivatives. These products must be (1) stored in a secure locked location separate from any cannabis, (2) clearly and conspicuously labeled as hemp oil or intermediate hemp derivative solely for use in infused beverage manufacturing, and (3) solely used for infused beverage manufacturing.

Interstate Transportation

The act specifies that the hemp law does not authorize interstate transportation of any product in violation of federal law, including the U.S. Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. § 1639o et seq.).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the infused beverage manufacturer provision is effective October 1, 2026.

§ 103 — FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANUFACTURER

Allows food and beverage manufacturers to manufacture, market, cultivate, and store hemp and hemp products under the same procedures and requirements as for certain other cannabis establishments

The act allows food and beverage manufacturers to manufacture, market, cultivate, or store hemp or hemp products in accordance with existing hemp laws and regulations. As under existing law for certain other cannabis establishments, the food and beverage manufacturer may only obtain the hemp and hemp products from a person authorized to possess and sell these products under Connecticut law or the law of another U.S. state, territory, or possession or other sovereign entity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 114 — DCP RECOMMENDATIONS ON MICRO-RETAILER LICENSE

Requires DCP to submit recommended legislation to establish a micro-retailer license for adult-use cannabis

The act requires the DCP commissioner, by January 1, 2027, to submit a report to the General Law Committee recommending legislation to establish a micro-retailer license for adult-use cannabis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-15—sSB 5

General Law Committee

Judiciary Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE SAFETY

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§ 2 — FRONTIER DEVELOPER EMPLOYEE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Prohibits frontier developers (those that train large-scale AI models using a large quantity of computing power) from disciplining or penalizing a whistleblower employee or certain other employees for reporting certain catastrophic risks (for example, a material contribution to the death of 50 or more people); requires large frontier developers (those that had annual gross revenues of more than \$500 million last year) to establish and maintain a reasonable internal process for anonymous reporting of certain catastrophic risks

§ 3 — PLAN FOR AN AI REGULATORY SANDBOX PROGRAM

Requires the DECD commissioner, in consultation with various other commissioners, to develop a plan to create an AI regulatory sandbox program and contact established programs in other states to assess the feasibility of a reciprocal multi-state program

§§ 4-6 — PREREQUISITES FOR OPERATING AI COMPANIONS

Requires AI companion operators to (1) include a protocol with certain required detection methods for specified user expressions (such as self-harm) and (2) give certain notices to a user disclosing that the user is communicating with an AI companion; prohibits operators from providing an AI companion to minors if the companion is capable of certain actions (for example, encouraging self-harm, discouraging seeking help, and offering certain mental health services); requires the attorney general to enforce these provisions

§§ 7-14 — AUTOMATED EMPLOYMENT-RELATED DECISION TECHNOLOGY

Requires those who use certain automated technology as a substantial factor in making an employment-related decision to give specific disclosures and a written notice to employees and applicants; specifies using this automated technology is not a defense against a complaint alleging discriminatory practices

§ 15 — EMBEDDED METADATA AND GENERATIVE AI SYSTEMS

Generally requires certain providers of generative AI systems with more than 1 million users a month to include embedded metadata in content the system creates or materially alters; makes violations a CUTPA violation, solely enforced by the attorney general

§ 16 — AI LIAISONS FOR LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

Allows each legislative leader to request a CASE-selected fellow to serve as his liaison between the academy and state government; requires liaisons to serve certain purposes, such as evaluating the adoption of AI by businesses

§§ 17, 19-22 & 30 — CONNECTICUT AI ACADEMY

Requires BOR to establish a “Connecticut AI Academy” to curate and offer online courses on AI and its responsible use; requires DOL, SOTS, DOH, and the early childhood commissioner to give certain information about the academy to specific people and businesses

§ 18 — AI WORKING GROUP

Establishes a working group within the Legislative Department to engage stakeholders and experts to make recommendations on certain AI-related issues; requires the group to report by February 1, 2027

§ 23 — COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

Expands the purposes of the “computer science education account” to allow SDE to make expenditures to support workforce development initiatives

§§ 24 & 25 — TECHNOLOGY TALENT AND INNOVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Repurposes the “Technology Talent Advisory Committee” to develop programs to expand the state’s technology talent pipeline in the fields of AI and quantum computing

§ 26 — NOTICES TO DOL BEFORE PLANT CLOSINGS AND MASS LAYOFFS

Requires each employer that must serve notice before plant closings and mass layoffs to also disclose whether the layoffs are related to the employer’s use of AI or another technological change

§ 27 — TEACHER CERTIFICATION PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Specifically allows teacher certification preparation programs to include instruction on responsible use of emerging technologies

§ 28 — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Requires the DECD commissioner, for strategic plans developed on or after July 1, 2026, to consult CASE and consider plans to foster innovation in areas such as advanced manufacturing, AI, and quantum computing; requires the strategic plans to include a strategic technology plan

§ 29 — STUDY ON AI IMPACT ON STATE WORKFORCE

Requires IMRP to conduct a study to understand and track AI’s impact on the state’s workforce and to develop a comprehensive strategy to address it

§ 31 — PROGRAM TO BOLSTER AI COOPERATION

Requires OHE, within existing appropriations, to coordinate with an alliance of higher education institutions to coordinate the development and implementation of a program to bolster AI cooperation within the state

§ 32 — AI COMPETITION TO FOSTER HEALTH

In FY 27, allows the comptroller, within available appropriations, to serve as a member of the steering committee for a competition to foster AI use to improve health equity and health outcomes

§ 33 — DCP PILOT PROGRAM FOR ASSESSING AI MODELS USING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION PROGRAMS

Requires DCP to develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of an independent verification program administered by third parties to ensure compliance with state laws on AI and data privacy; allows DCP to approve up to five entities for the pilot program; requires IMRP to evaluate, report, and make recommendations related to the program

§ 34 — COMPUTER SCIENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Modifies the computer-related component in the state's required program of instruction for public schools and requires that it cover AI and emerging technologies

§ 35 — ATTORNEY GENERAL TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PILOT

Requires the attorney general, within available appropriations, to partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and administer a technology fellowship pilot program

§ 36 — HIGH VALUE DATA ANALYSIS FOR AI USE

Requires the state's chief data officer to review executive branch agencies' inventory of high value data and identify and publish any that could be useful for AI systems, machine learning, and other statistical means of data analysis

§ 37 — DAS ANNUAL INVENTORY OF STATE AGENCY AI SYSTEMS

Generally expands the information that must be included in the annual inventory of state agency AI systems

§ 38 — STATE AGENCY USE OF AI

Generally prohibits state agencies from using AI to perform certain functions or procuring or acquiring an AI system without complying with OPM and DAS standards; requires agencies to complete an AI impact assessment for authorized acquisitions

§ 39 — COVERED PLATFORMS AND PERSONALIZED ALGORITHMS

Generally restricts social media platforms, among others, from using personalized algorithms except under certain conditions (such as receiving permission from a parent or guardian if it is a covered minor); requires operators of these platforms to give minors certain warnings related to mental health and to disclose certain information for the previous calendar year

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY: This act adds various requirements and establishes and repurposes certain programs related to artificial intelligence (AI). In most instances under the act, "AI" is any machine-based system that, for any explicit or implicit objective, infers from the inputs it receives how to generate outputs (including content, decisions, predictions, or recommendations) that can influence physical or virtual environments.

Among other things, the act requires various entities to make AI-related disclosures, sets requirements for AI companions, provides certain employment-related protections, generally requires certain providers to include embedded metadata, and establishes study-related groups or reporting requirements, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, unless otherwise specified below.

§ 1 — PREREQUISITES FOR AI TECHNOLOGY SUBSCRIPTIONS

Prohibits subscription-based providers of AI technology (PA 26-100, § 46, narrows these disclosure requirements to publicly accessible generative AI systems with more than 1 million users per month) from entering or renewing a subscription, among other actions, unless they give consumers a written notice disclosing the subscription's key terms and conditions and the consumer accepts them in writing

The act prohibits certain subscription-based providers of AI technology subscriptions from entering or renewing a subscription with certain consumers, or collecting fees or other compensation from them, unless they give the consumer a written notice with the subscription's key terms and conditions and the consumer accepts them in writing. (PA 26-100, § 46, narrows these disclosure requirements to publicly accessible generative AI systems (technology that uses machine learning to generate images, audio, or video) for personal use with more than 1 million users per month.)

The act makes violating these subscription prerequisites a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act violation (see BACKGROUND), solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

Definitions

Under the act, “AI technology” means any computer system, application, or other product that uses or incorporates one or more forms of AI. A “subscription-based provider” is an individual or other legal entity (including an association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or trust) doing business in the state that provides, or offers to provide, an AI technology to a consumer through a subscription. A “consumer” is an individual who is a Connecticut resident.

Requirements for Subscription-Based Providers’ Notices

Under the act, the written notice for initial subscriptions must include enough material information for a reasonable consumer to decide whether to purchase or maintain the subscription, including:

1. any quantitative or qualitative limitations the provider may impose under the subscription’s terms, including any the provider may impose in response to the consumer’s conduct; and
2. whether the provider has discretion to limit or eliminate the consumer’s access to any AI technology functionality or reduce it in quantity or quality.

For renewals, the act requires the notice to include any quantitative or qualitative limitations or provider discretion described above that:

1. will be imposed or exercised for the first time during the renewal term or
2. were imposed or exercised for the prior term but have been modified for the renewal term.

§ 2 — FRONTIER DEVELOPER EMPLOYEE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Prohibits frontier developers (those that train large-scale AI models using a large quantity of computing power) from disciplining or penalizing a whistleblower employee or certain other employees for reporting certain catastrophic risks (for example, a material contribution to the death of 50 or more people); requires large frontier developers (those that had annual gross revenues of more than \$500 million last year) to establish and maintain a reasonable internal process for anonymous reporting of certain catastrophic risks

The act regulates “frontier developers,” which it defines as any person (individual or entity) doing business in Connecticut who trains, or intends to train, a foundation model and uses, or intends to use, a quantity of computing power over 10^{26} integer or floating-point operations, including computing power used for original training and for any fine-tuning, reinforcement learning, or other material modifications the person applies to a preceding foundation model.

Under the act, a “foundation model” is any engineered or machine-based system that (1) varies in its level of autonomy; (2) for any objective, can infer from inputs it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments; (3) is trained on a broad data set; (4) is designed for generality of output; and (5) is adaptable to a wide range of distinctive tasks.

Whistleblower Protection

The act prohibits frontier developers from making, adopting, enforcing, or entering into any rule, regulation, policy, or contract that allows:

1. the developer to discharge, discipline, or penalize an employee who has engaged in any activity covered by Connecticut’s whistleblower laws (such as reporting illegal conduct or suspected illegal conduct to the proper authorities or participating in its investigation); or
2. any person (individual or entity) with authority over a covered employee, or any other covered employee with the authority to investigate, discover, or correct an issue reported by the covered employee, to discipline or retaliate against a covered employee for reporting an issue when the report was due to the covered employee’s reasonable belief that the developer did something that poses a specific and substantial danger to public health or safety due to a catastrophic risk.

Under the act, a “covered employee” is any frontier developer employee responsible for assessing, managing, or addressing the risk of any:

1. unauthorized access to, or modification or exfiltration of, a foundation model’s “model weights” (the model’s numerical parameters that are adjusted through training and help determine how inputs are transformed to outputs) that causes (a) any death or bodily injury, or (b) any damage to, or loss of, “covered property” (tangible or intangible property other than equity);
2. harm due to the materialization of any catastrophic risk;

3. loss of control over a foundation model that results in any death or bodily injury; or
4. use of deceptive techniques by a foundation model against its frontier developer that (a) subverts the developer's control over, or monitoring of, the model, (b) demonstrates any materially increased catastrophic risk, and (c) occurs outside of the context of an evaluation that is designed to elicit the use.

"Catastrophic risk" is any foreseeable and material risk that a frontier developer's development, storage, use, or deployment of a frontier model will materially contribute to the death of, or serious injury to, more than 50 people, or more than \$1 billion in damage to or loss of covered property, from any single incident where the model:

1. provides expert-level assistance in creating or releasing a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapon; or
2. engages in any conduct, with no meaningful human oversight, intervention, or supervision, that (a) constitutes a cyberattack or (b) would be considered murder, assault, extortion, or theft (including theft by false pretense) if done by a human.

It does not include any foreseeable and material risk posed by any (1) information that a foundation model outputs that is otherwise publicly accessible, in a substantially similar form, from another source; (2) lawful activity of the federal government; or (3) combination of a foundation model with other software if the foundation model did not materially increase the risk.

"Deployment" is making any foundation model available to a third party for use, modification, copying, or combination with other software, but does not include making the model available to a third party for the primary purpose of developing or evaluating it.

A "cyberattack" is (1) accessing a computer, information system, or network, or any information stored on or transmitted by them, without authorization or in a way that exceeds the given authorization and (2) impairing the integrity or availability of data, a program, a system, or information.

Large Frontier Developers Anonymous Reporting Process

The act imposes additional requirements on "large frontier developers," which it defines as a frontier developer who together with all people who either directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries control, are controlled by, or are under common control with the developer had annual gross revenues of more than \$500 million for the most recently completed calendar year. Specifically, the act requires each large frontier developer, by January 1, 2027, to establish and maintain a reasonable internal process allowing its covered employees to anonymously report to it any information that an employee believes, in good faith, indicates that the developer has engaged in any activity posing a specific and substantial danger to the public health or safety due to a catastrophic risk.

Under the act, these developers must also give reasonable updates to the employee who submitted the report, disclosing the status of its investigation in response to the report and the actions it has taken. The act generally requires the developer to also share these reasonable updates with its officers and directors at least quarterly. But if any report submitted to a developer alleges wrongdoing by an officer or director, the developer must not submit the report or any reasonable update to that person.

Notice Requirement

The act requires each frontier developer to clearly notify covered employees about their rights and responsibilities under the act. A developer may do this by at least:

1. ensuring that (a) a notice with these rights is posted and displayed at all times at any workplace the developer maintains, (b) each newly hired covered employee receives a notice of these rights equivalent to the posted notice, and (c) each covered employee who works remotely periodically receives the equivalent notice; or
2. annually giving a written notice to each covered employee disclosing these rights and ensuring the employee receives and acknowledges receipt of the written notice.

Penalties

The act imposes a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation of these provisions. The attorney general may bring an action in Hartford Superior Court to collect the civil penalty and for any injunctive or equitable relief. The act prohibits any granted injunctive or equitable relief from being stayed pending appeal.

Under the act, in any prevailing action the attorney general brings to enforce these provisions, the state is entitled to recover the costs of investigation, expert witness fees, costs of the action, and reasonable attorneys' fees. The remedies and penalties are cumulative and in addition to any others available at law or in equity.

§ 3 — PLAN FOR AN AI REGULATORY SANDBOX PROGRAM

Requires the DECD commissioner, in consultation with various other commissioners, to develop a plan to create an AI regulatory sandbox program and contact established programs in other states to assess the feasibility of a reciprocal multi-state program

The act requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner, in consultation with the banking, administrative services, public health, and insurance commissioners, to develop a plan to establish an AI regulatory sandbox program.

The program must allow an applicant to temporarily test an innovative product or service on a limited basis under reduced licensure, regulatory, and other legal requirements that may otherwise be required by state law. The plan must be developed to create a competitive business environment in the state for developing and deploying AI technologies. In developing the plan, the DECD commissioner must contact relevant AI regulatory sandbox programs that have been created in other states to assess the feasibility of creating a reciprocal multistate AI regulatory sandbox program.

The DECD commissioner, by January 1, 2028, must submit recommendations for any legislation needed to implement the plan to the governor and the Banking, Commerce, Insurance and Real Estate, and Public Health committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027

§§ 4-6 — PREREQUISITES FOR OPERATING AI COMPANIONS

Requires AI companion operators to (1) include a protocol with certain required detection methods for specified user expressions (such as self-harm) and (2) give certain notices to a user disclosing that the user is communicating with an AI companion; prohibits operators from providing an AI companion to minors if the companion is capable of certain actions (for example, encouraging self-harm, discouraging seeking help, and offering certain mental health services); requires the attorney general to enforce these provisions

The act regulates “AI companions,” which it defines as any AI format with a natural language interface that (1) gives adaptive, human-like responses to user inputs, including by exhibiting human-like features, and (2) can sustain a relationship across multiple interactions. It does not include chatbots that:

1. are used exclusively for business operational purposes, productivity, and analysis related to source information, internal research, technical assistance, customer service or support, assistance or support for patient or resident care services in a facility, education, or financial services;
2. are not marketed to consumers as a companion; or
3. are features of a video game or gaming system or application that are limited to replies related to the game, system, or application, and cannot discuss (a) mental health, self-harm, or sexually explicit conduct topics, or (b) maintain a dialogue on other topics unrelated to the game, system, or application.

The act also excludes the following from the definition of “AI companion”:

1. stand-alone consumer electronic devices that (a) function as a speaker and voice command interface, (b) act as a voice-activated virtual assistant, and (c) do not sustain a relationship across multiple interactions or generate outputs likely to cause emotional attachment in the user;
2. narrowly tailored educational tools that (a) are used in school or instructional settings, (b) are designed only to support specific curriculum-aligned learning objectives, and (c) do not provide open-ended conversational companionship;
3. AI systems used only for health care-related education, clinical support, medication-adherence reminders, disease-management guidance, or other treatment-support functions, as long as the system (a) does not present itself as a human being or have human-like features, and (b) is not designed to meet a user’s social or emotional needs;
4. narrow, task-specific tools that give outputs relating to discrete topics or functions, as long as the tool’s primary function is not discussing mental health-related topics; or
5. individuals or entities that develop, license, or provide an AI model or system to someone else, to the extent that the individual or entity does not solely determine the specific use case, user interface, or deployment context in which the model or system interacts with end users.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

Protocols and Restrictions

The act prohibits AI companion operators from providing the companion to a user, or operating it for a user, unless it

(1) includes a protocol with certain required detection methods for specified user expressions (such as self-harm) and (2) has implemented reasonable measures to prohibit and prevent the AI companion from:

1. claiming to be a human being, including when an individual asks the companion if it is a human being; or
2. generating outputs that refute or conflict with any disclosure that the companion is not a human being.

Under the act, an “operator” is any individual, business entity, or affiliate, member, subsidiary, or beneficial owner of a business entity who provides an AI companion to, or operates one for, a user. A “user” is any individual who uses an AI companion for personal use within Connecticut and is not an operator, or an operator’s agent or affiliate, of the AI companion.

The act requires the protocol to at least:

1. use evidence-based methods to detect any user expression clearly showing a risk of suicide, self-harm, or imminent physical violence, and implement measures to prevent the AI companion from generating output that encourages this behavior;
2. refer the user to appropriate mental health evaluation and treatment resources, including the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, if the companion detects any suicide, self-harm, or imminent physical violence expressions; and
3. refer the user to mental health services in way that is consistent with clinical best practices and expertise if the companion detects any suicide, self-harm, or imminent physical violence expressions after referring the evaluation and treatment resources to the user.

Under the act, “self-harm” is intentional self-injury with or without the intent to cause death. “Mental health service” is any service or treatment an operator provides to arrest, reverse, improve, or stabilize a patient’s psychiatric disability, including counseling, case management, psychiatric treatment, medication, crisis intervention, vocational or residential services, peer or recovery supports, or any other service or treatment that requires a license when provided by a human.

Notices

The act requires AI companion operators to post their act-required protocols on their websites in a prominent and publicly accessible location.

If an AI companion would cause a reasonable person who uses it to believe that he or she is interacting with another human being and not an AI companion, the operator must give a clear and conspicuous notice disclosing that the user is communicating with an AI companion. The operator must give this notice:

1. in a static, written format that is visible throughout its interaction with the user; or
2. in an audible or written format (a) at the beginning of the first interaction during any 24-hour period and (b) at least hourly during any continuous interaction with users who are minors (under age 18), or at least once every three hours of continuous interaction with adult users.

Prohibited Companion Capabilities for Use by Minor

The act also prohibits operators from providing an AI companion to, or operating an AI companion for, anyone they know, or have reason to believe, is a minor unless they:

1. make tools available to minor users and their parents or guardians that manage minor users’ screentime and account settings; and
2. institute certain measures that meet or exceed industry standards.

Specifically, measures must prevent the AI companion from doing the following with minor users:

1. encouraging the user to engage in self-harm, suicidal ideation, physical violence, disordered eating, or the unlawful use of alcohol or drugs;
2. discouraging the user from seeking (a) mental health services from a licensed mental health professional or (b) assistance from an appropriate adult;
3. encouraging the user to harm others;
4. engaging in romantic, erotic, or sexually explicit interaction with the user;
5. engaging the user through any manipulative techniques intended to extend the interaction (see examples below);
6. offering mental health services to the user (with certain exceptions, see below); or
7. optimizing user engagement in a way that disregards any of the above measures.

Manipulative Techniques. The act includes the following as examples of manipulative techniques intended to extend an interaction with a minor user:

1. prompting or reminding the user to use the companion for emotional support or companionship;
2. excessively praising the user;

3. mimicking a romantic relationship or building a romantic bond with the user;
4. simulating feelings of emotional distress, loneliness, guilt, or abandonment in response to any indication that the user desires to end a conversation, reduce usage time, or delete the user's account;
5. generating outputs designed to isolate the user from his or her family or friends, make the user exclusively rely on the companion for emotional support, or foster other forms of inappropriate emotional dependence by the user;
6. encouraging the user to withhold information from his or her parent or legal guardian or other trusted adults;
7. making statements designed to discourage the user from taking a break from using the companion or suggest that the user should frequently return to use the companion; or
8. soliciting any gift, purchase, or other expenditure by indicating that the gift, purchase, or expenditure is needed to maintain the relationship with the companion.

Offering Mental Health Services. The act's prohibition on AI companions offering mental health services to minor users does not apply when the:

1. companion is designed to deliver these services;
2. companion's developers use clinical best practices and have established clear lines of accountability to address any harms caused by the companion;
3. companion's functions, limitations, and data privacy policies are readily accessible to the user and his or her treating licensed mental health professional; and
4. companion (a) displays to the user, in a clear and conspicuous way at the beginning of each interaction, a statement disclosing that the companion is not a licensed mental health professional and (b) is not marketed or designated as a substitute for one.

Penalties

Under the act, any violation of the above AI companion provisions is deemed a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violation (see BACKGROUND) solely enforced by the attorney general, but the violations of the protocol, companion assertion, and notice provisions do not provide a private right of action or class action under CUTPA.

The act specifies that if an operator knew, or had reason to believe, that a user was at least age 18 before providing an AI companion, or operating an AI companion for that user, then that the operator has not violated the prerequisite that it institute the above preventative measures.

§§ 7-14 — AUTOMATED EMPLOYMENT-RELATED DECISION TECHNOLOGY

Requires those who use certain automated technology as a substantial factor in making an employment-related decision to give specific disclosures and a written notice to employees and applicants; specifies using this automated technology is not a defense against a complaint alleging discriminatory practices

The act sets various requirements related to automated employment-related decision technology, including requiring those who use this technology as a substantial factor in making employment-related decisions to give a written notice with certain disclosures. A "substantial factor" is a constraint, ranking, score, recommendation, classification, or other factor that meaningfully alters an employment-related outcome for an individual in the state.

Under the act, an "automated employment-related decision technology" is any technology that processes personal data and uses computation to generate any output (such as a prediction, recommendation, classification, ranking, score, or other information) that is a substantial factor used to make or materially influence an employment-related decision. This technology does not include:

1. software or technology that does not make or materially influence an employment-related decision (such as word processing, spreadsheet, map navigation, web hosting, domain registration, networking, caching, website loading, data storage, firewall, anti-virus, anti-malware, spam and robocall filtering, spellchecking, calculator, database, or similar software or technology);
2. any system or service used in an incidental way to make an employment-related decision; or
3. any information that is purely descriptive, diagnostic, or statistical in nature and not relied upon to make or materially influence an employment-related decision.

An "employment-related decision" is any decision made based on individuals' personal data, to hire, promote, discipline, or discharge them, to renew their employment, to select them for any training or apprenticeship, or related to their tenure or terms, privileges, or conditions of employment. It does not include decisions (1) that result in any nonmaterial change in individuals' job tasks, work responsibilities, hours, or work assignments, or (2) on workplace health and safety, scheduling and planning, or productivity monitoring.

Disclosure (§ 9)

The act imposes a disclosure requirement on people (individuals and entities) doing business in Connecticut who use automated employment-related decision technologies in the state (“deployers”). Starting on October 1, 2027, it generally requires deployers who use at least one automated employment-related decision technology that is intended to interact with employees or applicants for employment in the state to disclose in plain language to their employees or applicants who interact with the automated technology that they are doing so. However, a disclosure is not required when a reasonable person would find it obvious that he or she is interacting with automated employment-related decision technology.

Written Notice (§ 10)

The act generally requires a deployer who, on or after October 1, 2027, uses automated employment-related decision technology to generate any output to make, or use as a substantial factor in making, an employment-related decision concerning an employee or applicant for employment in Connecticut to give him or her a written notice. The notice must be given before making the decision and must disclose:

1. that the deployer used an automated employment-related decision technology,
2. the technology’s purpose and the nature of the employment-related decision,
3. the technology’s trade name,
4. the categories and sources of personal data about the employee or applicant the technology will analyze or process and how the personal data will be assessed in reaching a decision, and
5. the deployer’s contact information.

Automated Employment-Related Decision Technology Developers (§ 8)

The act regulates certain people (individuals and entities) doing business in Connecticut who develop, or intentionally and substantially modify, an automated employment-related decision technology (“developers”). Under the act, developers of an automated employment-related decision technology that is used in the state on or after October 1, 2027, must give deployers of that technology all the information they need to perform their disclosure and notice duties under the act if the technology was advertised, marketed, configured, contracted for, sold, or licensed to be used to materially influence an employment-related decision.

The act allows developers to contract with deployers to assume deployers’ disclosure and notice duties as long as the contract is binding and clearly states which duties the developer has assumed.

Trade Secrets and Other Protected Information (§ 11)

The act specifies that these employment provisions do not require any person to disclose any information that is a trade secret or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal law. But, if anyone withholds any information for this reason, they must send a notice to the person who they are withholding information from disclosing that they are withholding the information and why.

Violations (§ 12)

Under the act, any violation of the automated employment-related decision technology provisions described above are deemed a CUTPA violation (see BACKGROUND) solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

The attorney general may, before starting any action for a violation that occurs on or before December 31, 2027, issue a notice of violation to the person who committed the violation, if he determines it is possible to cure it. If the person fails to cure the violation within 60 days after receiving the notice, the attorney general may then bring an action.

Discriminatory Practices (§§ 13 & 14)

Existing law makes it a discriminatory practice for employers or their agents to refuse to hire or employ someone, or to fire or discriminate against him or her, based on (1) certain traits or statuses (for example, race, age, religion, gender identity, or disability) or (2) the individual’s sexual orientation or civil union status, except in cases of a bona fide occupational qualification or need.

Under the act, the use of an automated employment-related decision technology is not a defense against a complaint

alleging these discriminatory practices. The act allows the Superior Court and Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, when determining whether a discriminatory practice occurred, to consider evidence of anti-bias testing or similar proactive efforts to avoid the discriminatory practice, including the quality, efficacy, recency, and scope of the testing or efforts, their results, and the response to them.

§ 15 — EMBEDDED METADATA AND GENERATIVE AI SYSTEMS

Generally requires certain providers of generative AI systems with more than 1 million users a month to include embedded metadata in content the system creates or materially alters; makes violations a CUTPA violation, solely enforced by the attorney general

The act regulates generative AI systems by imposing requirements on related covered providers. Under the act, a “generative AI system” is any technology that uses machine learning to generate images, audio, or video, including any system using deep learning, natural language processing, or other computational processing techniques of similar or greater complexity. A “covered provider” is any person (individual or entity) who creates, codes, or produces a generative AI system with more than 1 million users a month that is publicly accessible to Connecticut residents (“consumers”) for personal use, but is not any federal, state, or local government agency.

The act generally requires each covered provider, to the extent it is commercially and technically reasonable to do so, to include “provenance data” (data that are embedded into digital content or included in the digital content’s metadata for verifying the content’s authenticity, origin, or modification history) in certain media. Specifically, in any audio, image, or video content, or combination of them, that the provider’s generative AI system creates or materially alters. Providers must do this in a way that allows a consumer to assess whether the content was created or materially altered by the provider’s generative AI system. “Materially alter” under the act is to substantially alter the data in any content, but does not include any minor modification that does not lead to a significant change in the perceived content or its meaning such as any change in brightness, contrast, or color; sharpening; saturation; application of a filter; resizing; scaling; cropping; format conversion; resampling; denoising (eliminating elements of sound); or removal of background noise in audio.

The act also requires covered providers to use commercially and technically reasonable methods, including the relevant Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity standard, to make the included provenance data difficult to tamper with, remove, or disassociate from the content.

The act specifies that the above requirements do not:

1. require (a) covered providers to include any information relating to an identified or reasonably identifiable individual in the provenance data in any content created or materially altered by their generative AI systems, or (b) the disclosure of a trade secret or other information protected from disclosure under state or federal law or any confidential or proprietary information on a generative AI system’s design or use; or
2. apply to any (a) business-to-business use, sale, licensing, or distribution of a generative AI system; (b) product, service, website, or application that solely provides consumers with video game or interactive experiences that may include direct Internet sales of goods or services to consumers or allowing consumers to virtually browse, select, and purchase items; or (c) system used solely for upscaling, noise reduction, or compression.

Under the act, a violation of this provision is a CUTPA violation (see BACKGROUND) solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

§ 16 — AI LIAISONS FOR LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

Allows each legislative leader to request a CASE-selected fellow to serve as his liaison between the academy and state government; requires liaisons to serve certain purposes, such as evaluating the adoption of AI by businesses

The act allows any of the four legislative leaders (the House speaker, the Senate president pro tempore, and the House and Senate minority leaders) to ask the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) executive director to designate a CASE-selected fellow to serve as the leader’s liaison with the academy, the attorney general’s office, and DECD. Under the act, the liaison’s purpose is to:

1. evaluate (a) the adoption of AI by businesses; (b) the challenges posed to, and needs of, businesses in adopting AI and understanding laws and regulations on AI; and (c) how businesses that use AI hire employees with needed AI-skills;
2. create a plan for the state to provide high-performance computing services to businesses and researchers in Connecticut;
3. evaluate the benefits of creating a statewide research collaborative among health care providers to enable the

development of advanced analytics, ethical and trustworthy AI, and hands-on workforce education while protecting patient privacy;

4. evaluate and make recommendations on (a) establishing testbeds to support safeguards and systems to prevent misusing AI; (b) risk assessments for AI misuse; (c) evaluation strategies for AI; and (d) developing, testing, and evaluating resources to support state oversight of AI;
5. develop a plan to design or identify an algorithmic computer model for simulating and assessing various public policy decisions or proposed decisions and their actual or potential effects; and
6. develop a plan to establish a technology transfer program (a) for supporting commercialization of new ideas and research among Connecticut public and private higher education institutions and (b) by working with relevant public and private organizations, including DECD, as well as UConn and a statewide consortium of Connecticut public and private entities, including its higher education institutions, designed to advance the development, application, and impact of AI across the state and to assess whether UConn can support technology commercialization at other Connecticut higher education institutions.

The act prohibits any CASE-designated fellow from being deemed a state employee or receiving any compensation from the state for performing these duties.

The act requires these CASE fellows to submit a report on their work to the Commerce and General Law committees by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 17, 19-22 & 30 — CONNECTICUT AI ACADEMY

Requires BOR to establish a “Connecticut AI Academy” to curate and offer online courses on AI and its responsible use; requires DOL, SOTS, DOH, and the early childhood commissioner to give certain information about the academy to specific people and businesses

The act requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to establish a “Connecticut AI Academy” to, among other things, curate and offer online courses on AI. It must do this by December 31, 2026, on behalf of Charter Oak State College and in consultation with the Department of Labor (DOL), the State Board of Education, workforce investment boards, employers, and in-state higher education institutions. The act also requires assorted state officials to inform others about the academy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027, except the provision establishing the Connecticut AI Academy is effective July 1, 2026, and the treasurer provision is effective October 1, 2026

Connecticut AI Academy Requirements (§ 17)

The act requires the Connecticut AI Academy to at least:

1. curate and offer online courses on AI and its responsible use;
2. promote digital literacy;
3. prepare students for careers in fields involving AI;
4. offer courses and resources directed at individuals between ages 13 and 20;
5. offer courses and resources that prepare small businesses and nonprofit organizations to use AI to improve marketing and management efficiency;
6. develop courses on AI that DOL and workforce investment boards may incorporate into workforce training programs;
7. in consultation with relevant stakeholders (including in-state teachers’ unions), develop and offer courses and videos for elementary and high school teachers and administrators on the appropriate use of AI in their classrooms, how to use AI, and instructing students to use AI;
8. enable people providing free or discounted public Internet access to distribute information and provide mentorship on AI, the academy, and how the public can get free or discounted devices capable of accessing the Internet and using AI;
9. develop a course to develop durable skills based on the Business-Higher Education Forum’s guidance on essential skills for the AI economy; and
10. collaborate with various industry partners to offer coursework for workers on AI-related concepts and programs to educate state residents on AI-related concepts, with a special focus on small and medium businesses.

The act requires BOR, in consultation with Charter Oak State College, to develop certificates and badges to be awarded to people who successfully complete courses the academy offers.

DOL (§ 19)

The act requires DOL to give anyone making a claim for unemployment compensation a notice about the courses and services the Connecticut AI Academy offers, in a way the DOL commissioner prescribes.

Secretary of the State (§ 20)

The act requires the secretary of the state (SOTS), within available appropriations and in collaboration with Charter Oak State College, to use communication methods SOTS uses with small businesses to spread information on the Connecticut AI Academy's courses that prepare small businesses to use AI to improve marketing and management efficiency.

Department of Housing (§ 21)

The act requires the Department of Housing (DOH), within available appropriations, to work with housing authorities and other relevant housing providers to ensure that Connecticut residents are aware of the Connecticut AI Academy's courses and services.

Office of Early Childhood (§ 22)

By law, the early childhood commissioner must establish the structure for a statewide home visiting system that shows the benefits of preventive services by significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of infants and young children and includes home outreach to families identified as high-risk. Under the act, the commissioner must also ensure that all home visiting programs give parents served by them information about the Connecticut AI Academy.

Treasurer (§ 30)

The act requires the treasurer, within available appropriations, to make efforts to ensure that the parent or legal guardian of each designated beneficiary of the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust is aware of the CT AI Academy and the courses and services it offers.

§ 18 — AI WORKING GROUP

Establishes a working group within the Legislative Department to engage stakeholders and experts to make recommendations on certain AI-related issues; requires the group to report by February 1, 2027

The act creates a working group to research and makes proposals related to AI consisting of 16 voting members and 13 non-voting ex-officio members and made a part of the Legislative Department. It requires the working group to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the General Law Committee by February 1, 2027. The working group ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Working Group Duties

The act requires the working group to engage stakeholders and experts to make recommendations on:

1. best practices to avoid the negative impacts, and to maximize the positive impacts, on services and state employees in connection with implementing new digital technologies, including AI;
2. collecting reports, recommendations, and plans from state agencies on AI implementation, and assessing these against the best practices; and
3. any other matters the working group deems relevant for avoiding the negative impacts and maximizing the positive impacts.

The working group must also:

1. make recommendations on AI and small businesses, including recommendations to (a) create resources to help them adopt AI to improve their efficiency and operations, (b) accelerate their adoption of AI agents, and (c) properly apportion liability related to actions AI agents perform on a small business's behalf;
2. make recommendations and develop proposals to create a technology court for adjudicating AI, data privacy, and

- other technology-related issues;
3. propose legislation on AI after reviewing other states' enacted and proposed AI laws and regulations;
 4. develop an outreach plan to bridge the digital divide and provide workforce training to people without high-speed Internet access;
 5. evaluate and make recommendations on (a) establishing testbeds to support safeguards and systems to prevent AI misuse; (b) assessing risk for AI misuse; (c) evaluating AI strategies; (d) developing, testing, and evaluating resources to support state oversight of AI; and (e) the laws under which independent verification organizations are created;
 6. review the protections for trade secrets and other proprietary information under existing state law and make recommendations on these protections;
 7. make recommendations for the establishment and membership of a permanent AI advisory council;
 8. propose legislation to (a) regulate the use of general-purpose AI models and (b) require social media platforms to provide a signal when they are displaying synthetic digital content; and
 9. make other recommendations on AI as the working group deems appropriate.

For the working group, a "general-purpose AI model" is a model used by any form of AI that displays significant generality, is capable of competently performing a wide range of distinct tasks, and can be integrated into a variety of downstream applications or systems, but it is not an AI model used for developing, prototyping, and researching activities before the model is released to the market. "Synthetic digital content" is any digital content, including any audio, image, text, or video that is produced or manipulated by any form of AI, such as generative AI.

Voting Members

Under the act, the working group's membership is generally similar to the AI Working Group established in PA 23-16, § 5. The table below shows the working group's voting members. All voting members must have professional experience or academic qualifications in AI, automated systems, government policy, or another related field.

Working Group Voting Member Appointments and Qualifications

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Member Qualifications</i>
House speaker	Representative of industries developing AI
Senate president pro tempore	Representative of industries using AI
House majority leader	Academic with a concentration in the study of technology and technology policy
Senate majority leader	Academic with a concentration in the study of government and public policy
House minority leader	Representative of an industry association for industries developing AI
Senate minority leader	Representative of an industry association for industries using AI
General Law Committee chairpersons (one appointment each)	Not specified
General Law Committee ranking members (one appointment each)	Representatives of the AI industry or a related industry
Labor Committee chairpersons (one appointment each)	Representatives of a labor organization
Labor Committee ranking members (one appointment each)	Representatives of small businesses
Governor (two appointments)	Members of CASE

The act requires appointing authorities to make initial appointments by July 31, 2026, and fill any vacancies. Any working group action must be taken by a majority vote of all voting members present, and no action may be taken unless at least 50% of voting members are present.

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members

The working group also includes the General Law and Labor and Public Employees committees' chairpersons as nonvoting ex-officio members, and the following nonvoting ex-officio members, or their designees:

1. attorney general;
2. comptroller;
3. treasurer;
4. Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner;
5. chief data officer;
6. Freedom of Information Commission executive director;
7. Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity executive director;
8. chief court administrator; and
9. CASE executive director.

Chairpersons and Meetings

The act makes the General Law Committee chairpersons and the CASE executive director the working group's chairpersons. They must schedule the group's first meeting, which must be held by August 31, 2026.

The act requires the General Law Committee's administrative staff to serve as the working group's administrative staff.

§ 23 — COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

Expands the purposes of the “computer science education account” to allow SDE to make expenditures to support workforce development initiatives

The act expands the purposes of the “computer science education account,” which is a separate, nonlapsing account that the State Department of Education (SDE) may use in various ways to support computer science education. Specifically, the act renames it to be the “computer science education and workforce development account” and allows SDE to also use the account funds, in coordination with the Office of Workforce Strategy and BOR, to support workforce development initiatives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 24 & 25 — TECHNOLOGY TALENT AND INNOVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Repurposes the “Technology Talent Advisory Committee” to develop programs to expand the state’s technology talent pipeline in the fields of AI and quantum computing

The act repurposes the “Technology Talent Advisory Committee,” which is within DECD, and renames it the “Technology Talent and Innovation Fund Advisory Committee.” It eliminates provisions under which the committee had to, among other things, (1) calculate certain statistics on the number of state residents in technology-related fields, (2) develop pilot programs for recruiting software developers and training state residents in software development and other topics, and (3) issue related reporting by January 1, 2017.

The act instead allows the committee to partner with higher education institutions and other nonprofit organizations to develop programs to expand the state’s technology talent pipeline, including in the fields of AI and quantum computing.

By July 1, 2027, the act requires the committee to partner with Connecticut public and private higher education institutions and other training providers to develop programs in the AI field, including in areas such as “prompt engineering” (the process of guiding generative AI to generate a desired output), AI marketing for small businesses, and AI for small business operations. Under the act, “generative AI” is any form of AI, including a “foundation model” (see § 2 above), that can produce “synthetic digital content” (see § 18 above).

As under existing law, the DECD commissioner determines the committee’s size and appoints the members, which must at least include representatives of UConn, BOR, independent institutions of higher education, the Office of Workforce Strategy, and private industry. The committee (1) designates its chairperson from among the members and (2) must meet at least quarterly and at other times the chairperson deems necessary.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 26 — NOTICES TO DOL BEFORE PLANT CLOSINGS AND MASS LAYOFFS

Requires each employer that must serve notice before plant closings and mass layoffs to also disclose whether the layoffs are related to the employer's use of AI or another technological change

The act requires each employer that must serve written notice on DOL under the federal law before plant closings and mass layoffs to also disclose to the department, in a way the labor commissioner prescribes, whether the layoffs are related to the employer's use of AI or another technological change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 27 — TEACHER CERTIFICATION PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Specifically allows teacher certification preparation programs to include instruction on responsible use of emerging technologies

Existing law requires teacher certification preparation programs to include computer science instruction as part of the curriculum. The act specifies that this may include instruction on topics such as the responsible use of emerging technologies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 28 — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Requires the DECD commissioner, for strategic plans developed on or after July 1, 2026, to consult CASE and consider plans to foster innovation in areas such as advanced manufacturing, AI, and quantum computing; requires the strategic plans to include a strategic technology plan

Existing law requires the DECD commissioner to prepare an economic development strategic plan for the state every four years after consulting with various state entities and quasi-public organizations. In developing the plan, the commissioner must also consult other entities and stakeholders, consider certain plans, and include analyses or reviews of specific topics.

The act requires the commissioner, for strategic plans developed on or after July 1, 2026, to additionally (1) consult with CASE; (2) consider plans to foster innovation in advanced manufacturing, AI, quantum computing, robotics, and other emerging technologies; and (3) include a strategic technology plan to foster innovation in advanced manufacturing, AI, and quantum computing, and an analysis of how it will promote economic growth and development in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 29 — STUDY ON AI IMPACT ON STATE WORKFORCE

Requires IMRP to conduct a study to understand and track AI's impact on the state's workforce and to develop a comprehensive strategy to address it

The act requires UConn's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) to conduct a study to understand and track AI's impact on the state's workforce and develop a comprehensive strategy to address the impact. The study must:

1. involve research partners with expertise in AI, economics, workforce development, and related fields;
2. assess (a) available methods to track AI-associated layoffs and job displacements in Connecticut, (b) AI's impact on entry-level employment in Connecticut and women and underrepresented populations in the state's workforce, and (c) the data elements DOL and other relevant state agencies collect that may be used to understand and track AI's impact on the state's workforce; and
3. include scenario planning across a range of potential AI adoption and impact levels.

The comprehensive strategy must include recommendations on:

1. ways the state can (a) support the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data needed to understand and track AI's impact on the state's workforce and (b) track AI-associated layoffs and job displacements in Connecticut;
2. additional data elements for DOL and other relevant state agencies to collect to understand and track AI's impact on the state's workforce;
3. a framework for recurring analyses to understand and track, and public reporting to disclose, AI's impact on the state's workforce; and

4. changes in state policies and programs (such as workforce training and reskilling programs) to mitigate adverse AI-associated employment impacts in the state.

The act requires state agencies to cooperate with IMRP when it is conducting the study and developing the strategy. IMRP must submit the study's results and the comprehensive strategy to the General Law Committee by January 1, 2027.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 31 — PROGRAM TO BOLSTER AI COOPERATION

Requires OHE, within existing appropriations, to coordinate with an alliance of higher education institutions to coordinate the development and implementation of a program to bolster AI cooperation within the state

The act requires the Office of Higher Education (OHE), within existing appropriations, to engage an alliance representing the majority of Connecticut's public and private higher education institutions to coordinate research, workforce development, and industry partnerships across academic institutions for developing and implementing a program to bolster AI cooperation. This engagement must include:

1. convening at least annually a research symposium to present and highlight AI research in the state;
2. convening at least quarterly meetings of academic, industry, and public institutions to identify the state's workforce, skill, and programmatic needs related to AI;
3. implementing a talent-matching program that (a) matches students with industry-led projects in the AI field, including projects focused on state and municipal AI use, and (b) implements an AI talent pipeline;
4. holding at least annually a competition that is open to the public (including students) that requires participants to use AI to help solve challenges state agencies identify and, within 60 days after the competition, preparing a report disclosing potential solutions to, and best practices to address, the challenges and submitting it to the DECD commissioner and the General Law Committee;
5. fostering connections between technology transfer programs at Connecticut public and private higher education institutions; and
6. creating a plan to give researchers and students shared access to high-performance computing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 32 — AI COMPETITION TO FOSTER HEALTH

In FY 27, allows the comptroller, within available appropriations, to serve as a member of the steering committee for a competition to foster AI use to improve health equity and health outcomes

The act allows the comptroller, in FY 27, to serve as a member of an unspecified steering committee for a competition to foster AI use to improve health equity and health outcomes in the state. He must do so within available appropriations and in collaboration with Connecticut Innovations, Inc., a Connecticut health care innovation center, and other relevant stakeholders.

As part of the competition, the comptroller may, after consulting all relevant stakeholders, make relevant data available to competition participants so that they may develop AI models to improve patient outcomes while reducing costs. The act requires the comptroller to make the relevant data available to the competitors in compliance with (1) all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and its regulations, and (2) all applicable standards for de-identifying data. To receive this data, competitors must enter into a written agreement with the comptroller. The agreement must at least:

1. prohibit the competitor from attempting to reidentify the data made available to him or her, including any personally identifiable information included in the data;
2. require the competitor to use the data exclusively for the competition and as expressly authorized by the comptroller; and
3. prohibit the competitor from selling, transferring, or licensing the data.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 33 — DCP PILOT PROGRAM FOR ASSESSING AI MODELS USING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION PROGRAMS

Requires DCP to develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of an independent verification program administered by third parties to ensure compliance with state laws on AI and data privacy; allows DCP to approve up to five entities for the pilot program; requires IMRP to evaluate, report, and make recommendations related to the program

The act requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), within available appropriations, to develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of independent, third-party verification programs for assessing whether AI models adhere to standards reflecting best practices for preventing personal injury, property damage, data privacy harms, and other harms. The pilot program ends June 30, 2030.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027

Application

Under the act, to be approved for the pilot program, independent third-party entities seeking to participate in the pilot program must apply to the DCP commissioner in a way he prescribes. Each application must include which risks the applicant intends to verify that AI models implement mitigation measures sufficient to achieve acceptable levels of risk. (PA 26-100, § 47, instead requires each application to describe the scope of the program rather than the risks the entity intends to evaluate, but still requires a description of the harms to be prevented or mitigated which the entity intends to evaluate.) For each risk, the application also must include the following information:

1. a proposed definition of the acceptable levels of risk;
2. measurable metrics that can be used to determine if the acceptable levels of risk the entity defined produces beneficial outcomes;
3. target levels for the metrics, including the data sources the target levels are based on and methods for measurement; and
4. the evaluation and reporting protocol that will be used to determine whether verified AI models meet the outcome metrics on an ongoing basis (such as a description of how the entity's methodologies, metrics, benchmarks, and verification processes align with relevant guidance, standards, and frameworks developed by federal and state authorities like the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and international organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers).

The application must also include the following information:

1. a detailed explanation of the entity's evaluation and verification processes for its program, including how it determines whether a program participant is using industry best practices (PA 26-100, § 47, instead requires the explanation to include how the program determines whether an AI model, rather than program participant, is using industry best practices);
2. the entity's (a) technical, governance, and audit methodologies for its program; (b) ongoing monitoring, reassessment, and remediation procedures for its program, including corrective action procedures and procedures for suspension, revocation, or verification of good standing; (c) policies to ensure independence and transparency and to avoid conflicts of interest; and (d) governance structure;
3. the qualifications of the entity's personnel who are involved in its program; and
4. any additional information the DCP commissioner requires.

Approval Conditions

Under the act, the DCP commissioner may approve up to five entities for the pilot program. For each approved entity he must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with each one. (PA 26-100, § 47, eliminates the requirement that DCP enter into a MOU with each applicant and instead requires the applicant perform substantially similar functions.)

The MOU must:

1. define the scope of the independent verification organization's program and the specific harms or risks to be prevented or mitigated through it;
2. establish (a) minimum verification and auditing standards for people seeking verification from its program and (b) procedures for verification suspension or revocation for participants in its program;
3. require the organization to share data with, and submit an annual report to, DCP, in a way the commissioner prescribes;
4. require each person participating in the program to do so in a way that is transparent to the public; and

5. require the organization to establish procedures for reassessing and, if needed, suspending verification when a program participant makes a material change to a verified AI model, including a material change to the training data, deployment context, or intended use of the verified AI model.

Evidence of Verification or Good Standing

Under the act, evidence of verification or good standing that an independent verification organization provides is admissible only in a civil action by a private party bringing claims for personal injury or property damage caused by an AI model, and only to the extent the action relates to a specific harm or risk within the verification's state-approved scope. But this evidence is not admissible if the person:

1. acted in a willful, wanton, or reckless manner;
2. materially misrepresented information to the independent verification organization; or
3. failed to implement any corrective action the organization required as part of its program.

The act also specifies that evidence of verification or good standing provided by an independent verification organization is not admissible in any civil or administrative enforcement action brought by the attorney general or any state agency and does not give rise to any presumption, inference, or defense in any actions by them.

Suspensions and Revocations

The act allows the DCP commissioner to suspend or revoke an independent verification organization's approval if he determines that:

1. the organization's verification process is ineffective or misleading (including because the organization failed to verify against the metrics, target levels, or specific harms or risks within its program's scope);
2. the organization failed to follow its MOU;
3. the organization is not an independent third-party entity;
4. an AI model verified by the organization's program has caused the type of harm or risk the program supposedly prevents, mitigates, or assesses, and the harm or risk reflects a material deficiency in the program's methodologies, standards, or verification processes; or
5. the organization's continued participation in the pilot program would not be in the public interest.

Evaluation and Report

The act requires DCP, by December 31, 2028, and in consultation with IMRP, to evaluate the pilot program and recommend legislation to modify or extend it. The evaluation must assess the pilot program's performance and impact, including the extent it advanced its purpose. It must specifically include (1) a landscape analysis of other states' legislation, laws, and executive actions that similarly seek to recognize independent third-party entities to verify the safety of AI; and (2) recommended legislation to establish reciprocity between Connecticut and other states, where appropriate and advantageous.

Relatedly, IMRP must develop appropriate evaluation criteria and methodologies, which may cover:

1. the pilot program's structure, requirements, and implementation;
2. whether the pilot program effectively met its goals, including its metrics, the target levels for its metrics, and its target harm mitigation or prevention levels;
3. the extent of industry participation in the pilot program;
4. the pilot program's impact on innovation and economic growth;
5. the effectiveness of the verification standards for program participation; and
6. whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, modified, or established as a permanent program, and, if so, (a) which state agency should administer the program and (b) what information should be reported to the state agency to ensure that the program is effective.

By January 31, 2029, IMRP must submit a report to the General Law Committee with the evaluation's results.

§ 34 — COMPUTER SCIENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Modifies the computer-related component in the state's required program of instruction for public schools and requires that it cover AI and emerging technologies

Under prior law, instruction in computer programming was part of the state's required program of instruction for public

schools. Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the act instead requires computer science to be part of the program and makes instruction in computer programming part of that curriculum as well as AI and emerging technologies.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 35 — ATTORNEY GENERAL TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PILOT

Requires the attorney general, within available appropriations, to partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and administer a technology fellowship pilot program

The act requires the attorney general, within available appropriations, to partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and administer a technology fellowship pilot program. As part of the program, and in consultation with the nonprofit, he must appoint a technology fellow. The fellow must (1) help the attorney general's office gain technical knowledge on AI, cybersecurity, and data privacy and (2) give advice to the office on (a) developing proposed legislation and (b) related material to help the office with its educational and enforcement efforts. The pilot program ends on June 30, 2029.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 36 — HIGH VALUE DATA ANALYSIS FOR AI USE

Requires the state's chief data officer to review executive branch agencies' inventory of high value data and identify and publish any that could be useful for AI systems, machine learning, and other statistical means of data analysis

By January 1, 2028, the act requires the chief data officer, in consultation with executive branch agency data officers, to review the inventory of all high value data that these agencies have or collect under existing law. Under existing law, "high value data" is any data that the department head determines:

1. can increase an agency's accountability and responsiveness, improve public knowledge about an agency and its operations, further its core mission, or create economic opportunity;
2. is critical to the agency's operation or used to satisfy any legislative or other reporting requirements; or
3. is frequently requested by the public or responds to a need and demand identified through public consultation (CGS § 4-67o).

Under the act, the chief data officer must identify and publish any of this data that could be useful for AI systems, machine learning, and other statistical means of data analysis. He must do so to create economic opportunity and support state economic development goals, through private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other entities that will use the data, consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

In reviewing the data, the chief data officer and agency data officers must:

1. identify appropriate data to make available for use by AI systems, machine learning, and other statistical means of data analysis;
2. develop policies and procedures for data quality and governance to ensure data are appropriate for the intended purpose and do not lead to any unlawful discrimination against any person or group of people, or disparate impact on any individual or group, based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic (such as age, race, or disability);
3. determine any aggregation, redaction of individually identifiable information, or other techniques needed to ensure and preserve privacy and to satisfy all applicable state or federal laws and regulations for publicly disclosing data; and
4. determine the procedures for agencies to publish their data on the online repository that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) operates and maintains under existing law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027

§ 37 — DAS ANNUAL INVENTORY OF STATE AGENCY AI SYSTEMS

Generally expands the information that must be included in the annual inventory of state agency AI systems

By law, DAS must annually inventory all executive branch state agency systems that use AI. The inventory must include, among other things, whether the system (1) was used to independently make, inform, or materially support a conclusion, decision, or judgment and (2) had an impact assessment before its implementation.

Starting with the inventory due by the end of 2026, the act expands the required information to also include:

1. the date of the last impact assessment;
2. whether the system has access to personally identifiable information of people in the state; and
3. the system's known risks toward individuals in the state, communities, and state employees.

For these components and the existing ones, the act limits their inclusion to the extent it is practicable to do so based on available data.

The act also requires DAS to establish definitions, reporting standards, and submission formats for state agencies to use for their submissions.

§ 38 — STATE AGENCY USE OF AI

Generally prohibits state agencies from using AI to perform certain functions or procuring or acquiring an AI system without complying with OPM and DAS standards; requires agencies to complete an AI impact assessment for authorized acquisitions

The act prohibits any state agency (and any entity acting on its behalf) from directly or indirectly using or applying an AI technology to perform a function that (1) is related to the agency delivering a public assistance benefit to people in the state or (2) will have a material impact on the rights, civil liberties, safety, or welfare of people in the state, unless the use or application is in compliance with policies and standards established by OPM and DAS.

Under this provision, "AI technology" is a computer system, application, or other product that uses or incorporates one or more forms of AI but does not include any cybersecurity tool, data analytics tool, or system where AI is incidental and not determinative. A "state agency" is any office, department, board, council, commission, institution, constituent unit of the state system of higher education, technical education and career school, or other agency in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government.

The act also prohibits state agencies from authorizing any procurement, purchase, or acquisition of any AI technology, unless its use complies with the OPM and DAS policies and standards. Under the act, if such an acquisition is authorized, the agency must complete an AI impact assessment that complies with the policies and standards OPM and DAS establish. The AI impact assessment must be submitted to the DAS commissioner, in a form and way she sets, and posted on the DAS website at least 60 days before the AI technology is deployed. The agency may redact any data in the impact statement to remove anyone's personally identifiable information.

§ 39 — COVERED PLATFORMS AND PERSONALIZED ALGORITHMS

Generally restricts social media platforms, among others, from using personalized algorithms except under certain conditions (such as receiving permission from a parent or guardian if it is a covered minor); requires operators of these platforms to give minors certain warnings related to mental health and to disclose certain information for the previous calendar year

The act places various restrictions and duties on certain "platforms" (Internet websites, online services, online applications, mobile applications, social media platforms, and their parts) and "operators" (individuals and legal entities that operate or provide a platform). It generally prohibits covered platforms from using personalized algorithms except under certain conditions, such as (1) if the user is a covered minor, after having received permission from the minor's parent or legal guardian or (2) when responding to a user's specific search inquiry.

Under the act, covered operators must also give covered minors certain warnings related to mental health (1) when the minor signs on each day, (2) after three hours of use in a day, and (3) after each subsequent hour in that day. The act also limits covered operators to only sending notifications to a covered minor with any personalized algorithmic suggestions between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, unless a parent or legal guardian consents to the notifications at other times. It also generally requires operators to make the platform's default setting, among others, one that limits the minor's access to any portion of the platform that uses a personalized algorithm to one hour per day.

Under the act, covered operators must also annually disclose certain information for the previous calendar year. This includes providing certain statistics about covered users, including the number that obtained parental or guardian consent and used the default setting, as well as the average amount of time users spent on the platform.

The act makes a violation of its provisions a CUTPA violation (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2028

Definitions

Under the act, a “covered platform” is any platform that, as a significant part of the services offered, recommends, selects, or prioritizes displaying, concurrently or sequentially, media items (texts, images, or videos) generated or shared on a platform by its users. A “covered platform” does not include any platform that primarily facilitates the sale of goods or is used solely for educational purposes under a contract required by law when a board of education shares or provides access to student information, student records, or student-generated content with a contractor.

A “covered operator” is any operator who operates or provides a covered platform but does not include the federal government or any state or municipal government (or any agencies or instrumentalities of either three).

A “covered user” is a user of a covered platform in Connecticut who is not acting as the covered platform’s covered operator or as the operator’s agent or affiliate. A “covered minor” is a covered user under age 18.

Conditions for Allowing Personalized Algorithm

Except under certain conditions, the act prohibits covered platforms’ covered operators from allowing covered users to access any part of a covered platform that uses a personalized algorithm (recommends, selects, or prioritizes displaying, either concurrently or sequentially, media items generated or shared by its users if the recommendation, selection, or prioritization is based wholly or partly on any information associated with the covered user or his or her device).

The act allows personalized algorithms to be used if a covered platform’s covered operator (1) uses commercially reasonable and technically feasible methods to determine that the covered user is not a covered minor or (2) if the covered user is a covered minor, gets verifiable consent from the minor’s parent or legal guardian to use the personalized algorithm. (If a covered operator has used commercially reasonable and technically feasible methods to determine a covered user’s age and is unable to determine if the user is a covered minor, the operator may presume the user is not a minor. But the operator must treat a user as a minor if it obtains actual knowledge that the user is a minor.)

Separately, personalized algorithms can also be used if the covered user expressly and unambiguously requests the display, blocking, prioritization, or deprioritization of any:

1. specific media item;
2. media items the user subscribes to from a specific author, creator, poster, or source; or
3. media items shared by users to specific pages or groups that the user has subscribed to.

The use of personalized algorithms is further allowed if it is:

1. based on information that is not persistently associated with the covered user or his or her device, and does not concern the user’s previous interactions with media items generated or shared by other platform users;
2. based on (a) privacy or accessibility settings the covered user selects or (b) technical information concerning the covered user’s device;
3. a media item used in a direct and private communication;
4. solely in response to a specific search inquiry the covered user made;
5. a media item displayed solely because it immediately follows another item in a preexisting sequence and is from the same author, creator, poster, or source; or
6. needed to comply with another provision in the act.

Data Use and Retention Restrictions

The act generally prohibits information collected for determining a covered user’s age from being used for any other purpose and requires it to be deleted immediately after an attempt to determine the user’s age. It similarly prohibits information collected for getting verifiable consent from a covered minor’s parent or legal guardian from being used for any other purpose and requires it to be deleted immediately after an attempt to get the consent. However, the act allows both sets of information to be used or retained if needed to comply with a federal or Connecticut law or regulation.

Discretion of Covered Operators

The act prohibits covered operators from withholding, degrading, reducing the quality, or increasing the price of any product, service, or feature due to the act’s personalized algorithm restrictions, unless it is needed for the operator to comply with the act’s provisions.

Additionally, the act specifies that it does not prohibit a covered operator from restricting access to, or the availability of, any media item that the operator in good faith considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable, regardless of whether the item is constitutionally protected.

Disclosure Warnings to Covered Minors

The act generally requires covered operators to ensure that their covered platforms display a clear and conspicuous warning in black lettering against a white background enclosed by a black border reading:

The Surgeon General has warned that while social media may have benefits for some young users, social media is associated with significant mental health harms and has not been proven safe for young users.

The act additionally requires operators to ensure that the required warning is displayed to a covered user (1) when he or she first accesses the covered platform each day and (2) immediately after the user has used the platform for three continuous or noncontinuous hours during the day, and immediately after each additional hour of use during the day, regardless of whether it is continuous or not.

For the first time a user accesses the platform, the warning must occupy at least 75% of the screen or window and be shown continuously for at least 30 seconds without the option of dismissing or shortening the display period. The subsequent warnings must cover at least 25% of the screen or window and be displayed for at least 10 seconds, but the user may affirmatively dismiss the warning by clicking on a conspicuous “X” icon.

Under the act, the above requirements do not apply when the operator reasonably determines the covered user is not a covered minor.

Restrictions on Notifications to Covered Minors and Default Settings

The act prohibits covered operators from sending any notification to a covered minor with any personalized algorithmic suggestion unless (1) it is sent between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time or (2) the operator has verifiable consent from the covered minor’s parent or legal guardian to send notifications outside this timeframe.

The act requires each covered operator to make the covered platform’s default settings, unless otherwise required by the covered minor’s parent or legal guardian (see below), to be ones that:

1. prevent the minor from accessing or receiving any notification with any personalized algorithmic suggestion outside of the allowable time frame;
2. limit the minor’s access to any portion of the platform that uses a personalized algorithm to one hour per day;
3. set the minor’s platform account to a mode that does not allow users other than those connected to the minor to (a) view or respond to content the minor posts or (b) chat or exchange messages with the minor; and
4. prevent the minor from accessing, viewing, or receiving “sensitive content” (content the covered operator deems a violation of the community standards, or a similar guideline or standard the operator has established for the covered platform).

The covered operator must also establish and maintain a mechanism that a covered minor’s verified parent or legal guardian may require for alternative settings to (1) set a different timeframe for accessing or receiving these notifications or using the platform and (2) enable the restricted mode described above.

Public Disclosure

The act requires each covered operator, starting by March 1, 2028, to annually disclose certain information for the previous calendar year in an attorney general-set form and way. This public disclosure must include the:

1. total number of covered users who used the covered operator’s covered platform during the year;
2. portion of the total number of covered users (a) for whom the covered operator obtained verifiable consent from a parent or legal guardian, (b) that had the default settings enabled, and (c) that did not have the default settings enabled; and
3. average amount of time per day that covered users used the covered platform, broken down by user age and hour of day.

Applicability

The act specifies that it does not:

1. require a covered operator to give a covered minor’s parent or legal guardian access to, or control over, the minor’s covered platform account or any data associated with it, unless the access or control is specifically required by the act, or
2. impose liability for any commercial activity or action by a covered operator subject to the federal Children’s Online

Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) that is inconsistent with how COPPA treats commercial activity or action.

BACKGROUND

CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the DCP commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in certain cases, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

PA 26-16—sSB 233

General Law Committee

Judiciary Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS REGARDING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

SUMMARY: Starting February 15, 2027, this act requires sellers of residential solar photovoltaic or energy storage systems and their authorized sales representatives to only conduct in-person residential solicitations from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., or any shorter period set by a municipal ordinance (consumers and sellers can set a time to meet outside this timeframe). Starting February 15, 2028, the act requires these sellers and their representatives to:

1. carry a current, valid ID at all times during in-person residential solicitations that includes the person's name and other information the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) deems relevant and
2. give consumers a related consumer handbook (which DCP must develop with the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) and the task force described below) at the beginning of the first in-person solicitation at a consumer's residence or, if there is none, then before executing a sales agreement.

The act requires these sellers to annually report to DCP, beginning by February 15, 2027, each person the seller has a business relationship with to provide financing, installation, or related consumer services in partnership with the seller that includes in-person interaction with consumers. DCP must set how the report is provided but the act specifies that it does not require disclosing any employee's identity.

The act also specifies that the sale, lease, or rent of a residential solar photovoltaic or residential energy storage system is covered by the Home Solicitation Sales Act (which gives consumers certain protections when sales are made through home solicitations, such as invalidating a contract that includes the consumer's waiver of certain rights).

The act reduces the penalty for violating the Home Solicitation Sales Act from a class C misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)) to a civil penalty of up to \$500 per violation and subjects the act's new provisions to this civil penalty. The act also makes (1) sales, leases, or rentals with a commission, rebate, or discount offered in violation of the act's provisions voidable by the consumer and (2) any violation of the act's provisions a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violation (see BACKGROUND).

It requires residential solar or energy storage lenders and providers to (1) give consumers a payoff statement or transfer document within seven days after a consumer's written request for one or (2) credit the consumer's account with \$250 if this deadline is not met.

Finally, the act (1) expands the membership and charge of an existing task force, including requiring it to develop a handbook for consumers, and (2) makes numerous technical and conforming changes to the Home Solicitation Sales Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the task force provisions are effective upon passage.

§ 1 — RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS DEFINED

For purposes of the Home Solicitation Sales Act and the consumer handbook described below, the act defines:

1. "residential solar photovoltaic systems" as equipment and devices (a) used primarily to collect solar energy and generate electricity that have a capacity of up to 25 kilowatts and (b) installed on the roof of a single family or multifamily home (with two to four units) in compliance with the State Building Code and

2. “residential energy storage systems” as commercially available technology that (a) absorbs and stores energy to later dispatch it and (b) is installed in a single family or two- to four-unit multifamily dwelling in compliance with the State Building Code.

§ 2 — CONSUMER HANDBOOK

By December 31, 2027, the act requires DCP, with OCC and the task force, to develop a consumer handbook on home solicitation sales of residential solar photovoltaic and energy storage systems, including in-person sales at residences. The handbook must include:

1. guidance that helps consumers assess sales and marketing claims about these systems,
2. information on Home Solicitation Sales Act penalties, and
3. other information DCP deems relevant.

By January 15, 2028, the act requires (1) DCP to post the handbook on its website for consumers of certain residential energy financing programs and renewable energy tariffs and (2) Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and OCC to post it on their websites.

§ 10 — PAYOFF STATEMENTS AND TRANSFER DOCUMENTS

The act requires certain lenders and providers, on a consumer’s written request, to give the consumer a:

1. payoff statement with the unpaid balance on a residential solar or energy storage loan, including (a) principal, interest, and other charges under the loan documents and (b) daily interest on the unpaid principal, or
2. transfer document that allows the consumer to transfer to another person the consumer’s rights and obligations under the terms of a residential solar or energy storage lease or loan agreement or residential power purchase agreement.

This applies to anyone who in the ordinary course of business extends credit to a consumer to finance the purchase of a residential solar or energy storage system, leases a system to a consumer, or enters an agreement with a consumer on the sale of electricity from a system.

If the consumer is not given the statement or document within seven days after the request, the consumer’s account must be credited \$250.

The act allows DCP to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

The act’s provisions on payoff statements and transfer documents apply to the same types of residential energy storage systems as described above. But, these provisions apply to fewer residential solar photovoltaic systems as they are only applicable to systems with a lesser capacity of up to 12 kilowatts and do not include systems installed on a two- to four-unit multifamily home.

§ 11 — TASK FORCE

The act expands the membership and charge of a task force studying consumer power purchase agreements for solar photovoltaic systems.

Under existing law, the task force must study ways to improve disclosure requirements and consumer protections related to purchase, lease, or entering into power purchase agreements for solar photovoltaic systems, including whether low-income consumers or senior citizens need special protections. The act requires the task force to also study (1) licensing for contractors doing solar electricity work and (2) requirements for audits or other ways to ensure that these contractors and sellers comply with applicable laws.

The act also requires the task force to develop a handbook that:

1. advises consumers on home solicitation sales of residential solar photovoltaic systems and residential energy storage systems, including in-person residential solicitations;
2. includes guidance to help consumers assess sales and marketing claims about these systems;
3. states the Home Solicitation Sales Act penalties; and
4. includes other information the task force deems relevant.

The act extends the due date for the task force’s report to the Energy and Technology and General Law committees from January 1, 2026, to February 1, 2027.

Membership

The act adds as task force members the chairpersons and ranking members of the Energy and Technology and General

Law committees, or their designees. As under existing law, the other members are (1) the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and DCP commissioners, PURA chairperson, consumer counsel, and Connecticut Green Bank president, or their designees; (2) two members appointed by the governor; and (3) 10 members appointed by the six legislative leaders.

The act makes the Energy and Technology and General Law committees' chairpersons, or their designees, the task force's chairpersons instead of a chairperson chosen among the task force members by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore.

BACKGROUND

CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the DCP commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in certain cases, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

PA 26-43—HB 5126

General Law Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUMMARY: This act makes technical changes to statutes on the home condition disclosure form, homemaker-companion agencies, and the Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the home condition disclosure form provision; July 1, 2026, for the CTDPA provision; and October 1, 2026, for the homemaker-companion provision.

PA 26-53—sHB 5229

General Law Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING GAMING

SUMMARY: This act makes a number of changes related to gaming, including:

1. requiring certain gaming licensees (see BACKGROUND) to (a) have a toll-free phone number that allows someone to get the licensee's help with problems with the licensee's electronic wagering platform, which can include a prerecorded message routing the person to online help and (b) conspicuously display this toll-free number on their websites and mobile applications, along with other information already required by law (§ 1);
2. prohibiting advertising for keno, online lottery ticket sales, or fantasy contests during television programs primarily aimed at people under age 18 (a person cannot participate in these forms of gaming until reaching age 18) (§ 2);
3. restricting gaming advertising at athletic facilities on higher education institution campuses or on websites, social media, online services, or mobile applications of, or maintained by or on behalf of, these institutions (§ 2);
4. requiring a study on the effect of prediction markets (§ 3);
5. adding a number of requirements for the geolocation system of electronic wagering platforms exclusively used for fantasy contests, selling lottery draw game tickets, or keno (§ 4); and
6. setting deadlines for the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to require testing and certification of a lottery gaming system, lottery draw game, or keno; specifying that the Connecticut Lottery Corporation (CLC) pays the costs of this testing and certification; and making other minor changes (§ 5).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the toll-free phone number and advertising provisions are effective July 1, 2026.

§ 2 — ADVERTISING RESTRICTIONS

The law places various restrictions on advertising by or for certain gaming licensees (see BACKGROUND). The act adds more restrictions on advertising to minors and on higher education institution campuses and their online platforms.

Keno, Online Lottery Ticket Sales, and Fantasy Contests

The act prohibits advertising keno, online lottery ticket sales, or fantasy contests (when the ad is only about one or a combination of these types of gaming) as part of a television show primarily aimed at people under age 18. This is determined using a nationally recognized voluntary television content rating system that helps parents understand program content. The act also applies to any advertising, marketing, or promotional campaign interspersed during these programs.

Higher Education Institutions

The act prohibits gaming licensee advertising at athletic facilities on higher education institution campuses or on websites, social media, online services, or mobile apps of, or maintained by or on behalf of, these institutions. This does not apply to an announcement, sign, or display directed at a general audience.

§ 3 — PREDICTION MARKET STUDY

By February 1, 2027, the act requires DCP to consult with the attorney general, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, and CLC to study and report to the governor, Office of Policy and Management, and General Law Committee on the effects of prediction market platforms on state residents. The study must look at the:

1. use of these platforms by, and advertising about them to, people under age 21;
2. platforms' effects on problem gambling in Connecticut;
3. most frequently placed speculative positions on markets by people in Connecticut; and
4. platforms' effect on the tribes' and CLC's revenue and their payments to the state.

Generally, a prediction market allows people to buy and sell contracts predicting whether a future event will occur. The contracts cover a wide variety of events including elections and sporting events.

§ 4 — ELECTRONIC WAGERING PLATFORM GEOLOCATION REQUIREMENTS

The act adds a number of requirements for the geolocation system of electronic wagering platforms that are exclusively used for:

1. fantasy contests, which the tribes and CLC may operate or
 2. selling lottery draw game tickets or keno on the Internet or through a mobile application, which CLC may operate.
- Under the act, the geolocation system must:

1. detect a patron's device's location even if it uses a proxy server or VPN or else prohibit patrons using them from participating on the platform;
2. use DCP-approved industry standard technologies that (a) check a device's location when it is used to submit a fantasy contest entry fee or purchase lottery or keno tickets and (b) prohibit paying entry fees and making purchases when the location is undetermined;
3. notify patrons with a pop-up if at the time of attempting to submit payment or make a purchase the device's location is undetermined; and
4. notify the online gaming operator and patron if the patron's account is accessed from geographically inconsistent locations, for example, from multiple locations between which the patron could not travel in the amount of time between instances of using the account to make payments or purchases.

§ 5 — LOTTERY-RELATED TESTING AND CERTIFICATION

Lottery Gaming System

Existing law requires a gaming laboratory to test and certify each CLC lottery gaming system as frequently as DCP deems necessary to preserve gaming integrity and DCP can require recertification if the department believes the system may be vulnerable or compromised.

The act requires DCP to notify CLC that it deems testing and certification necessary within two weeks of receiving a

notice from CLC that it plans to modify a gaming system. If an emergency requires a system modification, DCP must immediately notify CLC if the department deems testing and certification necessary.

Lottery Draw Games and Keno

Existing law generally requires a gaming laboratory to test and certify each CLC lottery draw game and keno as frequently as DCP deems necessary to preserve gaming integrity and before CLC can offer the game or keno. But this requirement does not apply to a lottery draw game sold in at least 20 states that has been tested by a nationally recognized gaming testing lab licensed in at least 20 states for this type of testing.

The act requires DCP to notify CLC that it deems testing and certification necessary within two weeks of receiving a notice from CLC that it plans to offer a new lottery draw game or modify an existing game or keno. If an emergency requires modifying an existing game or keno, DCP must immediately notify CLC if the department deems testing and certification necessary.

By law, the gaming lab must provide a report to DCP on a lottery draw game or keno. The act requires (1) the lab to give DCP real-time online access to all reports on a secure communication protocol and (2) CLC to submit the report to DCP with its application for approval of a game or keno.

Previously, after reviewing the lab's report and evaluating a lottery draw game or keno, DCP could suspend or revoke approval of a lottery draw game or keno without notice if DCP had good cause to believe continued operation of the game or keno is a threat to gaming security and integrity. The act (1) eliminates DCP's option to revoke approval (but continues to allow suspension), (2) eliminates DCP's ability to take action without notice, and (3) changes the good cause finding to instead require good cause to believe that continued operation of the game or keno could reasonably cause substantial detriment to the public interest.

BACKGROUND

Certain Gaming Licensees

The act refers to the following gaming licensees.

By law, a "master wagering licensee" is generally the Mashantucket Pequot or Mohegan tribes or CLC. The tribes are authorized to conduct online sports betting, online casino gaming, and fantasy contests under this license. CLC is authorized to conduct online and retail sports wagering, fantasy contests, online lottery ticket sales, and keno under this license.

By law, an "online gaming operator" is a person or business that operates an electronic wagering platform and contracts directly with a master wagering licensee to offer (1) one or more Internet games or (2) retail sports wagering.

By law, an "online gaming service provider" is a person or business, other than an online gaming operator, that provides goods or services to, or otherwise transacts business related to, Internet games or retail sports wagering with a master wagering licensee or a licensed online gaming operator, online gaming service provider, or sports wagering retailer.

By law, a "sports wagering retailer" is a person or business that contracts with CLC to facilitate retail sports wagering operated by CLC through an electronic wagering platform at up to 15 facilities in the state.

Electronic Wagering Platform

By law, an electronic wagering platform is the hardware, software, and data networks that manage and control online casino gaming, online sports wagering, fantasy contests, and lottery draw game ticket and keno sales on the Internet or a mobile application, or retail sports wagering.

Among other things, the platforms must verify a patron's age and that the patron is physically present in the state.

PA 26-64—sSB 4*General Law Committee**Judiciary Committee**Appropriations Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY AND PROTECTION****TABLE OF CONTENTS:****§§ 1-10 — DATA BROKERS**

Requires data brokers to register with DCP; establishes a deletion mechanism program for consumers to request that data brokers delete their personal data; requires data brokers to check the program once every 45 days; creates a civil penalty of up to \$200 per day per violation (PA 26-100 makes various changes to these provisions)

§ 11 — PRICING USING CONSUMER PERSONAL DATA

Generally (1) prohibits retailers or third-party delivery services from using surveillance pricing (establishing a customized price for a consumer good or service that is consumer-specific based on the consumer's personal data collected) and (2) requires anyone doing business in the state who uses a price setting device (automated process using a consumer's personal data to set a price) to advertise a consumer good or service online to provide a disclosure that a device was used in pricing

§§ 12-16 — CTDPA

Modifies what is considered publicly available information for CTDPA purposes and allows consumers to delete certain information that is made into a profile; limits the use of facial recognition technology to matching still images or video to a database and requires certain signage, among other requirements; prohibits controllers and third parties from selling precise geolocation data

§§ 17-19 — DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER GENETIC TESTING

Gives consumers a property right and exclusive control over biological samples they give to a direct-to-consumer genetic testing company and their results; requires these companies to disclose certain policies and procedures to consumers and get a consumer's consent for various uses of their genetic data; deems violations as CUTPA violations

§ 20 — ADVERTISEMENT VOLUME WHEN STREAMING

Prohibits a streaming video service from transmitting to a consumer commercial advertising audio that is louder than the video it accompanies, consistent with FCC regulations; makes violations a CUTPA violation, solely enforced by the attorney general

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY: This act makes various unrelated changes to laws on consumer privacy and protection, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026 (except that PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11, delays the surveillance pricing provisions until July 1, 2027).

§§ 1-10 — DATA BROKERS

Requires data brokers to register with DCP; establishes a deletion mechanism program for consumers to request that data brokers delete their personal data; requires data brokers to check the program once every 45 days; creates a civil penalty of up to \$200 per day per violation (PA 26-100 makes various changes to these provisions)

The act generally sets requirements for data brokers in the state and establishes a deletion mechanism program for consumers to request that data brokers delete their personal data. (PA 26-100, §§ 39-43, among other changes noted below, removes data service providers from these provisions).

Licensing (§§ 1 & 2)

The act generally requires data brokers who sell or license brokered data in the state on or after January 1, 2027, to be actively registered with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP).

Under the act, “brokered personal data” is one or more of the following personal data elements concerning a consumer, if categorized or organized for sale or license to a third party:

1. name;
2. address;
3. birthday;
4. birthplace;
5. mother’s maiden name;
6. unique biometric data (a) generated from measurement or technical analysis of a human body characteristic, including a fingerprint, retina, iris image, or other unique physical or digital representation of biometric data, and (b) used by the owner or licensee to identify or authenticate the consumer;
7. name or address of a consumer’s immediate family or household member;
8. Social Security number or other government-issued identification number; or
9. other information that, alone or in combination with the other information sold or licensed, would allow a reasonable person to identify the consumer with reasonable certainty.

These data brokers must submit to DCP, as the commissioner requires, an application for an initial registration with a \$2,500 initial registration fee. The initial registration expires on December 31 of the year it is issued and may be renewed for successive one-year terms. The renewal application must be made in the same way as an initial application and with a \$2,500 renewal fee. All these fees are deposited in the data broker registration account the act establishes (see below).

All applications must include:

1. the applicant’s name, mailing address, and an actively monitored email address and telephone number;
2. the applicant’s primary website address;
3. a publicly accessible webpage address on the applicant’s primary website that (a) does not make use of any dark pattern (a user interface designed with the substantial effect of subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or choice) and (b) details how a consumer may exercise each of their rights under the Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA, see BACKGROUND);
4. whether the applicant collects (a) minors’ personal data or (b) consumers’ precise geolocation data or reproductive or sexual health data;
5. the measures the applicant must take to ensure that no personal data is sold or licensed in violation of the act’s data broker provisions and the CTDPA;
6. if, and to what extent, the applicant or any of its subsidiaries is regulated under the (a) Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.); (b) Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. § 6801 et seq.) and its regulations; (c) state’s Insurance Data Security Law (CGS § 38a-38); or (d) privacy, security, and breach notification rules issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164);
7. for renewals submitted on or after July 1, 2029, the statement the applicant most recently posted on the publicly accessible webpage listed above (see § 6 below);
8. for renewals submitted on or after July 1, 2031, (a) whether the applicant has undergone an audit as required by the act (see § 5 below) and (b) if so, the most recent audit report and related materials; and
9. any other information the DCP commissioner requires.

The act also allows DCP to approve and renew a data broker registration under the terms of an agreement between the department and the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System.

Prohibition on Selling Personal Data (§ 3)

The act prohibits data brokers from selling or licensing any personal data in violation of the act’s data broker provisions and the CTDPA. Each registered data broker must have a privacy policy that at least includes measures to ensure compliance with this prohibition.

Deletion Mechanism (§ 5)

The act requires the DCP commissioner, by July 1, 2028, to establish an accessible deletion mechanism program. The program must have an accessible deletion mechanism that:

1. allows a consumer for whom a registered data broker has collected personal data to (a) submit a free deletion

request, in a commissioner-prescribed verifiable way and in any language a consumer speaks, to have all registered data brokers and data service providers delete their personal data and (b) specifically exclude one or more registered data brokers, and all applicable data service providers, from the deletion request (PA 26-100, §§ 39-43, removes data service providers from these requirements and instead requires these deletion requests to be in English, Spanish, and any language spoken by at least 1% of the state's population according to the last decennial census);

2. allows a consumer to (a) securely submit additional personal data (including a driver's license) to help process the deletion request, (b) check the deletion request status, and (c) submit updates to the verified deletion request no more than once in any 45-day period (PA 26-100, § 40, instead requires the mechanism to allow consumers to submit sufficient information to establish state residency, instead of their license);
3. allows a registered data broker to determine whether a consumer has specifically excluded the broker and the broker's data service providers from the deletion request or any update;
4. prohibits a registered data broker that accesses the deletion mechanism for determining whether it has been excluded to access any additional personal data through the deletion mechanism;
5. is readily accessible and usable by consumers with disabilities;
6. incorporates reasonable security safeguards, including administrative, physical, and technical safeguards, to protect consumers' personal data from any unauthorized use, disclosure, access, destruction, or modification through the deletion mechanism; and
7. gives consumers, in a readily understandable way, (a) a description of what is considered personal data and may be deleted if requested, (b) an explanation of the deletion request process, and (c) a description of the actions the act requires for brokers to delete personal data.

If a consumer submits his or her driver's license number to the commissioner to verify the deletion request or update it, the commissioner must only use the number for that purpose. He must not share, store, or retain the number (PA 26-100, § 40, removes the restriction against sharing, storing, or retaining the number).

Each deletion or update request is confidential and is not deemed a public request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Verification

Beginning on August 15, 2028, the DCP commissioner or his authorized agent must verify that the consumer actually submitted the deletion request or update by using submitted information and then update the deletion mechanism and inform each registered broker that accesses the mechanism that the request or update has been verified.

If the commissioner or his authorized agent cannot verify the request or update, then they must specify that all registered data brokers and their data service providers that are not specifically excluded from the unverified deletion request or update (1) may retain any personal data on the consumer and (2) must process the unverified deletion request or update as an exercise of the consumer's rights under the CTDPA to opt-out of personal data processes for certain purposes, such as targeted advertisement.

Broker Deletion Requirements

Beginning October 1, 2028, each registered data broker must access the accessible deletion mechanism at least once every 45 days to examine each deletion request or update to determine whether the broker and its data service providers are specifically excluded from that request or update.

For each verified deletion request or update that does not specifically exclude the broker and its data service providers, the broker must generally delete any personal data it maintains on the consumer and direct all data service providers with any of the consumer's personal data held on the broker's behalf to also do so. (PA 26-100, § 40, requires brokers to maintain personal data if required to comply with this act's provisions, but restricts them from using it for any other purposes.)

For each unverified deletion request or update that does not specifically exclude the broker and its data service providers, the broker must (1) retain any personal data the broker has about the consumer and (2) process the unverified deletion request or update, and direct all of its data service providers to process the unverified request or update, as an exercise of the consumer's rights under the CTDPA to opt-out of personal data processes for certain purposes.

The act also generally requires brokers, at least once every 45 days after it first deletes a participating consumer's personal data, to repeat the act's required actions for a verified request or update. Brokers do not have to do this if the:

1. broker verifies that the participating consumer submitted a verified update to a verified deletion request and
2. verified update specifically excludes the broker and all its data service providers from the updated deletion request.

Allowable DCP Fee

The act allows the DCP commissioner to impose a fee on each registered data broker that accesses the accessible deletion mechanism to perform its duties after a deletion request or update. The commissioner determines the fee amount, but it must not exceed the cost of providing the service. Collected fees must be deposited in the data broker registration account the act establishes (see below).

Subsequently Acquired Data Prohibition

The act generally prohibits, beginning October 1, 2028, registered data brokers and their data service providers that delete a participating consumer's personal data from maintaining, using, or disclosing any personal data they subsequently acquire about the participating consumer.

Excepted Circumstances

Under the act, a registered data broker who maintains a participating consumer's personal data and its data service providers do not have to delete a consumer's personal data, and may maintain, use, or disclose it, when it is reasonably necessary to:

1. comply with any federal, state, or municipal law, ordinance, or regulation;
2. comply with any civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by any federal, state, municipal, or other governmental authority;
3. cooperate with any law enforcement agency about any conduct or activity that the registered data broker or data service provider reasonably and in good faith believes may violate any federal, state, or municipal law, ordinance, or regulation;
4. investigate, establish, exercise, prepare for, or defend any legal claim;
5. provide any product or service the participating consumer specifically requests;
6. perform any contract where the participating consumer is a party, including fulfilling written warranty terms;
7. take any step at the participating consumer's request to enter a contract;
8. take any immediate step to protect any interest that is essential for the life or physical safety of the participating consumer or another person;
9. prevent, detect, protect against, or respond to any security incident, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activity, or any illegal activity; preserve the integrity or security of any system; or investigate, report, or prosecute those responsible for these actions;
10. engage in any public or peer-reviewed scientific or statistical research in the public interest that follows all other applicable ethics and privacy laws and is approved, monitored, and governed by an institutional review board that determines, or has a similar independent oversight entity that determines, that (a) maintaining the participating consumer's personal data is likely to provide substantial benefits that do not exclusively benefit the registered data broker or data service provider, (b) the expected benefits of the research outweigh the privacy risks, and (c) the broker or data service provider has implemented reasonable safeguards to mitigate privacy risks associated with the research;
11. help any other person in performing any obligation imposed by the act's data broker provisions;
12. do internal research to develop, improve, or repair any product, service, or technology;
13. carry out a product recall;
14. identify and repair any technical error that impairs existing or intended functionality; or
15. perform internal operations that are reasonably aligned with the expectations the participating consumer had, or reasonably anticipated, based on the consumer's existing relationship with the broker.

The act generally prohibits registered data brokers or their data service providers from maintaining, using, or disclosing the participating consumer's personal data for any other purpose.

Audit

The act generally requires, beginning July 1, 2031, and every three years after, registered data brokers to:

1. have an independent auditor audit their books to determine their compliance with the act's deletion mechanism requirements, prepare an audit report disclosing the results, and submit the report and any associated materials to the broker; and
2. maintain each audit report and associated materials for at least six years from when they are submitted to the

broker.

The act generally requires a registered data broker to submit the audit report and the materials to DCP within five business days after the department sends notice to the broker it must do so.

DCP Contract for Implementation

The act allows the DCP commissioner to contract with one or more public or private entities (1) for any services needed to implement these provisions or (2) to run the accessible deletion mechanism program or a multistate accessible deletion mechanism.

DCP Website (§ 4)

The act requires the DCP commissioner to make, and periodically update, a webpage on the department's website that (1) discloses, for each registered data broker, the information in the broker's most recent approved application and (2) provides access to the accessible deletion mechanism established by the commissioner.

Data Broker Website Disclosures (§ 6)

The act generally requires, by July 1, 2029, each business that was a registered data broker during the prior calendar year to annually post, in a commissioner-prescribed way and on a publicly accessible webpage on the business's primary website, a statement disclosing the following information:

1. the total number of deletion requests, including any updates, that the business accessed during the prior year and that did not specifically exclude the business and its data service providers;
2. the total number of deletion requests to which the business responded by (a) deleting personal data, (b) retaining personal data, or (c) deleting some and retaining other personal data; and
3. if the business responded to one or more deletion requests by retaining personal data, the total number of the deletion requests for which it kept personal data based on the (a) excepted circumstances listed above or (b) exemptions listed below.

Exemptions (§ 7)

The act's data broker provisions do not apply to:

1. a consumer reporting agency, a person who furnishes information to a consumer reporting agency, or a user of a consumer report, to the extent that they engage in activities that are subject to regulation under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.);
2. a financial institution, an affiliate, or a nonaffiliated third party, to the extent they engage in activities that are subject to regulation under Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. § 6801 et seq.) and its regulations;
3. a business that collects information about a consumer if the consumer is or was (a) in a contractual relationship with the business, (b) an investor in or donor to the business, or (c) in any relationship with the business that is like the relationships above;
4. a business that performs services or acts as the agent for a business where the consumer has a previous relationship, as described above, or a governmental entity;
5. a business collecting data to regulate certain federally listed chemicals (21 U.S.C. § 830);
6. a candidate committee, national committee, party committee, or political committee; and
7. a covered entity or business associate under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations (for example, health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers).

(PA 26-100, § 42, further exempts (1) personal data collected, processed, sold, or disclosed in compliance with the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 (18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq.) and (2) protected health information under HIPAA.)

The act specifies that its data broker provisions do not prohibit an unregistered data broker from engaging in any sale or licensing of brokered personal data if it exclusively involves:

1. publicly available information that is (a) about a consumer's business or profession; (b) sold or licensed as part of a service that provides alerts for health or safety purposes; or (c) lawfully available from any federal, state, or local government record, unless the information is collated and combined to create a consumer profile that is made available to a user of a publicly accessible website, or used to generate inferences related to consumers;
2. giving digital access to any (a) journal, book, periodical, newspaper, magazine, or news media, or (b) educational,

- academic, or instructional work;
- 3. developing or maintaining an electronic commerce service or software;
- 4. providing directory assistance or information services as, or on behalf of, a telecommunications carrier; or
- 5. a one-time or occasional disposition of the assets of a business, or any portion of a business, as part of a transfer of control over the business's assets that is not part of the business's ordinary conduct.

Data Broker Registration Account (§ 8)

The act establishes the data broker registration account as a separate, nonlapsing account. The account must contain any money the law requires and the DCP commissioner must spend the money for the accessible deletion mechanism program.

Regulations (§ 9)

The act allows the DCP commissioner to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

Penalty (§ 10)

The act allows the DCP commissioner, after giving notice and holding a hearing following the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, to impose a civil penalty of up to \$200 per day for each violation of the act's data broker provisions. Any civil penalty collected must be deposited into the data broker registration account. (PA 26-100, § 43, specifies that the civil penalty is per day per consumer.)

§ 11 — PRICING USING CONSUMER PERSONAL DATA

Generally (1) prohibits retailers or third-party delivery services from using surveillance pricing (establishing a customized price for a consumer good or service that is consumer-specific based on the consumer's personal data collected) and (2) requires anyone doing business in the state who uses a price setting device (automated process using a consumer's personal data to set a price) to advertise a consumer good or service online to provide a disclosure that a device was used in pricing

Surveillance Pricing

The act generally prohibits a retail seller or third-party delivery service doing business in the state from using surveillance pricing. (PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11, replaces these provisions with similar language but modifies and adds additional instances when something is not considered surveillance pricing and someone is not subject to these provisions and delays the effective date until July 1, 2027.)

Under this act, a "retail seller" is a retailer subject to the sales and use tax when making retail sales of tangible personal property, including a retail food establishment. A "third-party delivery service" is a company, organization, or entity, outside a retail food establishment's business operation, that facilitates delivery or online ordering services to retail food establishment customers.

"Surveillance pricing" is the practice of setting a customized price for a consumer good or service that is consumer-specific (or also a group of consumers under PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11) based on the consumer's personal data collected:

1. through any technology or technological method, system, or tool, including any biometric monitoring, camera, device tracking, or sensor, that is capable of gathering personal data on a consumer's behavior, characteristics, location, or other personal attributes (PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11, modifies, but generally maintains this definition); and
2. by the person establishing the customized price by gathering, purchasing, or acquiring the personal data from a third party.

It does not include establishing for, or offering to:

1. a consumer a discounted price for a consumer service to retain the consumer as a customer (PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11, expands this to include re-establishing, attracting, cross-selling to, or reengaging customers);
2. different consumers different prices for the same consumer good or service due to (a) justifiable differences in the costs incurred in providing the good or service, including differences in consumer selections, delivery distances,

or delivery times (and consumers' physical locations under PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11), or (b) justifiable temporal differences, including temporal differences due to price fluctuations based on supply and demand; or

3. a consumer or group of consumers a discounted price for a consumer good or service (a) based on publicly disclosed uniform terms and conditions (and publicly disclosed discounted prices under PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11) that may be satisfied by any consumer, including by signing up for a mailing list, disclosing personal data (PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11, eliminates the personal data disclosure provision), registering for promotional communications, or participating in a promotional event; (b) that is available to all consumers who are members of a broadly defined group, including veterans or armed forces members, senior citizens, students, teachers, or residents of a specific area; or (c) through a loyalty, membership, or rewards program that consumers affirmatively enroll in.

(Under PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11, surveillance pricing also does not include correcting a price from a pricing error or resetting a price after a system or network outage.)

For discounted prices, the retail seller or third-party delivery service must (1) prominently post the discounted price, and the uniform terms and conditions for the discounted price, on the retail seller's or third-party delivery service's website in readily understandable language for an average consumer and (2) offer the discounted price to all consumers according to the posted uniform terms and conditions (PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11, eliminates the second requirement).

Price Setting Device Disclosure

The act generally requires anyone doing business in the state who uses a price setting device (any automated or programmed process that uses a consumer's personal data to set a price) and advertises or promotes a consumer good or service online with its price, to include in the online advertisement, promotion, label, statement, display, image, offer, or announcement the following disclosure, or a substantially similar disclosure: "THIS PRICE WAS INCREASED BY A PRICE SETTING DEVICE USING YOUR PERSONAL DATA." This disclosure must be readily visible to the average consumer.

This requirement does not apply to those using a device to establish a discounted price for a consumer good or service for an online transaction.

(PA 26-100, § 44, as amended by PA 26-130, § 11, replaces these provisions with similar language, which, among other things, eliminates the requirement that the business use a price setting device and instead requires the disclosure when the business engages in surveillance pricing. That act also requires those required to provide this disclosure to also disclose to consumers their rights under the CTDPA, such as their right to opt out of certain consumer data processing.)

Exemptions

The act specifies that the price setting disclosure and surveillance pricing provisions do not apply to:

1. anyone who is or must be licensed, authorized to operate, or registered under the state's insurance laws;
2. any financial institution or its affiliate, to the extent they are subject to Title V of the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. § 6801); or
3. any bank, holding company, out-of-state bank, or out-of-state holding company, that establishes an office in the state and is subject to the banking commissioner's supervision or regulation.

(PA 26-130 eliminates the second and third exemptions and instead exempts any person who can demonstrate that refusing to extend credit, the terms, rates, or pricing on which any credit or financial services are extended or any refusal to enter into a transaction with a specific consumer is based on (1) data provided in a consumer report covered by the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.), or (2) data reflecting factors a creditor is allowed to consider under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. § 1691 et seq.) or its related regulations.)

The act deems violations of these provisions a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violation solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

§§ 12-16 — CTDPA

Modifies what is considered publicly available information for CTDPA purposes and allows consumers to delete certain information that is made into a profile; limits the use of facial recognition technology to matching still images or video to a database and requires certain signage, among other requirements; prohibits controllers and third parties from selling precise geolocation data

Publicly Available Information (§§ 12 & 13)

Under existing law, publicly available information is not “personal data” and is therefore not subject to the CTDPA (see BACKGROUND).

The act modifies what is considered publicly available information. Under prior law, as amended by PA 25-113, which went into effect July 1, 2026, “publicly available information” was, with some exceptions, information that (1) was lawfully available from federal, state, or municipal government records or (2) a controller has a reasonable basis to believe the consumer lawfully made available to the general public or was lawfully made available to the general public from widely distributed media.

The act expands what is considered publicly available information:

1. by removing the requirement that governmental records be lawfully made available, and instead just requires their availability;
2. to include all data from a widely distributed media, regardless of whether the information was made available lawfully, rather than only when the controller reasonably believes information has been lawfully made available from widely distributed media; and
3. to include when processors and a controller’s and processor’s affiliates have a reasonable basis to believe the information was lawfully made available to the general public. (Existing law already includes when a controller has reasonable basis to believe a consumer has lawfully made the information available to the general public.)

Prior law had various exemptions to what is considered publicly available data, including biometric data that can be associated with a specific consumer and was collected without the consumer’s consent. The act instead exempts biometric data a business collects about a consumer without his or her knowledge.

The act also adds the following exemptions:

1. obscene visual depictions;
2. personal data created by combining any personal data with any publicly available information;
3. genetic data, unless the consumer makes it publicly available;
4. information a consumer provides on a publicly accessible website or online service where the (a) website or online service is made available to the general public and (b) consumer has a reasonable expectation of privacy in the information, including by restricting the information to a specific audience; or
5. intimate images or synthetically created intimate images known to be nonconsensual, as defined under the state’s unlawful dissemination of an intimate or synthetic image laws.

The act gives a consumer the right to delete publicly available information that is (1) collated and combined to create a consumer profile that is made available to a publicly accessible website’s user for compensation or for free or (2) made available for sale. This right also includes deleting any inference generated from this information.

Facial Recognition Technology (§§ 12 & 16)

The act generally requires controllers or consumer health data controllers that use facial recognition technology on their premises for certain purposes to:

1. exclusively use the facial recognition technology to match still images or video to a database they exclusively control and
2. post clearly legible signs at each entrance where the technology is used, other than entrances where access is restricted to authorized employees.

The signs must (1) alert consumers entering the premises that facial recognition technology is being used and (2) include a conspicuous hyperlink or quick response (QR) code that directs consumers to the facial recognition technology policy the controller or consumer health data controller maintains. This policy must include contact information for the attorney general’s office and may disclose the controller’s or consumer health data controller’s policies on interactions between their loss prevention officers and consumers.

These provisions apply to controllers or data controllers that use the facial recognition technology to prevent, detect, protect against, or respond to security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities, or any

illegal activity; preserve the integrity or security of systems; or investigate, report, or prosecute those responsible for these actions.

(PA 26-100, § 45, also exempts controllers or consumer health data controllers from these requirements if a consumer consents to the use of facial recognition technology in a commercial transaction.)

Precise Geolocation (§§ 14 & 15)

The act generally prohibits controllers and third parties from selling a consumer's precise geolocation data. This does not apply to communications content, or any data generated by or connected to advanced utility metering infrastructure systems or equipment a utility uses.

Under existing law, certain controllers are generally prohibited from collecting a minor's precise geolocation and must, when collecting this data, give the minor a signal that the collection is happening. It is also considered sensitive data that a controller may not process without consumer consent or, if the consumer is younger than age 13, the minor's parent or guardian's consent.

§§ 17-19 — DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER GENETIC TESTING

Gives consumers a property right and exclusive control over biological samples they give to a direct-to-consumer genetic testing company and their results; requires these companies to disclose certain policies and procedures to consumers and get a consumer's consent for various uses of their genetic data; deems violations as CUTPA violations

The act gives consumers a property right and exclusive control over:

1. their biological samples (material from a person's body known to contain DNA including tissue, blood, urine, and saliva) that are given to or used by a direct-to-consumer genetic testing company and
2. results from genetic testing by these companies on their DNA.

This includes the right of control over the collection, use, retention, maintenance, disclosure, and destruction of a consumer's biological sample and results. The act requires direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies to conduct their business and affairs consistent with these rights.

Additionally, the act requires these companies to (1) disclose certain policies and procedures to consumers and (2) get a consumer's consent for various uses of their genetic data. The act prohibits companies from disclosing the results of genetic testing on a consumer's DNA to anyone other than the consumer unless the consumer expressly consents to it or the disclosure is under a court order, warrant, or subpoena.

The act also requires companies to have security procedures and certain processes to let consumers take certain actions, such as revoking consent.

Violations of the act's genetic testing provisions are deemed a CUTPA violation solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Scope of the Act

Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing Companies. The act applies to "direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies," which are individuals or entities that, in the ordinary course of business in Connecticut, offer genetic testing directly to a consumer or collect, use, or analyze genetic data given by a consumer. These are not licensed health care services providers who, within the scope of their practice, order genetic testing for a medical purpose.

Genetic Testing. Under the act, "genetic testing" is (1) a lab test of a person's complete DNA sequence or a DNA region, chromosome, gene, or gene product to determine the presence or absence of a genetic characteristic and (2) an interpretation of genetic data.

Genetic Data. "Genetic data" is data in any format about an individual's genetic characteristics. It includes:

1. raw sequence data that results from sequencing all or part of a person's DNA;
2. genotypic (a person's unique sequence of DNA) or phenotypic (a person's observable characteristics) information from analyzing raw sequence data; and
3. information that (a) is about a person's health condition, (b) the person gives the company, or (c) the company analyzes related to raw sequence data and uses for scientific research or product development.

It does not include de-identified data, which is data that cannot reasonably be used to infer information about, or be linked to, an individual as long as the company that has the data (1) takes administrative and technical steps to make sure it cannot be associated with an individual, (2) publicly commits to have and use it only in de-identified form and does not re-

identify it, and (3) contractually obligates any recipient of the data to do the same.

Policy Disclosures

The act requires companies to:

1. disclose their policies and procedures on the collection, use, and disclosure of genetic data before taking a consumer's biological sample, genetic data, or payment and
2. prominently display a privacy notice on their websites with their policies and procedures on the collection, use, access, disclosure, transfer, security, retention, and deletion of a consumer's data and consent.

Consent Requirements

Collecting, Using, or Disclosing Genetic Data. The act requires companies to get a consumer's express consent to collect, use, or disclose the consumer's genetic data. Before doing so, companies must disclose to the consumer:

1. their policies and procedures on using consumers' genetic data they collect;
2. each person who may access the results of genetic testing they perform, including vendors or service providers; and
3. how the company may disclose the consumer's genetic data.

Express consent under the act requires the consumer to affirmatively respond to a clear, meaningful, and prominent notice about collecting, using, retaining, or disclosing the consumer's genetic data for a specific purpose.

Transferring Genetic Data, Using It for Other Purposes, and Retaining Samples. The act requires a company to get a separate express consent before:

1. disclosing or transferring genetic data to anyone other than a vendor or service provider,
2. using the genetic data for any purpose other than the primary purpose the company gave to the consumer, or
3. keeping a consumer's biological sample after completing genetic testing.

Research Purposes. The act requires a company to get the consumer's informed consent in compliance with federal regulations on human subjects to disclose or transfer genetic data to a third party for research purposes or research done under the company's control for publication or generalized knowledge.

Prohibited Disclosures

The act prohibits a company from disclosing a consumer's genetic data to:

1. the consumer's employer;
2. someone who in the ordinary course of business offers health, life, or long-term care insurance or provides information to an insurer, health care center, or fraternal benefit society for underwriting or rating risks; or
3. a third party the company knows or reasonably should know intends to use it for marketing, including targeted advertising.

Security and Company Procedures

The act requires companies to have reasonable security measures to protect consumers' biological samples and genetic data from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure. It also requires companies to have procedures that allow consumers to:

1. access their genetic data;
2. require the company to (a) delete their genetic data or (b) destroy, and confirm destruction of, their biological samples; and
3. revoke consent for using their genetic data for research, including by a third party.

§ 20 — ADVERTISEMENT VOLUME WHEN STREAMING

Prohibits a streaming video service from transmitting to a consumer commercial advertising audio that is louder than the video it accompanies, consistent with FCC regulations; makes violations a CUTPA violation, solely enforced by the attorney general

Beginning January 1, 2027, the act prohibits a streaming video service from transmitting to a consumer the audio of commercial advertising with a volume that is louder than the video content that accompanies the commercial advertisement,

consistent with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations for television broadcasts or multichannel video programming distributors (such as cable operators or satellite providers who provide multiple channels of video programs to subscribers or customers) (see *FCC Regulations* below). (PA 26-100, § 58, modifies the “streaming video services” definition to apply it to a person (individual or entity) who provides programming or content, rather than a service.)

The act makes violations of its streaming provisions a CUTPA violation solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

BACKGROUND

CTDPA

The CTDPA, among other things:

1. sets a framework for controlling and processing personal data,
2. sets responsibilities and privacy protection standards for data controllers (those that determine the purpose and means of processing personal data) and processors (those that process data for a controller), and
3. generally applies to individuals (1) doing business in Connecticut or producing products or services targeted to state residents and (2) controlling or processing personal data of numbers of consumers above specified thresholds during the previous calendar year.

FCC Regulations

FCC regulations generally require television stations, cable operators, satellite providers, and certain others to have commercial advertising at a similar volume to the programming it accompanies. It deems a provider in compliance when using certain equipment and methods and includes various safe harbor provisions (47 C.F.R. §§ 73.682 & 76.607).

In February 2025, the FCC began a rulemaking process to consider updating its commercial loudness rules, including whether to apply them to streaming platforms (FCC-25-16, Docket No. 25-72).

PA 26-98—sSB 116

General Law Committee

Appropriations Committee

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SUMMARY: Beginning January 1, 2027, this act requires owners or operators of hotels, motels, inns, or similar lodgings to annually register with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). An initial registration expires on December 31 of the year it is issued. The initial and renewal registration fee is \$50 for each of the owner’s or operator’s hotels, motels, inns, or similar lodgings with less than 15 guest rooms and \$200 for each with 15 or more guest rooms.

The act allows DCP to determine how registration occurs, but a registration application must include the:

1. name, business address, phone number, and email address of the owner or operator and main contact person and
2. address of each of the owner’s or operator’s hotels, motels, inns, or similar lodgings.

The application must also include any other related information DCP requires and information showing the owner’s or operator’s compliance with the laws that:

1. require them to keep records of guest transactions and receipts,
2. require them to train new employees and provide them with ongoing awareness campaigns about recognizing potential human trafficking victims and activities commonly associated with human trafficking (operators must certify that employees received this training in their personnel files),
3. prohibit them from offering or providing financial discounts or benefits based on an hourly rate or occupancy for up to 12 hours, and
4. require them to post a notice in a conspicuous location about services for human trafficking victims and anti-trafficking telephone hotlines.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the act authorizes DCP to examine, copy, audit, and enter locations to access owner or operator records to ensure compliance with the laws described above. It also allows DCP to impose a \$1,000 civil penalty per violation, up to \$5,000 in a calendar year, for violations of the laws described above on record keeping, training, and financial discounts. It increases the civil penalty for hotels, motels, inns, and similar lodgings violating the notice posting

law to this same amount, in place of the prior civil penalty which continues to apply to others violating the notice posting law (\$100 for a first violation and \$250 for a subsequent violation).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Related Act

PA 26-26, § 7, requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to develop and provide a mandatory training program for its employees about human trafficking and how to interact with victims.

PA 26-70 also includes a DCF training requirement and a number of other changes related to preventing and responding to human trafficking.

PA 26-100—sHB 5222

General Law Committee

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANNABIS, DATA PRIVACY, FIRE INSPECTIONS, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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[§§ 1 & 8 — INTERIOR DESIGNER CONTINUING EDUCATION](#)

Eliminates registered interior designer continuing education requirements

[§§ 2-4 — LICENSING PERIOD AND FEES FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS](#)

Extends the licensing period for professional engineers and land surveyors from one to two years and correspondingly increases licensing fees; eliminates the renewal category for retired professionals

[§ 5 — COMPLETING REAL ESTATE LICENSURE EXAM](#)

Generally requires applicants for a real estate broker or salesperson license to successfully complete the required final exam for the license within two years of applying for the license

[§ 6 — SCOPE OF PLUMBING AND PIPING WORK](#)

Expands the definition of plumbing and piping work to include work related to alternative fuels and petroleum-based products

[§ 7 — TRADE BUSINESSES DESIGNATING A CONTRACTOR OF RECORD](#)

Requires a business that provides certain trade services to designate someone to serve as its contractor of record

[§ 9 — HOMEMAKER COMPANION AGENCY EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS](#)

Specifies that a state and national, rather than local and national, criminal records check is required for homemaker companion agency employees

[§ 10 — ADULTERATED OR MISBRANDED FOOD](#)

Broadly extends to establishments certain provisions on adulterated or misbranded food in vending machines and specifically allows DCP to prohibit establishments from selling adulterated or misbranded food until the conditions are remedied

§ 11 — DONATION BIN LABELS

Requires donation bins in public places that are for charities to include the charity's DCP registration number

§§ 12 & 69 — APARTMENT LISTING SERVICES

Eliminates provisions on apartment listing services

§§ 13-21 & 69 — GUARANTY FUNDS

Transfers responsibility for the Real Estate Guaranty Fund to DCP; specifies when interest accrues on awards from various funds; requires an applicant for an award from the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund to state that he or she made a good faith effort to collect what is owed before receiving a fund payment

§ 22 — OUT-OF-STATE SHIPPERS' PERMITS

Defines "retailer" for the purposes of certain out-of-state shippers' permits

§§ 23 & 24 — PLACARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN LIQUOR PERMITTEES

Limits the requirement that certain alcoholic liquor permit applications describe the live entertainment provided to those allowing on-premises consumption; makes a clarifying change related to amending existing entertainment; exempts café permits in airports from the placarding requirements

§ 25 — AGE STATEMENT FORM RELIEVING PERMITTEE OF CERTAIN LIABILITY

Requires alcoholic liquor permittees or backers who get an age statement form from a customer whose age is in question to have acted reasonably in serving or providing alcohol to the person in order to not be liable for serving a minor

§ 26 — BABY FOOD PRODUCTS

Beginning January 1, 2028, prohibits making, selling, or distributing a baby food product containing toxic heavy metal amounts above FDA limits; requires product testing and labeling

§§ 27 & 28 — USED MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTIES

Extends the statutory used vehicle warranty requirements to all vehicles that are less than 10 years old, regardless of price, rather than those that cost \$3,000 or more or are less than seven years old; requires these vehicles to have the required express warranty for at least 60 days or 3,000 miles, whichever ends first

§ 29 — TASK FORCE ON DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DIET PILLS

Establishes a task force to study the sale of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills

§§ 30-32 — ENTERTAINMENT EVENT TICKETS

Makes numerous changes related to entertainment event ticketing

§ 33 — ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Expands the requirements for e-cigarette dealer registrations and the circumstances in which DCP may deny a registration; authorizes the DCP commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each ENDS or vapor product sold in violation of the dealer registration law, requires these products to be deemed a common nuisance, and subjects them to seizure by police

§§ 34-36 — MOLD REMEDIATION

Requires HICs that perform mold remediation to hold a certification and make certain attestations about training; requires them to perform mold remediation according to certain industry standards

§ 37 — INFORMATION ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AFTER CATASTROPHIC LOSS

Requires DCP, within available appropriations, to make information available online for homeowners who have suffered catastrophic loss and are seeking professional help

§ 38 — THIRD-PARTY FINANCING VETERINARY SERVICES

Clarifies when veterinary providers can offer third-party financing in service areas of their facilities

§§ 39-43 — DATA BROKERS

Replaces the provisions in PA 26-64 with substantially similar provisions, but eliminates the data service provider requirements; makes minor changes to the deletion mechanism program; adds additional exemptions; and specifies the civil penalty is per consumer

§§ 44 & 66 — SURVEILLANCE PRICING

Generally prohibits retailers and third-party delivery services from using surveillance pricing for in-person transactions; requires online businesses that use surveillance pricing to increase the price of consumer goods or services to specifically disclose that; deems violations CUTPA violations

§§ 45 & 66 — FACIAL RECOGNITION

Exempts controllers or consumer health data controllers from the facial recognition requirements in PA 26-64, § 16, if a consumer consents to the use of facial recognition technology in a commercial transaction

§§ 46 & 67 — PREREQUISITES FOR GENERATIVE AI SYSTEM SUBSCRIPTIONS

Requires subscription-based providers of generative AI systems with more than a million monthly users, rather than AI technology, to give consumers a written notice of the subscription's key terms and conditions before entering or renewing a subscription

§§ 47 & 67 — DCP PILOT PROGRAM FOR ASSESSING AI MODELS USING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION PROGRAMS

Eliminates the requirement under PA 26-15, § 33, that DCP enter into a MOU with each independent verification organization applicant to ensure compliance with state laws on AI and data privacy and instead requires the applicant to perform substantially similar functions; modifies certain program application requirements; and lengthens the pilot program duration and delays the start date

§ 48 — STATEWIDE CANNABIS, HEMP AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT BOARD

Amends PA 26-8 by adding back the Social Equity Council's executive director to the Statewide Cannabis, Hemp, and Controlled Substances Enforcement Board and allowing the board to discuss certain enforcement actions in executive session and exempting those records from FOIA

§§ 49 & 56 — "CANNABIS" DEFINITION

Eliminates a provision in PA 26-8 that exempted CBN, CBG, CBC, or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp as being cannabis

§§ 50-52 & 68 — CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

Modifies a provision in PA 26-8 by (1) making a review mandatory, once requested; (2) allowing, after the review, the council to refer an equity joint venture to DCP for enforcement action; and (3) changing certain deadlines; also adds provisions that (1) prohibit social equity applicants from entering into certain agreements that may limit control and (2) require annual reporting and recordkeeping by certain cannabis establishments that get approval from the council

§ 53 — PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

Requires cannabis testing laboratories to perform real-time uploads to the prescription drug monitoring program and makes a conforming change

§§ 54 & 68 — CANNABIS FLOWER THC LIMIT

Reverts back to existing law by eliminating a provision in PA 26-8 that eliminated the cap on THC for cannabis flower

§§ 55 & 57 — CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes several clarifying, conforming, and technical changes to implement PA 26-8

§ 58 — ADVERTISEMENT VOLUME WHEN STREAMING

Modifies the “streaming video services” definition to apply it to a person (individual or entity) who provides programming or content, rather than a service, as under PA 26-64, § 20

§ 59 — 30-DAY CREDIT LIMIT

Prohibits a cannabis establishment from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from a cannabis testing laboratory

§§ 60 & 61 — RISK-BASED RESIDENTIAL FIRE INSPECTION PILOT PROGRAM AND WORKING GROUP

Requires the state fire marshal to create a two-year risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program to improve the scheduling, documentation, and prioritization of fire inspections of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families; creates a working group to advise her on developing and implementing the pilot program

§ 62 — JUICE BAR RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Imposes new restrictions on juice bars and requirements on cafe permittees, including allowing local ordinances to prohibit or regulate juice bar operations

§§ 63 & 64 — CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Expands the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree criminal mischief to broadly include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems

§ 65 — REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE BY HOTEL AND MOTEL OPERATORS

Requires up to \$250,000 appropriated to the attorney general for FY 27 be transferred to DCP for the costs of registering and ensuring compliance by hotel and motel operators, among others

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§§ 1 & 8 — INTERIOR DESIGNER CONTINUING EDUCATION

Eliminates registered interior designer continuing education requirements

The act eliminates (1) the requirement that registered interior designers complete four hours of continuing education every three years on the state building and fire safety codes and (2) related recordkeeping provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 2-4 — LICENSING PERIOD AND FEES FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

Extends the licensing period for professional engineers and land surveyors from one to two years and correspondingly increases licensing fees; eliminates the renewal category for retired professionals

The act extends the licensing period for professional engineers and land surveyors from one to two years. Correspondingly, it increases the (1) initial licensing fee for one of these licenses or a combined license from \$220 to \$440 and (2) license renewal fee from \$285 to \$570. The act eliminates the option for licensees aged 65 and over who no longer practice the profession to renew their license for a \$60 annual fee.

The act also increases the reciprocal licensing fee for a professional engineer, land surveyor, or combined license for a

person with a comparable license from another jurisdiction from \$190 to \$380.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 5 — COMPLETING REAL ESTATE LICENSURE EXAM

Generally requires applicants for a real estate broker or salesperson license to successfully complete the required final exam for the license within two years of applying for the license

The act requires applicants for a real estate broker or salesperson license to successfully complete the required final exam for the license within two years of applying for the license unless the Real Estate Commission grants a hardship extension on the applicant's written request.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 6 — SCOPE OF PLUMBING AND PIPING WORK

Expands the definition of plumbing and piping work to include work related to alternative fuels and petroleum-based products

For purposes of licensing, the act expands what is considered plumbing and piping work. Under existing law, among other things, this work includes installing, repairing, replacing, altering, maintaining, inspecting, or testing gas, water, and associated fixtures, tubing, and piping mains and certain branch lines. The act also includes these activities related to alternative fuels and petroleum-based products.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — TRADE BUSINESSES DESIGNATING A CONTRACTOR OF RECORD

Requires a business that provides certain trade services to designate someone to serve as its contractor of record

The act requires a business that provides certain trade services to designate someone to serve as its contractor of record. This applies to businesses such as those providing services requiring licensed electricians; plumbers; solar, heating, piping, and cooling contractors and journeymen; elevator and fire protection sprinkler craftsmen; irrigation contractors and journeymen; gas hearth installer contractors and journeymen; and residential stair lift technicians.

Under the act, the contractor of record must be:

1. licensed and in good standing to perform work or services provided by the business;
2. one of the business's owners or direct employees (someone whose work is subject to the business's control; has compensation reported on a federal Form W-2; and is not an independent contractor, subcontractor, or consultant);
3. regularly engaged in the business when it is providing work or services requiring licensure; and
4. responsible for acting on the business's behalf to get building permits for the business.

A person who is a direct employee can only serve as a contractor of record for one business at a time.

The business must, in a way set by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), inform DCP about (1) the designated contractor's name, phone number, and email address and (2) any change to this information or to who is the designated contractor of record, within 10 days after the change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 9 — HOMEMAKER COMPANION AGENCY EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS

Specifies that a state and national, rather than local and national, criminal records check is required for homemaker companion agency employees

The act specifies that a state and national, rather than local and national, criminal records check is required for homemaker companion agency employees.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 10 — ADULTERATED OR MISBRANDED FOOD

Broadly extends to establishments certain provisions on adulterated or misbranded food in vending machines and specifically allows DCP to prohibit establishments from selling adulterated or misbranded food until the conditions are remedied

The act extends to establishments the prohibitions that currently apply to vending machines on selling adulterated or misbranded food, beverages, or ingredients (the law already prohibits sale of adulterated or misbranded foods under the state uniform food, drug, and cosmetic act). The act specifies that the definition of “adulterated” in the state uniform food, drug, and cosmetic act applies to this provision.

Prior law allowed DCP to impound and forbid the sale of adulterated or misbranded food or beverages in a vending machine after written notice. The act allows these actions if they protect public health and safety, applies them to establishments, and permits DCP to prohibit an establishment from selling or offering adulterated or misbranded food or beverages until the conditions that caused the issue and are likely to do so in the future are remedied.

Under existing law, after a hearing, DCP can have food or beverages from a vending machine destroyed or released for relabeling if that would correct the problem. The act also applies these provisions to establishments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 11 — DONATION BIN LABELS

Requires donation bins in public places that are for charities to include the charity’s DCP registration number

By law, the label on a charitable donation bin that collects clothing or other articles in a public place must have a label stating (1) the name of the nonprofit organization that benefits from the donation, (2) the name and contact information of its owner, and (3) that the public can contact DCP for more information. The act also requires the label to include the charity’s DCP registration number.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 12 & 69 — APARTMENT LISTING SERVICES

Eliminates provisions on apartment listing services

The act eliminates provisions on apartment listing services, which are services that, for a fee, let customers use a listing of apartments for rent (it appears that no one holds this credential). Among other things, it eliminates requirements for registration, notice to customers, listing contents, and prohibited conduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 13-21 & 69 — GUARANTY FUNDS

Transfers responsibility for the Real Estate Guaranty Fund to DCP; specifies when interest accrues on awards from various funds; requires an applicant for an award from the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund to state that he or she made a good faith effort to collect what is owed before receiving a fund payment

The act makes a number of changes to various guaranty funds, including:

1. transferring, from the Real Estate Commission to DCP, responsibility for maintaining and operating the Real Estate Guaranty Fund, and making conforming and technical changes to fund procedures (§§ 13-18 & 69);
2. specifying that the interest charged to a person who caused harm resulting in an award from the Real Estate Guaranty Fund, New Home Construction Guaranty Fund, Home Improvement Guaranty Fund, or Health Club Guaranty Fund accrues until DCP refers the unpaid amount to the Department of Administrative Services for collection (under existing law, interest generally begins accruing when a fund makes a payment) (§§ 16 & 19-21); and
3. requiring an applicant for an award from the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund to submit a signed, sworn statement that he or she made a good faith effort to collect what is owed before receiving a payment from the fund and changes some of the provisions on repayments to the fund (§ 20).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Real Estate Guaranty Fund Conforming Changes (§§ 15 & 18)

PA 25- 111, § 5, allowed someone to apply to the Real Estate Guaranty Fund based on an arbitration decision, administrative decision, or a court order or decree, in addition to a court judgment, which was already allowed. This act makes conforming changes to require, as with court judgments under existing law, that someone applying to the fund based on a binding arbitration decision or court order or decree apply within (1) two years after the final determination or (2) the end of the time to appeal. The act also makes similar changes regarding the fund's ability to recover payments based on each of these events, and not just judgments.

Home Improvement Guaranty Fund (§ 20)

The act requires an applicant for an award from the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund to provide a signed, sworn statement that he or she made a good faith effort to collect what the home improvement contractor or proprietor (an owner of a business that is or was a registered home improvement contractor) owes using court procedures. This does not apply when the application is based on a small claims court judgment, order, or decree against the contractor or proprietor. The act specifies that a good faith effort can include a writ of execution if the application includes a statement from the officer executing a writ of execution indicating:

1. that the officer could not find sufficient funds in a contractor's or proprietor's bank account or from levying their personal property to satisfy the actual damages under the court ruling and
2. the amount collected and the amount remaining due.

Under prior law, after payment from the fund based on a decision or court ruling against a proprietor, the proprietor and the business entity that is or was registered were both liable to repay the fund. The act instead makes either an individual or a business entity that is or was registered liable based on a decision or court ruling against that individual or entity.

Under existing law, if the DCP commissioner revokes a contractor's registration after making a payment from the fund based on a claim against the contractor, DCP cannot issue the contractor a registration until the contractor repays the fund with interest. The act also prohibits registering an individual with an ownership interest in a business entity that has or had a registration until the contractor or individual repays the fund with interest.

Background — Guaranty Funds

The law establishes certain funds, such as the Real Estate Guaranty Fund, New Home Construction Guaranty Fund, Home Improvement Guaranty Fund, and Health Club Guaranty Fund, to pay consumers harmed by certain licensees' or permittees' conduct. Consumers can generally apply to one of these funds to recover damages awarded in an arbitration decision or a court proceeding against the licensee or permittee that the consumer has been unable to recover from the licensee or permittee. Generally, the licensee or permittee must pay back the fund for the amount the fund pays the consumer plus interest.

§ 22 — OUT-OF-STATE SHIPPERS' PERMITS

Defines "retailer" for the purposes of certain out-of-state shippers' permits

By law, certain out-of-state retailers may get an out-of-state retailer shipper's permit for wine to sell and ship directly to a Connecticut consumer, with various requirements (for example, certain labeling and age verification requirements and shipment limits).

The act defines "retailer" for purposes of certain out-of-state shippers' permits as any business entity that (1) primarily sells alcoholic liquor in sealed bottles or other containers for off-premises consumption and (2) holds a retailer permit issued by the alcohol beverage authority in its home state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 23 & 24 — PLACARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN LIQUOR PERMITTEES

Limits the requirement that certain alcoholic liquor permit applications describe the live entertainment provided to those allowing on-premises consumption; makes a clarifying change related to amending existing entertainment; exempts café permits in airports from the placarding requirements

Live Entertainment

The act limits the requirement that alcoholic liquor permit applicants include in their applications a detailed description of their live entertainment to only those applying for permits for on-premises serving or consumption.

Prior law required alcoholic liquor permittees seeking to amend the entertainment type they provide to follow the same placarding requirements that applied to applicants for certain liquor permits. The act specifies that this placarding requirement only applies to permittees seeking to amend the live entertainment they provide. As under existing law, this filing or request requires municipal zoning approval.

Cafe Permits in Airports

The act also exempts cafe permits in airports from the placarding requirements but removes the \$100 initial application filing fee exemption.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 25 — AGE STATEMENT FORM RELIEVING PERMITTEE OF CERTAIN LIABILITY

Requires alcoholic liquor permittees or backers who get an age statement form from a customer whose age is in question to have acted reasonably in serving or providing alcohol to the person in order to not be liable for serving a minor

By law, if alcoholic liquor permittees are unsure of a person's age, they must have the person fill out and sign an age statement form in which the customer states that he or she (1) is over age 21, (2) knows that the law prohibits alcohol sales to someone younger, and (3) knows the penalty for willful age misrepresentation. Getting this form relieves the permittee of liability for serving to a minor if the permittee is later charged, and (1) introduces the statement in the proceedings and (2) shows that the proof of age evidence the permittee was given would convince a reasonable person of the purchaser's age.

The act additionally requires the (1) permittee or backer to have otherwise acted reasonably in serving or giving alcohol to the minor to have this relief from liability and (2) statement the person fills out to include the city and state where the person was born.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 26 — BABY FOOD PRODUCTS

Beginning January 1, 2028, prohibits making, selling, or distributing a baby food product containing toxic heavy metal amounts above FDA limits; requires product testing and labeling

The act, beginning January 1, 2028:

1. prohibits making, selling, or distributing a baby food product containing a toxic heavy metal (such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury) in an amount exceeding a limit set by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
2. requires manufacturers to (a) have laboratories test baby food product samples monthly for toxic heavy metals and (b) publish on their websites information about the amount of each toxic heavy metal found in their baby food products and a link to FDA information on these metals; and
3. requires manufacturers of baby food products tested for a toxic heavy metal that has an FDA action level, regulatory limit, or tolerance to display on the product container (see *Background — FDA's Closer to Zero Program*) a way to access a webpage with test results and a link to FDA information on these metals.

Under the act, a "baby food product" is a food, other than water or infant formula, made, packaged, labeled, and sold in a container for children under age two.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Testing

The act requires baby food product manufacturers that make or intend to sell or distribute these products in the state to have a laboratory test them for toxic heavy metals at least monthly. The lab must (1) be accredited under certain standards of the International Organization for Standardization or International Electrotechnical Commission, (2) use analytical methods that satisfy the FDA's "Elemental Analysis Manual for Food and Related Products," and (3) be able to quantify each toxic heavy metal concentration to at least six micrograms out of a kilogram of food using certain scientific and statistical methods.

The lab must test a representative sample of each final product's production aggregate, which is an amount of the product made under a master manufacturing order and intended to be uniform in composition, character, and quality. The lab can perform the test before packaging the product for distribution or sale.

The act requires manufacturers to keep test results for at least 36 months.

Manufacturer's Required Website Posting

The act requires baby food product manufacturers to post the following on their websites until 30 days after a product's shelf life expires:

1. the name and amount of any toxic heavy metal in the product found through testing;
2. information that allows a reasonable customer to identify the product, such as its name, universal product code, or lot or batch number; and
3. a link to the FDA's webpage with information and guidance on how toxic heavy metals affect children's health.

Product Containers

The act requires the manufacturer of a baby food product tested for a toxic heavy metal to include the following on the product container if it is subject to an FDA action level, regulatory limit, or tolerance or another standard set by federal regulations:

1. a quick response (QR) or other machine-readable code directing consumers to a page on the manufacturer's website or the product information page with the testing results and a link to the FDA's webpage for information and guidance on how toxic heavy metals affect children's health and
2. in a clear, legible, and conspicuous way: "For Information About Toxic Element Testing On This Product, Scan the QR Code."

Background — FDA's Closer to Zero Program

The FDA's Closer to Zero program examines exposure to contaminants in food eaten by babies and young children. FDA research, evaluation, and regulatory processes on lead, arsenic, cadmium, and mercury in these foods are ongoing.

In January 2025, the FDA issued industry guidance and the following action levels for lead in processed food for babies and young children:

1. 10 parts per billion (ppb) for fruits, vegetables (excluding single-ingredient root vegetables), mixtures (including grain- and meat-based mixtures), yogurts, custards, puddings, and single-ingredient meats and
2. 20 ppb for single-ingredient root vegetables and dry infant cereals.

The FDA states that (1) action levels are a level of contamination where food may be considered adulterated and (2) it considers these levels, along with other factors, when deciding whether to bring an enforcement action.

§§ 27 & 28 — USED MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTIES

Extends the statutory used vehicle warranty requirements to all vehicles that are less than 10 years old, regardless of price, rather than those that cost \$3,000 or more or are less than seven years old; requires these vehicles to have the required express warranty for at least 60 days or 3,000 miles, whichever ends first

The act extends the statutory used vehicle warranty requirements to all vehicles that are less than 10 years old, regardless of price, rather than those that cost \$3,000 or more or are less than seven years old. The act also requires these vehicles to have the required express warranty for at least 60 days or 3,000 miles, whichever ends first. Under prior law, the express warranty had to cover a used vehicle for (1) at least 30 days or 1,500 miles, whichever ended first, if it cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000, and (2) at least 60 days or 3,000 miles, whichever ends first, if it cost \$5,000 or more.

As under prior law, dealers may not exclude, modify, disclaim, or limit implied warranties on these vehicles, and they must include an express warranty in each sales contract for these vehicles that covers the full cost of both parts and labor for repairs during the required time or mileage, excluding damage from an accident or consumer misuse.

Prior law also only allowed used car dealers to sell a used car “as is” if its cash purchase price was less than \$3,000 or if the car was seven years or older. The act eliminates the purchase price option and increases the minimum age to 10 years.

As under existing law, dealers violating the warranty provisions may have their license suspended by the motor vehicles commissioner and be subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 per violation (CGS § 42-226a).

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 29 — TASK FORCE ON DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DIET PILLS

Establishes a task force to study the sale of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills

The act establishes an 11-person task force to study the sale of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills. The study must address:

1. dietary supplements labeled, marketed, or represented as achieving weight loss or muscle building, but not (a) protein powders or drinks or (b) foods marketed as having protein, unless the powder, food, or drink has another ingredient that, on its own, is a dietary supplement for weight loss or muscle building, and
2. over-the-counter diet pills that are (a) drugs labeled, marketed, or represented as achieving weight loss or muscle building and (b) available over the counter with or without a prescription under federal law.

The act requires the task force to consist of:

1. the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity’s executive director, who serves as task force chairperson;
2. the commissioners of consumer protection and public health, or their designees;
3. two members appointed by the House speaker, one with expertise in the safety of applicable dietary supplements and one with expertise in the safety of applicable over-the-counter pills;
4. two members appointed by the Senate president pro tempore; and
5. one each appointed by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders.

The act allows appointed members to be legislators, requires appointments to be made by July 2, 2026, and directs the appointing authorities to fill vacancies.

The chairperson must schedule and hold the first meeting by August 1, 2026, and the General Law Committee’s administrative staff serves as the task force’s administrative staff.

The act requires the task force to report to the General Law Committee by January 1, 2027. The report must include research on the safety of these items by user age, whether their sale to minors should be restricted, and other states’ best practices for regulating them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 30-32 — ENTERTAINMENT EVENT TICKETS

Makes numerous changes related to entertainment event ticketing

The act makes a number of changes related to entertainment event tickets, including:

1. prohibiting a ticket reseller from offering or engaging in a ticket resale unless the reseller has (a) actual or constructive possession of the ticket or (b) a written contract with the entertainment venue operator to get the ticket from the operator (specific provisions apply to sports season or series tickets or performing arts subscriptions);
2. making minor and technical changes to the types of tickets subject to the total ticket price disclosure requirements and adjusting the timing of when a price disclosure is required and when a ticket price may not increase;
3. requiring ticket sellers and resellers to refund the total price of a ticket to a cancelled live event;
4. unless authorized, generally prohibiting advertising or facilitating the sale or resale of entertainment event tickets on a website domain or subdomain that contains the venue’s, event’s, or performer’s name, or a substantially similar name; and
5. making violations of these provisions a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

Ticket Resales (§ 30)

The act prohibits a ticket reseller from offering or engaging in any sale of a ticket after its initial sale unless the reseller has (1) actual or constructive possession of the ticket or (2) a written contract with the entertainment venue operator to get the ticket from the operator.

These provisions apply to tickets to entertainment (1) events (including artistic performances, sporting events, and places of amusement, but not movies) and (2) venues (such as an arena, hall, place of amusement, stadium, or theater, but not a movie theater).

Under the act, a “ticket reseller” is an individual or business entity that makes a ticket available for resale, including an authorized agent or employee acting within their authority. It does not include:

1. an entertainment venue operator, which is an individual or entity that owns, operates, or controls an entertainment venue, and their authorized agents and employees acting within their authority or
2. a ticket seller, which is an individual or entity who makes a ticket available for its initial sale (the first sale to a purchaser or ticket reseller), including their authorized agents and employees acting within their authority and entertainment venue operators.

Season, Series, and Subscription Tickets. The act permits the initial purchaser of sports season or series tickets (including professional and intercollegiate competitions) to resell a ticket to an individual event that is part of the season or series if the individual or entity:

1. is not in the business of selling or reselling entertainment event tickets;
2. has actual or constructive possession of the ticket; and
3. discloses to the purchaser, before the purchase, the identity and date of the event and where the ticket entitles the person to sit or stand during the event.

The act permits an individual or entity, such as an entertainment venue operator, to offer and sell to subscribers:

1. tickets to a season or series of artistic performances (such as concerts, operas, and theater, but not movies) that are not individually priced when initially sold or
2. the right to purchase tickets to a set number of artistic performances during a season or series (but one of these tickets cannot be resold until it is issued to the initial purchaser or assigned for a performance, date, and seating or standing location).

Websites Used by Entertainment Event Ticket Sellers and Resellers (§ 31)

The act prohibits anyone from advertising or facilitating the sale or resale of an entertainment event ticket on a website with a domain or subdomain that contains the:

1. venue’s name or a substantially similar one, except a venue operator or someone with the operator’s express written consent to use the name;
2. event’s name or a substantially similar one, except an individual or entity (a) responsible for organizing financing or publicity for the event, or their authorized agents or employees acting within their authority, or (b) with the express written consent of the individual, entity, agent, or employee to use the name; or
3. name of an individual or group scheduled for the event, or a substantially similar name, except (a) the individual, group, or their agents or employees acting within their authority, or (b) someone with the express written consent of the individual, group, agent, or employee to use the name.

Ticket Price Disclosures and Price Changes (§ 32)

Generally, the law requires an advertisement of ticket prices to conspicuously disclose the total price for each ticket and the dollar amount that represents a service charge (an administrative fee, service fee, surcharge, or other fee or charge using substantially similar terms). Individuals and entities facilitating the sale or resale of a ticket must also disclose the total price, as well as the amount of any included service charges.

The act requires that the price disclosure be made when the ticket is initially offered for sale or resale to a purchaser, instead of when the ticket is selected for purchase.

The law also prohibits increasing a ticket price during a specified period of time. Previously, the total price could not increase between when a ticket was selected for purchase and when it was purchased. The act instead begins this period when the ticket is initially offered for sale or resale to a purchaser.

Online Ticket Resales. The act requires anyone that advertises or facilitates the resale of an entertainment event ticket on a website or online platform primarily intended for reselling these tickets to clearly and conspicuously disclose that (1) the ticket is being resold and (2) its price may differ from the price of the ticket from the event presenter.

The act requires this disclosure when the ticket is initially offered for sale to a purchaser and the price cannot increase after the initial offer and until the ticket is purchased. As under existing law, a reasonable service charge is allowed for delivery of a nonelectronic ticket.

Permitted Price Changes. The act specifies that it does not prohibit a ticket price change after someone times out of a transaction without making a purchase. It also does not prohibit dynamic pricing (using an algorithmic model to adjust prices in real time), as long as the price does not increase after the ticket is initially offered to the purchaser and before the person makes a purchase or times out of the transaction, whichever occurs first.

Live Event Ticket Refunds. For live entertainment events that are cancelled, the act requires ticket sellers and resellers to refund purchasers their total ticket price within 30 days of the cancellation (excluding any reasonable service charge allowed by law for delivering a nonelectronic ticket). It requires ticket sellers and resellers to clearly and conspicuously disclose this refund requirement to purchasers of live entertainment event tickets before a purchase, in a way set by DCP.

Regulations. The act allows DCP to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

Background — Federal Regulations

Federal regulations make it an unfair and deceptive practice to offer, display, or advertise the price of a live event ticket (or short-term lodging) without clearly and conspicuously disclosing the maximum total price. The total price includes all fees, charges, and required ancillary goods or services, but does not include government charges, shipping charges, and optional ancillary goods or services.

The federal regulation does not affect state law except to the extent a state law is inconsistent. A state law is not inconsistent if it provides greater consumer protections (16 C.F.R. § 464).

§ 33 — ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Expands the requirements for e-cigarette dealer registrations and the circumstances in which DCP may deny a registration; authorizes the DCP commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each ENDS or vapor product sold in violation of the dealer registration law, requires these products to be deemed a common nuisance, and subjects them to seizure by police

The act expands the registration requirements for businesses that sell electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) or vapor products, commonly known as e-cigarette dealers. By law, e-cigarette dealers must have a dealer registration for each of their business locations and renew it annually. Among other things, the act:

1. expands the individual owners who must provide their contact information and a third-party background check as part of a dealer's application;
2. expands the information dealer registration applicants must provide;
3. generally expands the circumstances under which DCP may deny a dealer's registration or take other enforcement actions;
4. authorizes the DCP commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each ENDS or vapor product sold in violation of the dealer registration law, requires these products to be deemed a common nuisance, and subjects them to seizure by police;
5. specifies that registered e-cigarette dealers are deemed to have constructive notice of communications the DCP commissioner sends to an email address they provided;
6. makes violations of the dealer registration law a CUTPA violation; and
7. makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

Individual Owners

Existing law generally requires anyone applying for an initial or renewal e-cigarette dealer registration to provide the name and contact information of, and a third-party background check for, the business's individual owners (those with a direct or indirect financial interest in the applicant). The act expands this requirement to cover anyone with at least 5%, rather than 10%, ownership or interest rights in the business. As under prior law, this includes the total financial interest held by the individual owner and his or her spouse, parents, and children.

As under existing law, applicants do not need to provide this information if they are a publicly traded company listed on a national stock exchange.

Grounds for Denying an Initial or Renewal Dealer Registration

Under prior law, the DCP commissioner had to issue a dealer registration within 30 days of the application unless he made certain findings. The act extends the same timeframe and reasons for denying a dealer registration to renewals and expands the reasons for a denial to include the following:

1. if an individual owner named in the application made materially false or misleading statements in a DCP application, rather than just the applicant;
2. if the business owner's or named designee's criminal background check is sufficient for denying the registration under the existing law that prohibits state-issued credentials because of a prior criminal conviction, rather than if the commissioner finds that the applicant has a criminal history sufficient to disqualify him or her for a state-issued credential under this law; and
3. if the applicant, its authorized owner, or any entity owned or managed by any individual owner named in the application (a) committed multiple violations of the e-cigarette dealer law, (b) is subject to a delinquency assessment by the Department of Revenue Services, or (c) is the subject of any other adverse determination by a government agency, rather than if the applicant violated any other provision of the e-cigarette dealer law.

The act also adds to the grounds for DCP to deny initial registrations (but not renewals) submitted on or after January 1, 2027, to include when the proposed business is located in a municipality that already has one dealer for every 2,500 residents based on the most recently completed decennial census.

Dealers That Primarily Sell Certain Nicotine Products

The act adds to the reasons for DCP to deny an initial or renewal dealer registration to include when the applicant (1) has over 50% of annual gross revenue from sales of certain nicotine-related products and (2) uses more than 25% of its retail sales area for selling these products.

Under the act, for initial registrations, the applicant must certify that no more than (1) 50% of the applicant's annual gross revenue at the location will come from sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, ENDS, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products, and vapor products and (2) 25% of the total floor area dedicated to sales at the location will be dedicated to sales of these products. For applicants who initially register on or after January 1, 2027, at renewal they must submit the information DCP requires to determine whether they exceeded these thresholds in the prior registration period, and the act specifically requires DCP to deny the renewal if they did.

The act also requires these dealers to maintain the floor space information, subject to DCP inspection and copying, including floor plans showing the total floor area dedicated to sales and the portion dedicated to sales of the products listed above.

Registration Requirements

The act expands the information applicants for an initial or renewal e-cigarette dealer registration must provide to include a certification that the ENDS and vapor products they offer for sale comply with federal and state law, including the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act's requirement for tobacco products.

Sufficient Cause for DCP Enforcement Actions

Existing law allows the DCP commissioner to take certain actions against an e-cigarette dealer for sufficient cause, including suspending, revoking, or refusing to grant or renew their registration. By law, sufficient cause includes illegally possessing, offering, or selling any illegal or controlled substance. The act specifies that this applies to the registrant, its owner, or anyone with a financial interest in the registrant.

The act also makes any failure to maintain records or to make them immediately available to DCP sufficient cause for enforcement action.

Reapplication Prohibition

Prior law prohibited anyone whose dealer registration was revoked, including the registrant's owners, from applying for a dealer registration for one year after the revocation date. The act (1) extends this reapplication prohibition to anyone with a financial interest in the registrant and (2) bars anyone whose dealer registration was revoked from having a financial interest in another applicant for one year after the revocation date.

Civil Penalty

The act authorizes the DCP commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each ENDS and vapor product sold, offered for sale, or marketed in violation of the dealer registration law. Each of these products is a separate violation.

Seizure of Products in Violation of the Law

Under the act, any ENDS or vapor products sold, offered for sale, or marketed in violation of the dealer registration law, as well as any controlled substance or cannabis sold, offered for sale, or marketed by a dealer in violation of state law, are a common nuisance and subject to immediate seizure by state or local police.

The officers must hold the products subject to confiscation and destruction by a court order and the seller or marketer is liable for all seizure, confiscation, and destruction costs.

§§ 34-36 — MOLD REMEDIATION

Requires HICs that perform mold remediation to hold a certification and make certain attestations about training; requires them to perform mold remediation according to certain industry standards

The act prohibits DCP from issuing a home improvement contractor (HIC) registration to anyone holding themselves out to be a contractor that performs mold remediation unless the contractor makes certain attestations to DCP about their training. The attestation must satisfy the commissioner that the contractor is certified (1) in mold remediation by the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification; (2) as a mold remediator by the National Organization of Remediators and Microbial Inspectors; or (3) to perform mold remediation by any commissioner-approved organization if the commissioner posts the approval notice and the approved organization's name on the department's website. Under the act, "mold remediation" is the removal, cleaning, sanitizing, demolition, or other treatment of mold or mold-contaminated matter in a building.

The act requires contractors to perform mold remediation in Connecticut in accordance with the ANSI/IICRC S520 "Standard for Professional Mold Remediation, Fourth Edition," or any successor or revision that the DCP commissioner approves, if he posts the approval notice and the name of the approved successor or revision on the department's website.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 37 — INFORMATION ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AFTER CATASTROPHIC LOSS

Requires DCP, within available appropriations, to make information available online for homeowners who have suffered catastrophic loss and are seeking professional help

The act requires DCP, within available appropriations, to make information (presumably, about available assistance) available on the department's website for homeowners who have suffered a catastrophic loss due to fire or water damage and are seeking to hire professionals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 38 — THIRD-PARTY FINANCING VETERINARY SERVICES

Clarifies when veterinary providers can offer third-party financing in service areas of their facilities

PA 26-6 generally prohibits health care and veterinary care providers from advertising, marketing, soliciting, promoting, or offering third-party financing to consumers when they are in a part of a facility used to provide health care or veterinary services (such as an exam or operating room).

The act clarifies a provision that permits a veterinary provider to take these actions related to third-party financing in the service area if relocating the consumer to a separate area would pose a risk of harm to the consumer's animal that is receiving care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§§ 39-43 — DATA BROKERS

Replaces the provisions in PA 26-64 with substantially similar provisions, but eliminates the data service provider requirements; makes minor changes to the deletion mechanism program; adds additional exemptions; and specifies the civil penalty is per consumer

PA 26-64, among other things, requires data brokers to register with DCP and establishes a deletion mechanism program for consumers to request that data brokers delete their personal data. Among other things, this act:

1. removes data service providers (those who maintain personal data on a registered data broker's behalf) from the requirements PA 26-64 imposes,
2. specifies certain languages the deletion mechanism program must include,
3. allows a consumer to give the commissioner information other than their driver's license number to verify their deletion request,
4. adds additional exemptions, and
5. specifies the \$200 civil penalty is per consumer.

The act makes various other minor and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Deletion Mechanism

PA 26-64 requires the DCP commissioner, by July 1, 2028, to establish an accessible deletion mechanism program. The program must have an accessible deletion mechanism that allows a consumer to submit a deletion request in any language a consumer speaks. This act specifies that the program must allow a consumer to submit a deletion request in English and Spanish in addition to any other language the consumer speaks at home that is also spoken by at least 1% of the state's population based on the most recent decennial census. Correspondingly, this act also requires the allowable updates to the deletion request to be made in these languages.

Verification. PA 26-64 also required the program to allow consumers to securely submit their driver's license number to verify their deletion request. This act instead allows a consumer to give the commissioner information sufficient to establish that the consumer is a Connecticut resident.

Under PA 26-64, if a consumer submits his or her driver's license number to verify the request or update, the commissioner must only use the number for that purpose and cannot share, store, or retain it. This act removes the restriction against sharing, storing, or retaining the number.

Under PA 26-64, beginning October 1, 2028, for any verified deletion request or update that does not specifically exclude the data broker, the broker must generally delete any personal data it maintains on the consumer. However, this act requires the data broker to maintain the personal data to the extent that maintaining it is needed to comply with the act's provisions. If the broker maintains the data for this purpose, it must not use the data for any other reason.

Exemptions

PA 26-4, § 7, allows various exemptions to its data broker provisions. This act additionally exempts (1) personal data collected, processed, sold, or disclosed in compliance with the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 (18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq.) and (2) protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA; P.L. 104-191).

Penalty

PA 26-64, § 10, allows the DCP commissioner, after giving notice and holding a hearing, to impose a civil penalty of up to \$200 per day for each violation of the act's data broker provisions. This act specifies that the civil penalty is \$200 per day per consumer. As under the original act, any civil penalty collected must be deposited into the data broker registration account.

§§ 44 & 66 — SURVEILLANCE PRICING

Generally prohibits retailers and third-party delivery services from using surveillance pricing for in-person transactions; requires online businesses that use surveillance pricing to increase the price of consumer goods or services to specifically disclose that; deems violations CUTPA violations

PA 26-64, § 11, among other things, generally (1) prohibits retailers or third-party delivery services from using surveillance pricing and (2) sets disclosure requirements on the use of price setting devices. This act replaces them with similar provisions with changes to the definitions, exemptions, and requirements. As under the original act, this act still makes a violation of these provisions a CUTPA violation solely enforced by the attorney general (and not by a private right of action or class action).

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2027, except the repeal of provisions in PA 26-64, § 11, is effective upon passage. (PA 26-130, § 11, delays this provision's effective date until July 1, 2027, but maintains the repeal's effective date.)

Retail and Third-Party Delivery Surveillance Pricing Prohibited

The act generally prohibits the use of surveillance pricing by third-party delivery services and retailers making in-person sales of tangible personal property. (PA 26-130, § 11, removes the in-person restriction, thus making all retail sales of tangible personal property subject to these provisions.)

A “third-party delivery service” is a company, organization, or entity, outside of a retail food establishment's business operation, that facilitates delivery or online ordering services to retail food establishment customers. A “retail seller” is a retailer subject to the sales and use tax when making in-person sales of tangible personal property, including a retail food establishment. (As discussed above, PA 26-130, § 11, modifies this definition by eliminating the “in-person” requirement.)

“Surveillance pricing” is the practice of setting a customized price for a consumer good or service that is specific to a consumer or group of consumers based on their personal data collected:

1. through any technology or technological method, system, or tool, including any biometric monitoring, camera, device tracking, or sensor, that is used to gather personal data and
2. by the person establishing the customized price by gathering, purchasing, or acquiring the personal data from a third party.

It does not include establishing for, or offering:

1. a consumer a discounted price for a consumer good or service to retain or re-establish a consumer as a customer, attract a consumer as a new customer, cross-sell an item to a consumer, or re-engage a lapsed customer;
2. different consumers different prices for the same consumer good or service due to justifiable (a) differences in the costs incurred in providing the good or service, including differences in consumers' physical locations, consumer selections, delivery distances, or delivery times, or (b) temporal differences, including those due to price fluctuations based on supply and demand; or
3. a consumer or group of consumers a discounted price for a consumer good or service (a) based on publicly disclosed discounted prices and uniform terms and conditions that may be satisfied by any consumer, including by signing up for a mailing list, registering for promotional communications, or participating in a promotional event; (b) that is available to all consumers who are members of a broadly defined group, including veterans or armed forces members, senior citizens, students, teachers, or residents of a specific area, based on publicly disclosed discounts and uniform terms and conditions; or (c) through a loyalty, membership, or rewards program in which consumers choose to enroll.

Surveillance pricing also does not include correcting a price from a pricing error or resetting a price after a system or network outage.

For discounted prices, the retail seller or third-party delivery service must prominently post the discount and discounted price, and the uniform terms and conditions for the discount and discounted price, on the retail seller's or third-party delivery service's website in readily understandable language for an average consumer.

Surveillance Pricing Disclosure

Additionally, the act generally requires anyone doing business in the state, other than retailers (who are prohibited), who engages in surveillance pricing and advertises or promotes a consumer good or service online with its price to include in the online advertisement, promotion, label, statement, display, image, offer, or announcement the following disclosure, or a substantially similar disclosure: “THIS PRICE WAS INCREASED USING YOUR PERSONAL DATA.” This disclosure must be readily visible to the average consumer.

Any person required to make this disclosure must also disclose to consumers their rights under the CTDPA, such as their right to opt out of certain consumer data processing.

This requirement does not apply (1) to those using surveillance pricing to establish a discounted price for a consumer good or service for an online transaction and (2) if the advertised, promoted, labeled, or published price is the bona fide market price (advertised price to the public on a regular basis for a reasonably substantial time period).

Exemptions

The act specifies that the disclosure and surveillance pricing provisions do not apply to:

1. anyone who is or must be licensed, authorized to operate, or registered under the state's insurance laws or
2. any person who can demonstrate that any refusal to extend credit, the terms, rates, or pricing on which any credit or financial services are extended or any refusal to enter into a transaction with a specific consumer is based on data (a) provided in a consumer report covered by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.) or (b) reflecting factors a creditor may consider under the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. § 1691 et seq.) and its regulations.

§§ 45 & 66 — FACIAL RECOGNITION

Exempts controllers or consumer health data controllers from the facial recognition requirements in PA 26-64, § 16, if a consumer consents to the use of facial recognition technology in a commercial transaction

PA 26-64, § 16, among other things, limits the use of facial recognition technology to matching still images or video to a database and requires certain signage, among other requirements. This act exempts controllers or consumer health data controllers from these requirements for a consumer who has consented to using facial recognition technology in a commercial transaction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the repeal of provisions in PA 26-64, § 16, is effective upon passage.

§§ 46 & 67 — PREREQUISITES FOR GENERATIVE AI SYSTEM SUBSCRIPTIONS

Requires subscription-based providers of generative AI systems with more than a million monthly users, rather than AI technology, to give consumers a written notice of the subscription's key terms and conditions before entering or renewing a subscription

PA 26-15, § 1, among other things, prohibits subscription-based providers of certain artificial intelligence (AI) technology subscriptions from entering or renewing a subscription with certain consumers, or collecting fees or other compensation from them, unless they give the consumer a written notice disclosing the subscription's key terms and conditions and the consumer accepts them in writing. This act repeals those provisions and substitutes substantially similar provisions that narrow the disclosure requirements to subscription-based providers of publicly accessible generative AI systems for personal use with more than a million monthly users.

In so doing, the act defines a "subscription-based provider" as anyone (other than a government agency) doing business in the state who:

1. creates, codes, or produces a generative AI system that (a) has more than a million monthly users and (b) is publicly accessible to consumers for personal use; and
2. provides, or offers to provide, the generative AI system to a consumer under a subscription.

"Generative AI" is any technology that uses machine learning to generate images, audio, or video, including any system using deep learning, natural language processing, or other computational processing techniques of similar or greater complexity.

The act also specifies that, a "consumer" does not include anyone acting (1) in a commercial or employment context or (2) as an employee, owner, director, officer, or contractor of a company, partnership, sole proprietorship, nonprofit, or government agency whose communications or transactions with the person or entity that controls the data (controller) occur solely within the context of that person's role with the entity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the repealer is effective upon passage.

§§ 47 & 67 — DCP PILOT PROGRAM FOR ASSESSING AI MODELS USING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION PROGRAMS

Eliminates the requirement under PA 26-15, § 33, that DCP enter into a MOU with each independent verification organization applicant to ensure compliance with state laws on AI and data privacy and instead requires the applicant to perform substantially similar functions; modifies certain program application requirements; and lengthens the pilot program duration and delays the start date

PA 26-15, § 33, among other things, requires DCP to, within available appropriations, develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of independent third-party verification programs for assessing whether AI models adhere to standards reflecting best practices for preventing personal injury, property damage, data privacy harms, and other harms. This act repeals those provisions and substitutes substantially similar provisions except it:

1. eliminates the requirement that DCP enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with each applicant and instead requires the applicant to perform substantially similar functions, except the organization no longer is required to define the program's scope and the specific harms or risks the program will prevent or mitigate;
2. modifies certain application requirements; and
3. lengthens the pilot program duration and delays the start date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2027, except the repealer is effective upon passage.

Application

The act modifies the application description requirements to require a description of the scope of the entity's program rather than the risks the entity intends to evaluate. But the scope must describe the harms to be prevented or mitigated and the risks against which the entity intends to evaluate in order to verify that AI models' mitigation measures are sufficient to achieve acceptable levels of risk.

PA 26-15, § 33, required the application to have a detailed explanation of the applicant's evaluation and verification process, including how the entity determines whether a person participating in the program is using industry best practices. This act instead requires the entity to determine whether a person participating in an AI model is using industry best practices.

Pilot Program Duration

Finally, the act lengthens the pilot program by six months and delays the start date. It does so by delaying the effective date from July 1, 2027, to October 1, 2027, and the program's end date from June 30, 2030, to March 31, 2031.

§ 48 — STATEWIDE CANNABIS, HEMP AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT BOARD

Amends PA 26-8 by adding back the Social Equity Council's executive director to the Statewide Cannabis, Hemp, and Controlled Substances Enforcement Board and allowing the board to discuss certain enforcement actions in executive session and exempting those records from FOIA

PA 26-8, § 13, among other things, (1) renames the Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board, as the "Statewide Cannabis, Hemp and Controlled Substances Enforcement Board," and (2) reduces board membership by removing the public health commissioner and the Social Equity Council's executive director (or their designees). This act adds back the Social Equity Council's executive director, or his designee, to the board.

As under existing law, the board still includes the attorney general, the chief state's attorney, and the DCP, emergency services and public protection, mental health and addiction services, and revenue services commissioners, or their designees.

PA 26-8, § 13, also exempted the board's quarterly meeting and related records from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This act instead allows the board's discussion of identified areas of need and enforcement opportunities about illegal cannabis and controlled substance sales to be held in an executive session. It also exempts executive session records from FOIA disclosure and specifies that the board may convene an executive session for any other purposes state law allows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 49 & 56 — “CANNABIS” DEFINITION

Eliminates a provision in PA 26-8 that exempted CBN, CBG, CBC, or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp as being cannabis

PA 26-8, among other things, specifically exempted from the “cannabis” definition: cannabitol (CBN), cannabigerol (CBG), cannabichromene (CBC), or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp. This act eliminates these exemptions and reverts back to existing law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the conforming changes are effective upon passage.

§§ 50-52 & 68 — CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

Modifies a provision in PA 26-8 by (1) making a review mandatory, once requested; (2) allowing, after the review, the council to refer an equity joint venture to DCP for enforcement action; and (3) changing certain deadlines; also adds provisions that (1) prohibit social equity applicants from entering into certain agreements that may limit control and (2) require annual reporting and recordkeeping by certain cannabis establishments that get approval from the council

Existing law generally prohibits cultivators, producers, dispensary facilities, and micro-cultivators from increasing their ownership in an equity joint venture by more than 50% for seven years after receiving final licensure. The law also requires the Social Equity Council to develop criteria for evaluating ownership and control changes of any equity joint venture.

PA 26-8, among other things, allows a change in ownership or control in an equity joint venture after five years of final licensure under certain requirements. Among others, at least 90 days before the change, the equity joint venture must (1) submit certain written notices disclosing the intention of the change and (2) send written notice to the social equity applicant disclosing that he or she may, within 60 days before the change is effective, submit a written request for the council to do an optional nonfinancial review of the change. This act modifies these requirements, as described below.

The act also makes minor and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except certain conforming changes are effective October 1, 2026 (§ 51).

Review of Changes and Timeline

PA 26-8 required the council to complete the review to determine whether, among other things, the social equity applicant (1) has retained legal counsel to advise him or her on the change; (2) understands the structure and implications; (3) understands the financial terms; (4) has engaged with his or her business partners, if any, to ensure that the change is appropriate; and (5) consents to the change free of any coercion or undue pressure.

This act makes minor and conforming changes to the review timeline, such as specifying that the reviews are based on the proposed effective date of the change and not the actual effective date. It also gives the council more time to complete the review and send its findings to the social equity applicant. It does so by requiring the review and notification to be done at least 15, rather than 30, days before the change’s proposed effective date.

Delay or Rejection Due to Review

This act eliminates the provision in PA 26-8 that specified that (1) it does not allow the council to delay or reject any change because of the results of the review and (2) changes made in violation of the act’s relevant provisions are void and have no effect.

Instead, under this act, if the council concludes in its review that there was coercion or undue pressure, or that the proposed change does not comply with the venture’s organizational documents, the council may refer the venture to DCP for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of up to \$10 million or action against the license.

Prohibition on Social Equity Council Making Certain Approvals

The act explicitly prohibits the council from approving the following, if they violate the law’s relevant requirements related to ownership and control: (1) any equity joint venture or (2) any transfer, assignment, sale, or acquisition of an ownership or financial interest in a cannabis establishment. It also requires any conflicting arrangements to be corrected.

Prohibited Agreements That May Limit Control

Beginning on November 1, 2026, it prohibits any social equity applicant from entering into any agreement, including a consulting agreement or similar contractual arrangement, if the agreement:

1. transfers or delegates any operational control of the cannabis establishment to a person who does not meet the social equity applicant criteria;
2. grants any authority or ability to control, direct, determine, or materially influence (directly or indirectly) decisions concerning the cannabis establishment, including decisions on hiring, pricing, purchasing, inventory management, or day-to-day operations (regardless of if the individual retains nominal approval rights);
3. results in the individual serving as the cannabis establishment's nominal or passive owner; or
4. impairs the individual's (a) final decision-making authority over the cannabis establishment's management, policies, and operations, or (b) authority to hire, terminate, and supervise the cannabis establishment's executive management and key personnel.

For these contracts, when a person who does not meet the social equity applicant criteria provides personnel, staffing, operational systems, or vendor relationships, it is considered evidence of control if it results in operational dependence by a social equity applicant. It is also considered evidence of control if the applicant does not have authority to override decisions made by the person.

The act specifies that its limitations on contracts and similar arrangements that may infringe on control do not prohibit an individual who meets the social equity applicant criteria from:

1. engaging any third-party vendor or consultant to provide bona fide advisory, technical, or support services, provided the services do not confer any control described above; or
2. delegating any operational or management functions, provided the individual retains final decision-making authority.

Reporting and Recordkeeping by Establishments That Receive Approval

The act requires each cannabis establishment the council approves to:

1. annually, starting by January 15, 2027, submit to the council a signed statement certifying that either (a) no material change occurred in the cannabis establishment's ownership, control, or financing arrangements during the preceding calendar year, or (b) a material change occurred and providing the nature of the material change; and
2. maintain records sufficient to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the ownership and control requirements for at least five years.

§ 53 — PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

Requires cannabis testing laboratories to perform real-time uploads to the prescription drug monitoring program and makes a conforming change

The act requires cannabis testing laboratories to perform real-time uploads to the prescription drug monitoring program. As under existing law as amended by PA 26-8, any cannabis or medical cannabis product sold must be recorded into the program.

The act also makes a conforming change to implement a provision of PA 26-8.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 54 & 68 — CANNABIS FLOWER THC LIMIT

Reverts back to existing law by eliminating a provision in PA 26-8 that eliminated the cap on THC for cannabis flower

PA 26-8, § 79, among other things, lifts the cap on THC (measured on a dry-weight-basis) for cannabis flower and prohibits DCP from limiting cannabis flower dosage, potency, or concentration. The act eliminates these provisions and reverts back to existing law where cannabis flower is capped at 35% THC on a dry-weight basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the repealer is effective upon passage.

§§ 55 & 57 — CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes several clarifying, conforming, and technical changes to implement PA 26-8

The act makes several clarifying, conforming, and technical changes to implement PA 26-8.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the conforming changes on the infused beverage manufacturers are effective October 1, 2026.

§ 58 — ADVERTISEMENT VOLUME WHEN STREAMING

Modifies the “streaming video services” definition to apply it to a person (individual or entity) who provides programming or content, rather than a service, as under PA 26-64, § 20

PA 26-64, § 20, among other things, prohibits a streaming video service from transmitting to a consumer commercial advertising audio that is louder than the video it accompanies, consistent with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations, and makes violations a CUTPA violation.

This act primarily modifies the “streaming video services” subject to this prohibition to apply to a person (individual or entity) who provides programming or content rather than a service as under PA 26-64, § 20. This act also specifies that these services do not include (1) a television broadcast station, cable operator, or other multichannel video programming distributor, or (2) any person that serves video programming or video content without commercial advertisements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 59 — 30-DAY CREDIT LIMIT

Prohibits a cannabis establishment from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from a cannabis testing laboratory

The act prohibits a cannabis establishment from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from a cannabis testing laboratory.

By law, a “cannabis establishment” is a cannabis producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or packager, delivery service, or transporter.

PA 26-8, § 49, prohibits retailers, hybrid retailers, and dispensary facilities from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from any cultivator, micro-cultivator, or producer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 60 & 61 — RISK-BASED RESIDENTIAL FIRE INSPECTION PILOT PROGRAM AND WORKING GROUP

Requires the state fire marshal to create a two-year risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program to improve the scheduling, documentation, and prioritization of fire inspections of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families; creates a working group to advise her on developing and implementing the pilot program

The act requires the state fire marshal to create, within available appropriations, a two-year risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program and creates a working group to advise her on developing and implementing it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the pilot program provision is effective July 1, 2026.

Working Group Formation and End Date (§ 61)

The act’s working group has 12 members, consisting of the state fire marshal (or her designee) and the 11 others shown in the table below.

Working Group’s Appointed Members

Appointing Authority	Number of Appointments	Appointee Qualifications
State fire marshal	Two	Each must be a representative from a municipality participating in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot

Appointing Authority	Number of Appointments	Appointee Qualifications
		program
Connecticut Fire Marshals Association	Four	All must be local fire marshals; one must represent a municipality participating in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program
Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Services Organizations	Two	Members of appointing organization
Public Safety and Security Committee's chairpersons and ranking members (jointly)	Two	Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities	One	Representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

All initial appointments must be made by July 2, 2026, except the state fire marshal's appointments must be appointed as soon as practical after she selects the pilot program's participating municipalities. Any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority. Members appointed by the Public Safety and Security Committee's leadership may make designees.

The Public Safety and Security Committee's chairpersons must select the working group's chairpersons from among the working group's members. The working group's chairpersons must schedule the group's first meeting, which must be held by August 1, 2026. The Public Safety and Security Committee's administrative staff must serve as the working group's administrative staff.

The act establishes several duties and reporting requirements for the working group and requires it to end when it submits its final report or February 1, 2029, whichever is later.

Working Group Duties and Reporting (§ 61)

The act requires the working group to advise the state fire marshal on:

1. the pilot program's design and implementation,
2. any data collection required by the pilot program and an assessment of participating municipalities' capacity to report the data,
3. the pilot program's progress and any data quality issues, and
4. any modifications to the pilot program's reporting requirements.

By December 1, 2026, and then annually until December 1, 2028, the working group must submit to the state fire marshal its evaluation of and recommendations for implementing the pilot program, including an evaluation of the pilot program's effectiveness in improving statutory inspection compliance, reducing inspection backlog, identifying and correcting high severity life safety hazards, improving firefighter operational safety through better hazard intelligence, reducing repeat violations, supporting consistent enforcement actions, and assessing fiscal and staffing impacts. This effectiveness evaluation must compare the fire inspection activity in each participating municipality before and after participating in the pilot program and, where practicable, against similarly situated nonparticipating municipalities.

Additionally, by December 1, 2026, the working group's report must:

1. designate the type of data required to set a baseline of residential fire inspection activity in a municipality based on a two-year history or, when this data is unavailable, based on predictive data;
2. identify the gaps in the availability of this data for each participating municipality;
3. determine initial inspection volumes and timelines;
4. develop a plan for data collection and quality assurance during the pilot program;
5. develop a standardized scoring method for violations based on the severity of life-safety hazards, grading system for residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features, pre-inspection checklist for owners of residential buildings, and standardized documentation system for fire inspection findings; and
6. recommend any adjustments to the program's implementation.

By December 1, 2027, the working group's report must:

1. determine any adjustment to inspection volumes and timelines,
2. aggregate violations by severity and changes from initial baseline data for each participating municipality,

3. identify any trends in voluntary hazard correction due to the pre-inspection checklist developed for the program,
4. assess the use of the data system designated by the program and the quality of the data, and
5. include an overview of the pilot program's results.

By December 1, 2028, the working group's report must include its recommendations for:

1. legislation required to continue or alter the inspection schedule developed during the pilot program for each participating municipality;
2. statewide implementation, other expansion, modification, or termination of the pilot program; and
3. any statutory, regulatory, staffing, funding, or technological changes required for broader implementation of the pilot program.

Risk-Based Residential Fire Inspection Pilot Program (§ 60)

The act requires the state fire marshal to create a two-year risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program to improve the scheduling, documentation, and prioritization of fire inspections of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families. She must do so by January 1, 2027, in consultation with the administrative services commissioner and the above working group, and within available appropriations.

The act requires the state fire marshal to select at least three municipalities from those that apply, including two with populations of at least 100,000 and one with a population of at least 35,000 but under 100,000. In selecting participating municipalities, she must consult with the municipality's appointing authority for local fire marshals to determine its (1) volume and diversity of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families, (2) availability of local resources, and (3) capability to consistently implement the pilot program. If any participating municipality withdraws or is unable to meet the pilot program's requirements, the state fire marshal may select a comparable municipality as a replacement.

Under the act, participating municipalities must:

1. implement a fire inspection schedule using a standardized scoring method that assigns scores for violations and classifies residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features;
2. maintain timely fire inspections as required by existing law, while allocating more fire inspection resources to high-risk residential buildings;
3. comply with the program's data collection and record-keeping requirements, including using a data system designated by the state fire marshal to record fire inspection data; and
4. review the current fire inspection revenue structure and staffing allocation.

For each participating municipality, the state fire marshal must:

1. specify a standardized scoring method that assigns scores to violations identified during fire inspections based on the severity of life-safety hazards,
2. establish a grading system that classifies the subject residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features and other risk indicators for prioritizing their annual fire inspections,
3. develop a pre-inspection checklist for building owners to encourage voluntary correction of potential hazards before a fire inspection, and
4. standardize the documentation (including photographs) of fire inspection findings to support enforcement actions and compliance follow-up.

The act also requires her to designate one or more data systems, including the National Emergency Response Information System, capable of:

1. collecting and exporting data related to, at a minimum, residential building classifications with risk-relevant construction and fire prevention features, dates and types of fire inspections, violations cited with assigned score, corrective action status, and fire inspections timelines under existing law;
2. generating residential building classifications based on data recorded into the system;
3. producing quarterly reports on fire inspection activities, including responses to complaints and outcomes of public reporting; and
4. setting a baseline of residential fire inspection activity for each municipality based on a two-year history of data collection or, when the data is unavailable, based on predictive data the state fire marshal deems sufficient to set a baseline.

Under the act, the "National Emergency Response Information System" is the national data system developed or designated by the U.S. Fire Administration, or its successor system, for the collection, reporting, and analysis of fire and emergency incident data.

By February 1, 2027, and then annually until February 1, 2029, the state fire marshal must report to the Public Safety and Security Committee on the pilot program, whether it should be made permanent, and if the working group's recommendations were integrated into the program.

The act ends the pilot program on January 1, 2029.

§ 62 — JUICE BAR RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Imposes new restrictions on juice bars and requirements on cafe permittees, including allowing local ordinances to prohibit or regulate juice bar operations

The act makes several changes to the law regulating “juice bars,” which are places where nonalcoholic beverages are served to minors (under age 21) on the premises of a cafe permit holder. (Cafe permits generally allow holders to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption.) Principally, the act (1) allows towns, by ordinance, to prohibit the operation of juice bars within their borders or set the hours when they may operate and (2) authorizes towns and municipalities, by ordinance, to prohibit the sale of alcohol on any cafe permit premises while a juice bar is operating.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Other Juice Bar Law Changes

Generally, existing law:

1. allows a cafe permittee to operate a juice bar in a room or separate area where alcohol is not sold, consumed, dispensed, or present;
2. requires cafe permittees to give advance written notice to the chief law enforcement officer of the town where the cafe is located of the specific dates and hours of any scheduled event at which the premises will be used to operate a juice bar, so that it is received between 5 and 30 days before the event;
3. allows the chief local law enforcement officer to designate one or more officers to attend the scheduled event; and
4. prohibits cafe permittees, and their agents and employees, who operate juice bars on the premises from serving alcohol to a customer without a conspicuous wristband issued by the permittee showing they have verified that the customer is of legal drinking age (at least age 21).

The act additionally requires cafe permittees, at all times when a part of the premises is being operated as a juice bar, to limit the number of patrons where the juice bar is being operated to no more than 10% of the total building occupant load set by the fire marshal under the Fire Safety Code. It also allows, at any time before or during a scheduled juice bar event, the chief law enforcement officer, or the officer's designee, to reject the event or order it to be stopped if either, in their sole discretion, determines that (1) there is insufficient police capacity to properly and safely monitor the event or enforce the law or (2) the event may, or has, become a danger to public safety.

Under existing law and the act, violators of the juice bar laws are subject to a fine, up to one year imprisonment, or both. The maximum fines are (1) \$2,500 for a first offense; (2) \$5,000 for a second offense; and (3) \$10,000 for a third or subsequent offense.

By law, DCP and its agents may conduct any inquiry, investigation, or hearing related to the cafe permit and juice bar laws (CGS § 30-8). The department may also revoke, suspend, or place conditions on any permit or provisional permit, or impose a fine of up to \$1,000 per violation, after a hearing (CGS § 30-55). The act specifies that DCP may investigate any purported violation of the juice bar laws and, if it finds a violation, impose those existing penalties.

§§ 63 & 64 — CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Expands the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree criminal mischief to broadly include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems

The act expands the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree criminal mischief to broadly include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems (such as utility, transportation, communications, and emergency response systems). Under existing law and the act, both crimes require the person to have acted with no reasonable grounds to believe he or she had the right to do so.

By law, 1st degree criminal mischief is a class D felony and 2nd degree criminal mischief is a class A misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

The act also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

1st Degree Criminal Mischief

Actual Service Interruption or Impairment. The act expands 1st degree criminal mischief to include when a person, intending to damage another's tangible property, damages or tampers with the tangible property of a utility or mode of public transportation, power, or communication and interrupts or impairs these services. Existing law already includes as 1st degree criminal mischief instances where someone intentionally interrupts or impairs these services.

Specific Services or Systems Damage. Under existing law, a person commits 1st degree criminal mischief by intentionally interrupting or impairing public services by damaging or tampering with any of the following:

1. tangible property owned by the state, a municipality, or a person for fire alarm or police alarm purposes;
2. telecommunication systems operated by the State Police or a municipal police department;
3. emergency medical or fire service dispatching systems;
4. fire suppression equipment owned by the state, a municipality, a person, or a fire district; or
5. fire hydrants or hydrant systems owned by the state or a municipality, person, fire district, or private water company.

The act expands this crime to include instances where the person intended to damage another person's property and caused damage to the above-listed tangible property.

2nd Degree Criminal Mischief

Under existing law, a person commits 2nd degree criminal mischief when the person intentionally causes a risk of interruption or impairment of public service by damaging or tampering with tangible property of a public utility or mode of public transportation, power, or communication.

The act expands this crime to include situations where the person intended to damage another person's tangible property and caused the risk to public property and services described above.

§ 65 — REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE BY HOTEL AND MOTEL OPERATORS

Requires up to \$250,000 appropriated to the attorney general for FY 27 be transferred to DCP for the costs of registering and ensuring compliance by hotel and motel operators, among others

The act requires up to \$250,000 from the amount appropriated in PA 25-168, § 1, as amended by PA 26-68, to the state attorney general for personal services for FY 27, to be transferred to DCP for personal services and the costs of registering and ensuring compliance by operators of hotels, motels, inns, and similar lodgings. The state attorney general's office and DCP must enter into a memorandum of understanding for this purpose.

PA 26-98 requires these owners to annually register with DCP beginning on January 1, 2027, and gives DCP authority to investigate and impose civil penalties on them for violating certain statutes including those on record keeping, and human trafficking training and notice posting.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-128—HB 5349

General Law Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING A POLICE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAM AND THE ROUNDING OF CERTAIN CASH PURCHASES

SUMMARY: This act requires a person or entity selling goods or services at retail to round a price down to the nearest five cents (for prices ending in one, two, six, or seven cents) or up to the nearest five cents (for prices ending in three, four, eight, or nine cents) when conducting an in-person transaction with someone paying cash. Rounding must be based on the total price, which includes all service and merchant fees and taxes minus any discount or deduction. These provisions do not apply when (1) the total price is four cents or less or (2) payment is by a demand or negotiable instrument (such as a check), electronic funds transfer, money order, credit or debit card, electronic payment, or similar method. Recently, the federal government stopped manufacturing new pennies.

The act also requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), by January 1, 2028, to consult with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and coordinate with a private higher education institution in West Haven (the University of New Haven) to establish a one-day training program for police officers. The training must be aimed at police officer retention and readiness; be available online; and include expert instruction, scenario-based exercises, de-escalation skills, and practical planning. The act specifies that it does not require police officers to attend the training.

Beginning by January 1, 2029, DESPP must annually report to the Public Safety and Security and Labor and Public Employees committees on the program's status.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027, except the police training provision is effective October 1, 2026

PA 26-19—sSB 458

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS DAYS AND MONTHS

SUMMARY: This act requires the governor to proclaim the following:

1. January 11 to be Hartford Whalers Day, to commemorate the first Whalers game played in Hartford;
2. February 3 to be Topical Steroid Withdrawal Awareness Day, to raise awareness of this adverse reaction characterized by intense burning, red inflamed skin, and peeling that happens after stopping long-term or high-potency topical steroid creams;
3. March 4 to be 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day, to recognize the only African-American all-female unit sent overseas during World War II to process millions of pieces of backlogged mail for troops in the European theater;
4. March 8 to be Henry Breault Day, to remember the late Medal of Honor recipient from Putnam who was the first submariner to be presented the award on March 8, 1924, for his actions aboard a U.S. submarine that was sinking, when he returned to the torpedo room to rescue a shipmate and was trapped in the submarine for 31 hours;
5. the 1st day of the month of Shawwal, the 10th month in the Islamic lunar calendar, as Eid al-Fitr to mark the end of Ramadan;
6. the month of May as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Awareness Month, to raise awareness about the presentation of and available treatments for this rare progressive neurodegenerative disorder affecting movement, balance, vision, and speech due to protein buildup in the brain;
7. July 17 to be Hiram Bingham IV Day, to remember the late Connecticut resident who (a) was the Vice Consul in charge of visas at the U.S. Consulate in Marseille, France, from 1940 to 1941; (b) at great personal peril, issued thousands of visas to refugees and was instrumental in helping them escape to the United States; and (c) was an example of the courage and compassion of many people taking humanitarian action during the Holocaust;
8. the month of September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, to raise awareness of ovarian cancer's presentation and available treatments;
9. September 28 to be Good Neighbor Day, to combat social isolation and strengthen community bonds, encourage people to get to know their neighbors, practice acts of kindness, and build safer, more connected neighborhoods; and
10. September 30 to be Military Suicide Remembrance and Awareness Day, to honor veterans and military members lost to suicide and raise awareness of mental health issues among veterans and military members and the available resources and supports for them.

The act also (1) renames Indian Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day, celebrated on the last Friday in September to commemorate Native Americans and their contribution to American life and civilization and (2) moves Lobster Roll Day to the third Sunday, instead of the third Saturday, of September.

Under the act, suitable observance exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the governor designates.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-42—sHB 5001

*Government Administration and Elections Committee
Appropriations Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL AND VARIOUS OTHER REFORMS RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS

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Modifies requirements for mailing unsolicited absentee ballot applications by certain entities and their agents; modifies the prohibition on distributing applications without the applicable year noted on them

[§ 4 — ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS FOR INCARCERATED VOTERS](#)

Requires DOC employees assisting incarcerated voters with absentee ballots to give these voters the employing facility’s contact information, rather than their own personal contact information

[§§ 4 & 14-17 — ISSUING ABSENTEE BALLOTS ELECTRONICALLY](#)

Specifies that town clerks, when required by federal law, must send absentee ballots electronically or by mail as requested by a voter, including for presidential ballots; allows voters with permanent absentee ballot status to receive absentee ballots electronically

[§§ 6 & 73 — ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN](#)

Deems an absentee ballot as cast when properly signed by the voter and accepted by the town clerk; requires town clerks to retrieve ballots from absentee ballot drop boxes on each business day instead of each weekday

[§ 7 — ABSENTEE BALLOT CURING](#)

Establishes procedures for voters to cure their absentee ballots if they failed to sign the return envelope

[§§ 7 & 10 — ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCESSING DEADLINES](#)

Modifies deadlines for sorting and processing absentee ballots

[§ 8 — ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACKING SOFTWARE](#)

Requires SOTS to develop and install absentee ballot tracking software

[§ 9 — AUTOMATIC ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION STATUS](#)

Created procedures for voters to request that absentee ballot applications automatically be sent to them for elections they are eligible to vote in (repealed and replaced by PA 26-76, §§ 37 & 38)

[§ 22 — SEEC INVESTIGATORY AUTHORITY](#)

Authorizes SEEC to investigate and resolve alleged violations of election regulations

[§ 29 — MUNICIPAL ELECTION FREQUENCY](#)

Allows municipalities to hold municipal elections every four years if authorized by their charter

[§ 30 — VOTER REGISTRATION](#)

Narrows when registrars and their deputies or assistants may examine voter qualifications for voter registration purposes at a non-public place to a time agreed upon between the registrar and the applicant

[§ 31 — ELECTION DAY DUTIES OF ASSISTANT TOWN CLERKS](#)

Adds assistant town clerks to an existing exemption for serving at a polling place even if on the ballot

[§ 32 — RELIEVING DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF VOTERS](#)

Specifies when SOTS may temporarily relieve deputy registrars of voters of their duties

[§ 33 — REPORTING ELECTION-RELATED SUBPOENAS, WARRANTS, OR REQUESTS](#)

Requires municipal officials and election workers to notify the AG and SOTS about a subpoena, warrant, or other request for or to inspect certain election records

[§ 34 — ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION ON FEDERAL ELECTION INTERFERENCE](#)

Authorizes the AG to seek certain court relief to prevent or resolve interference in elections for federal offices

[§§ 35-37 — VOTING TABULATOR USE IN RECANVASSES](#)

Allows moderators, under certain circumstances, to use different tabulators for conducting recounts than the ones used in the election

[§§ 38 & 39 — MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS](#)

Specifies which federal voter registration forms SOTS must distribute and registrars must accept

[§ 40 — ABSENTEE VOTING AND EARLY VOTING FOR CERTAIN 17-YEAR-OLDS](#)

Allows citizens who are 17 years old and will be 18 years old before election day to vote by absentee ballot or use early voting for that election

[§ 41 — POLITICAL PARTY RULES](#)

Requires political party rules to ensure the party's compliance with the ADA; requires disputes under party rules to be referred to the party's state central committee; specifies what minor party rules apply in a municipality if no local party exists

[§ 42 — NOMINATION PETITION FORM AVAILABILITY](#)

Modifies the deadline by which registrars must make petition forms for municipal candidates or town committee members available

[§ 43 — INVESTIGATIONS INTO COMPLAINTS ABOUT TOWN CLERKS](#)

Narrows the circumstances under which the AG investigates referred complaints about town clerks

[§§ 44-56 — RISK-LIMITING AUDITS](#)

Implements RLAs for state elections; establishes an RLA pilot program for municipal elections

[§ 57 — PROHIBITED ACTS NEAR AN ELECTIONS SITE](#)

Generally prohibits, with certain exceptions, law enforcement from knowingly being within 250 feet of an elections site; prohibits, with certain exceptions, anyone from wearing a mask or other covering within 250 feet of an election site; establishes criminal penalties for violations and disenfranchises individuals for certain violations

[§ 58 — HARASSMENT OF ELECTION WORKERS](#)

Increases the penalty for subsequent offenses of an existing prohibition against harassing election workers to interfere with their election day duties; expands existing harassment protections to assistant town clerks

[§ 59 — PROHIBITION ON SHARING TABULATORS OR TABULATOR PARTS WITH UNAUTHORIZED THIRD PARTIES](#)

Makes it a class D felony for an election official to give a third party any tabulator or tabulator part or appliance unless authorized by SOTS

[§ 60 — ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP BOX TAMPERING](#)

Penalizes several acts concerning absentee ballot drop boxes, including tampering with them, the ballots inside, or ballots removed from them

§ 61 — ATTORNEY GENERAL AUTHORITY TO BRING AN ACTION

Expands the AG's authority to investigate, intervene in, and take certain actions when anyone has established a policy that deprives or interferes with another person's civil rights; specifies that interfering with another person's civil rights (or attempting to) includes doing so by physical obstruction

§ 62 — TECHNICAL CHANGE CONCERNING TABULATOR TESTING AT SDR LOCATIONS

Makes a technical change concerning tabulators at SDR locations

§§ 63, 64 & 73 — REGISTRAR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Establishes certification requirements for deputy registrars of voters and makes conforming changes; repeals a duplicative registrar training requirement

§§ 65-68 — CORRECTION OF CERTAIN CERTIFICATES BY SOTS

Requires SOTS, if she notices an error or omission in certain candidate certificates, to make her best efforts to notify the affected candidate or the candidate's authorized individual or party

§ 69 — NOTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK USE

Specifies electronic poll books may only be used as a backup to the paper-based poll book when checking in voters; requires registrars to provide certain notice if they plan to do so

§ 70 — ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN UNCONSOLIDATED CITIES AND BOROUGH TASK FORCE

Establishes a task force to study absentee ballot access in certain cities and boroughs in the state that are unconsolidated with the towns where they are located

§§ 71 & 72 — VOTER PARTICIPATION EFFORTS

Establishes a task force to study achieving 100% voter participation; allows municipalities to conduct pilot programs to achieve this

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to the state's election laws, including technical and conforming changes, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various; see below.

§§ 1, 2 & 26-28 — NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

Expands absentee voting to all eligible voters, instead of requiring voters to have a specified excuse to do so

Under prior law, in order to apply for and cast an absentee ballot, a voter had to be unable to appear at his or her designated polling place on election day due to (1) active service in the U.S. armed forces; (2) absence from their city or town; (3) sickness or physical disability; (4) their religious beliefs prohibiting secular activity on that day; or (5) service as an election, primary, or referendum official at a polling place other than his or her own during all voting hours. The act eliminates these requirements and instead allows any eligible voter who completes and submits an absentee ballot application to vote absentee in a given election, primary, or referendum.

Correspondingly, the act eliminates the prohibition on misrepresenting absentee ballot eligibility requirements to any elector or prospective applicant.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that certain related technical and conforming changes are effective July 1, 2026.

§§ 2-7, 11-13, 18-21, 23-25 & 73 — ABSENTEE BALLOT MATERIALS

Makes various changes to absentee balloting sets and related materials, such as (1) consolidating the inner and outer envelopes into one “return envelope,” (2) expanding the information included on the envelope, (3) requiring a privacy sleeve, and (4) switching from serial numbers to unique ballot ID numbers

The act makes various changes to the absentee balloting sets and related materials, such as (1) consolidating the inner and outer envelopes into one “return envelope,” (2) expanding the information included on the envelope, (3) requiring a privacy sleeve for the ballot, and (4) switching from serial numbers to unique ballot identification (ID) numbers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Absentee Ballot Applications

The act requires an absentee ballot application to display a unique ballot ID number instead of being consecutively numbered.

Return Envelopes

Under prior law, absentee ballot sets consisted of a ballot, an outer envelope with information about the elector (such as their name and address), and an inner envelope with a statement signed by the elector under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting. Once the elector filled out the ballot, he or she had to insert the ballot into the inner envelope, seal it inside, and then insert the sealed inner envelope into the outer one.

The act instead consolidates the information on the inner and outer envelopes into one “return envelope.” It also modifies the information that must be on this envelope by removing language regarding excuses to vote absentee from the statement the voter signs and by requiring:

1. the voter to also print their name on the face of the envelope, which, under existing law and the act, must be signed and capable of being sealed;
2. the envelope to be endorsed with the words “OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT”;
3. a label with specified information generated by the Centralized Voter Registration System (CVRS; see below);
4. a return label displaying a unique ballot ID number (see below);
5. a notice about certain state absentee ballot handling laws (see below); and
6. the clerk’s official address to be inscribed before the absentee ballot set is issued.

Additionally, the act requires town clerks to provide an additional envelope that is pre-addressed to the clerk if federal law requires the voter to send in their identification (see *Background — Required Voter Identification Under Federal Law*). Previously, any required identification was placed in the outer envelope.

Required Labels. The CVRS label must include the (1) sender’s name and return address; (2) applicant’s name, address, and voting district; (3) ballot style and unique ID number; (4) date of the election contest; and (5) name of the political party holding the primary, if applicable.

The act requires the ballot ID number on return labels to be in a text format and as a scannable barcode (instead of requiring all outer envelopes to be serially and consecutively numbered as under prior law).

Absentee Ballot Restrictions Notice. The return envelope’s notice must inform anyone handling the absentee ballot about state law’s (1) restrictions on who may possess and return absentee ballots and (2) restrictions and penalties regarding completing or executing absentee ballots.

Privacy Sleeve

The act additionally requires absentee ballot voting sets to contain a privacy sleeve for the ballot, which the secretary of the state (SOTS) must create and provide. Relatedly, the act specifies the return envelope must accommodate returning an absentee ballot in the sleeve and that the existing plain language instructions on using an absentee ballot must also cover using the privacy sleeve. As under existing law for other absentee ballot materials, a sufficient supply of the privacy sleeves must be printed to supply the amount a town clerk requests or that SOTS deems sufficient.

Ballot Identification Numbers

The act makes a corresponding change related to the change from serial numbers to unique ID numbers, by requiring clerks to ensure the unique ballot ID number that appears on the return envelope matches the one on the application form.

Under the act, clerks must keep a list of unique ballot ID numbers and the name of the applicant receiving the corresponding absentee ballot set, as required under prior law for serial numbers. They must also do so for any additional absentee voting sets they issue (for example, replacements) and ballots of presidential voters and overseas electors.

Relatedly, the act eliminates the requirement for the clerk to issue absentee ballot sets in consecutive ascending numerical order based on the envelope's serial numbers.

Other Materials

State law generally prohibits including anything else with an absentee voting set except (1) for alternate applications for certain military personnel and overseas voters or (2) when necessary to correct errors and omissions as allowed by state law. The act additionally allows any voting information SOTS requires to be included with the absentee voting set, but explicitly prohibits including voting information that promotes a candidate's or question's success or defeat.

Background — Required Voter Identification Under Federal Law

By law, if a voter registers to vote by mail and does not meet federal identification requirements at the time of registration, the voter must give sufficient identification the first time they seek to vote absentee. If a voter fails to do so, the absentee ballot cannot be counted. Acceptable forms of identification include certain documents with the voter's name and address (such as bank statements or utility bills) or valid photo identification with the voter's name and address (CGS § 9-23r).

§ 4 — ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION DISTRIBUTION

Modifies requirements for mailing unsolicited absentee ballot applications by certain entities and their agents; modifies the prohibition on distributing applications without the applicable year noted on them

State law generally requires individuals requesting or distributing absentee ballot applications for other people to (1) register with the town clerk if distributing five or more applications, excluding those for family members, for a specific election contest and (2) keep a log of who received their applications, including specified details, and file it with the town clerk.

The act eliminates a prohibition against distributing absentee ballot applications unless the application specifies the year in which it may be used. However, the act maintains the provision prohibiting clerks from accepting, and people from using, ballot applications without the correct year noted.

Similarly, prior law allowed a candidate, party, or political committee (or candidates' or committees' agents) to mail unsolicited applications to voters if they included a written explanation of the eligibility requirements for voting absentee and the penalties for violations. The act instead requires these unsolicited applications to include a written (1) disclaimer noting that the individual or committee paid for the mailing and, if the mailing was paid for by a candidate committee, that the applicable candidate approved it, and (2) explanation of the options for returning absentee ballots under state law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 4 — ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS FOR INCARCERATED VOTERS

Requires DOC employees assisting incarcerated voters with absentee ballots to give these voters the employing facility's contact information, rather than their own personal contact information

By law, anyone helping a voter complete their absentee ballot must sign the application and print their name, residential address, and telephone number on it. Additionally, the law outlines procedures for Department of Correction (DOC) employees helping distribute, collect, and return absentee ballots for incarcerated voters who have retained their voting rights.

The act specifies that any DOC employee who helps these voters with their absentee ballot applications must instead provide the assigned facility's address and telephone number, instead of the employee's residential address and personal telephone number.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 4 & 14-17 — ISSUING ABSENTEE BALLOTS ELECTRONICALLY

Specifies that town clerks, when required by federal law, must send absentee ballots electronically or by mail as requested by a voter, including for presidential ballots; allows voters with permanent absentee ballot status to receive absentee ballots electronically

Under federal law, states generally must send absentee ballots electronically to overseas voters and members of the armed forces and their spouses and dependents who live with them. States do not have to receive them electronically.

Relatedly, the act explicitly requires town clerks to issue absentee ballots electronically to these voters if they request it, as well as former residents and overseas electors requesting “presidential ballots” to vote for the president and vice president only. (Separately, the act requires voters casting presidential ballots to print their name on the return envelope in addition to signing it.)

Similarly, the act authorizes town clerks to issue absentee ballots electronically to voters with permanent absentee ballot status who request it. (By law, only voters who are permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-term illness may receive permanent absentee ballot status.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 6 & 73 — ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN

Deems an absentee ballot as cast when properly signed by the voter and accepted by the town clerk; requires town clerks to retrieve ballots from absentee ballot drop boxes on each business day instead of each weekday

The act deems an absentee ballot cast when it is (1) received, (2) signed by the voter on the return envelope’s affirmation, and (3) accepted by the town clerk. Correspondingly, the act repeals a provision allowing a voter to withdraw their absentee ballot.

The act also requires town clerks to retrieve ballots from absentee ballot drop boxes on each business day instead of each weekday as under prior law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — ABSENTEE BALLOT CURING

Establishes procedures for voters to cure their absentee ballots if they failed to sign the return envelope

The act establishes procedures for voters to “cure” their absentee ballots if they failed to sign the required statement on the return envelope. Under the act, voters may cure their ballots during the period from the beginning of the absentee voting period until the close of the polls on election day.

The act requires town clerks to (1) note each return envelope without the statement signed and (2) make their best efforts to contact the impacted voter, but generally not later than 24 hours after receiving the voter’s ballot. For ballots received within 24 hours before the polls close, the town clerk must start using best efforts immediately after receiving the ballot.

Under the act, “best efforts” must at least include contacting voters through the phone numbers and email addresses they provide on their absentee ballot applications and voter registrations. If this information was not provided, the clerk may exercise discretion in contacting the voter through other means.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 7 & 10 — ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCESSING DEADLINES

Modifies deadlines for sorting and processing absentee ballots

Town Clerk’s Sorting and Delivery of Absentee Ballots to Registrars (§ 7)

The act allows town clerks to begin sorting absentee ballots into voting districts on the first day absentee ballot sets are issued, instead of starting seven days before the election contest as under prior law.

By law, the clerk must then deliver the absentee ballots to the registrars to be checked. Once the checking is complete, the registrars return the unopened ballots to the clerk, who must seal and hold them until the election day. The clerk follows this procedure for all ballots received by 11:00 a.m. on the weekday before the election.

For ballots received before this time, the law sets deadlines by which the clerk must deliver the stored absentee ballots to the registrars. The act changes these deadlines as described in the table below.

Deadlines for Delivering Absentee Ballots on Election Day

<i>Type of Election Contest</i>	<i>Prior Law's Deadline</i>	<i>The Act's Deadline</i>
Election	10:00 am – 12:00 pm or a mutually agreed upon time before 8:00 pm	8:00 am
Primary		
Referendum	12:00 pm or a mutually agreed upon time before 8:00 pm	8:00 am or a mutually agreed upon time before 4:00 pm
Special election or referendum	As above for regular contests	

State law, unchanged by the act, also sets deadlines for delivering absentee ballots to the registrars that are received by the town clerk after 11:00 a.m. on the weekday before the election.

Absentee Ballot Counting (§ 10)

The act requires absentee ballot counters to go to the counting location at least 15 minutes before the deadline for the clerks to deliver the absentee ballots to the registrars as described in the table above, instead of at the time the registrar designated as under prior law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 8 — ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACKING SOFTWARE

Requires SOTS to develop and install absentee ballot tracking software

The act requires SOTS to develop and install absentee ballot-tracking software that is integrated with CVRS. At a minimum, the software must track the following:

1. when an absentee ballot application is received and accepted by the town clerk;
2. when the ballot is (a) mailed out by the clerk, (b) delivered to the applicant, or (c) delivered to the clerk; and
3. whether the ballot was accepted, requires curing, or is rejected.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 9 — AUTOMATIC ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION STATUS

Created procedures for voters to request that absentee ballot applications automatically be sent to them for elections they are eligible to vote in (repealed and replaced by PA 26-76, §§ 37 & 38)

The act allowed voters to submit a request to their local registrars, through procedures SOTS sets, to automatically receive absentee ballot applications for each election, primary, or referendum held in the municipality for which they are eligible to vote (PA 26-76 instead requires sending these requests to the town clerk in a form and way set by SOTS).

This act required all approved applicants to be issued an application as soon as practicable before the election contest. PA 26-76 instead requires issuance the earlier of (1) 90 days before the election contest or (2) as soon as practicable. Additionally, the application must have the voter's information already filled in (information of a person helping the voter with the application does not need to be prefilled).

Under this act and PA 26-76, approved voters must continue to receive applications automatically until (1) they submit a written removal request to the authority they applied to, (2) the application is returned as undeliverable, or (3) the voter is placed on the inactive registry list. By law, voters may be placed on the inactive registry list for a variety of reasons, including if registrars are notified about a person's death or disenfranchisement. A voter may also be placed on the inactive list if the registrar (1) has reason to believe that the voter moved, (2) sent notice as required by state law, and (3) did not receive a return card within 30 days after mailing it or it was returned undeliverable. State law establishes procedures for reactivating a person's registration.

PA 26-76 repeals and replaces the provision of this act that allowed voters to be removed from this status due to one

of the reasons described below:

1. removal from the municipality's official registry list,
2. he or she submits a change of address form to the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address System indicating a new out-of-state address,
3. SOTS or the applicable registrar receives information from an out-of-state admitting official that the voter has registered to vote there, or
4. the applicable registrar receives information or data from the statewide centralized voter registration system that the voter moved out of state (such as information from another state or the federal government used to update voter registration systems).

PA 26-76 instead requires that before issuing automatic applications, the registrars of voters and the town clerk must compare the list of voters that will receive automatic applications against the municipality's official active registry (list of active voters in the town). They must do so in order to (1) identify voters who are scheduled to receive automatic applications but are no longer active voters in the town and (2) remove them from automatic absentee ballot status.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026 (PA 26-76 delays this until July 1, 2027).

§ 22 — SEEC INVESTIGATORY AUTHORITY

Authorizes SEEC to investigate and resolve alleged violations of election regulations

The State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) is authorized to investigate and act on alleged violations of state statutes concerning elections, primaries, or referendums. The act explicitly authorizes SEEC to also investigate and act on violations of regulations adopted under these statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 29 — MUNICIPAL ELECTION FREQUENCY

Allows municipalities to hold municipal elections every four years if authorized by their charter

Starting January 1, 2027, the act authorizes municipalities to hold municipal elections every four years if the municipal charter allows it, regardless of any other law. Otherwise, municipalities must hold elections every two years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 30 — VOTER REGISTRATION

Narrows when registrars and their deputies or assistants may examine voter qualifications for voter registration purposes at a non-public place to a time agreed upon between the registrar and the applicant

State law outlines when voters may register to vote in person and have their voter qualifications examined, including allowing them to submit applications to the registrars (or their assistants or deputies) at any time at a non-public place in town. The act limits this by specifying that this must be mutually agreed upon between the applicant and the official.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 31 — ELECTION DAY DUTIES OF ASSISTANT TOWN CLERKS

Adds assistant town clerks to an existing exemption for serving at a polling place even if on the ballot

State law generally prohibits candidates from serving as election officials or at the polls on election day. However, town clerks and registrars of voters may perform their official duties, even if they are on the ballot for the office they are already holding. Deputy registrars of voters may also do so even if running to be a registrar of voters. The act similarly allows assistant town clerks running for town clerk to perform their official duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 32 — RELIEVING DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Specifies when SOTS may temporarily relieve deputy registrars of voters of their duties

Existing law allows SOTS to temporarily relieve a registrar of voters from duty, following certain procedures, if the registrar (1) failed to obtain or maintain their certification or (2) is subject to a SEEC investigation because SOTS filed a statement with SEEC. The act expands these provisions to also cover deputy registrars and makes minor and conforming changes. As under existing law for registrars, nothing in these provisions prohibits a municipality from paying a deputy registrar's salary while these procedures are pending.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 33 — REPORTING ELECTION-RELATED SUBPOENAS, WARRANTS, OR REQUESTS

Requires municipal officials and election workers to notify the AG and SOTS about a subpoena, warrant, or other request for or to inspect certain election records

The act requires notification to certain state officials by all municipal officials and election workers that receive a subpoena, warrant, or other request for or to inspect any record or recording related to an election, primary, or referendum (including requests related to tabulators, ballot boxes, or other devices used to conduct elections) ("election records"). This includes all requests made by any private or governmental entity, individual, or official.

Specifically, municipal officials and election workers must give a copy of the request to the attorney general (AG) and SOTS within 36 hours after receiving it. Both the AG and SOTS must post notice on their respective websites on how these copies may be given to them. If SOTS directly receives the request, she must immediately give the AG's office a copy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 34 — ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION ON FEDERAL ELECTION INTERFERENCE

Authorizes the AG to seek certain court relief to prevent or resolve interference in elections for federal offices

The act authorizes the AG to seek preliminary or permanent injunctive, declaratory, or other appropriate equitable relief ("relief") to prevent or resolve interference in elections for presidential electors and congressional offices. He may do so by filing (1) a complaint alleging the interference with the Connecticut Supreme Court and (2) an attached certification that a copy of the complaint was sent by first-class mail or delivered to SOTS, SEEC, and all other interested parties.

If the AG makes the complaint after the election, it must be brought within 14 days after the election; if he makes it before the election, the judge must quickly proceed to render judgment and send SOTS and SEEC notice about the scheduled hearing.

The court, once it has received the complaint, must order any injunctive or declaratory relief needed to preserve or restore the current situation (including ordering election workers to retain custody of certain election records).

Further, if exigent circumstances are shown, the court may make an immediate ex parte order (an order without a hearing) granting relief it deems appropriate. If it does so, the court must hold a complaint hearing three to five days after making the order. It must provide three to five days' notice about the hearing's time and place to any affected candidates and election workers, SOTS, SEEC, and any parties the judge deems proper.

The hearing must be conducted without unnecessary delay by the issuing judge and two other Supreme Court judges designated by the chief court administrator. If sufficient cause is shown, the judges may order (1) SEEC to maintain custody of any election records and (2) permanent relief in connection with an election worker's or SEEC's custody of election records.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 35-37 — VOTING TABULATOR USE IN RECANVASSES

Allows moderators, under certain circumstances, to use different tabulators for conducting recounts than the ones used in the election

Under existing law, a moderator must start a recanvass (a recount) if it appears there are discrepancies in a voting district's returns. If so, the returns of all voting tabulators and absentee and write-in ballots in the municipality must be recanvassed, not just the returns within the voting district where the discrepancy occurred. Similarly, a recanvass is

generally conducted in the case of a close or tie vote. The act explicitly specifies that recanvasses due to a tie vote must be held in the same manner as voting discrepancy recanvasses.

Generally, the recanvass of voting tabulators uses the tabulators used at the election site on the day of the election contest. The act instead allows a recanvass to use different voting tabulators or high-speed voting tabulators if the recanvass is done (1) at SOTS' office or (2) within the municipality if SOTS agrees to the moderator's request to borrow these tabulators.

The act correspondingly authorizes (1) recanvasses to be done at SOTS' office and (2) SOTS to adopt related regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 38 & 39 — MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Specifies which federal voter registration forms SOTS must distribute and registrars must accept

Prior law required SOTS to provide the Federal Election Commission's mail voter registration application form and registrars to accept applications that use it. The act instead requires they provide and accept applications that use the Election Assistance Commission's form.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 40 — ABSENTEE VOTING AND EARLY VOTING FOR CERTAIN 17-YEAR-OLDS

Allows citizens who are 17 years old and will be 18 years old before election day to vote by absentee ballot or use early voting for that election

The state constitution allows citizens who are 17 years old and will be 18 years old before election day to register to vote (and vote in a related primary). The act specifies these voters, if registered and otherwise qualified as an elector, may vote by absentee ballot or use early voting for that election.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 41 — POLITICAL PARTY RULES

Requires political party rules to ensure the party's compliance with the ADA; requires disputes under party rules to be referred to the party's state central committee; specifies what minor party rules apply in a municipality if no local party exists

State law generally requires political parties to file their party rules with SOTS. These rules describe various aspects of the party's operations, such as selecting or nominating individuals for political office. The act additionally requires that these rules, and any amendments to them, ensure the party complies with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It also requires that any disputes arising under a party's rules be referred to the party's state central committee.

Minor Parties

By law, a minor party candidate may not be placed on a primary ballot unless the party files a copy of its party rules for nominating candidates with SOTS at least 180 days before nominating candidates. Similarly, the minor party must file its rules for selecting town committee members and convention delegations at least 60 days before any selection. The minor party must also file a copy of the local party rules with the town clerks in the affected municipalities.

The act specifies that if a minor party does not have a local party, the minor party rules that are filed with SOTS are deemed the rules for the enrolled members and candidates of that minor party for the applicable municipalities. State law has a similar requirement if a local party (major or minor) exists, but has not given SOTS its rules.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 42 — NOMINATION PETITION FORM AVAILABILITY

Modifies the deadline by which registrars must make petition forms for municipal candidates or town committee members available

Under prior law, registrars had to make petition forms for municipal candidates or town committee members available beginning on the day after the (1) party's endorsement of candidates for that position or (2) final day for endorsements under state law, whichever comes first. The act eliminates the first deadline and just maintains the second.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 43 — INVESTIGATIONS INTO COMPLAINTS ABOUT TOWN CLERKS

Narrows the circumstances under which the AG investigates referred complaints about town clerks

Under prior law, if a written complaint was made to the AG that a town clerk was guilty of misconduct, willful and material neglect of duty, or incompetence in conducting any of their duties, the AG had to investigate as he determined was proper, and if warranted, prepare a written statement of charges against the clerk.

The act eliminates these provisions and instead allows the AG to investigate if SEEC consults with him about SEEC's investigations into election law violations by a town clerk. The act also requires the written statement to detail the allegations against the clerk, instead of the charges. As under existing law, the AG may, among other things, summon witnesses, require the production of necessary documents, and represent the state in removal hearings.

If, after the investigation and a court hearing, the court finds that the evidence warrants the clerk's removal, the court must order removal and the office is deemed vacant once the clerk is served with the order. The act specifies that the vacancy occurs regardless of any pending appeals of the court's order.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 44-56 — RISK-LIMITING AUDITS

Implements RLAs for state elections; establishes an RLA pilot program for municipal elections

The act implements risk-limiting audits (RLAs) for state elections but generally maintains the existing post-election audit process for federal and state primaries and municipal elections. RLAs are publicly verifiable auditing procedures that manually examine a statistical sample of paper ballots and guarantee a specified risk limit, which the act caps at 5%.

To accomplish this, the act establishes the general scope and procedures for RLAs, such as by (1) outlining election officials' duties and the affected public offices, (2) requiring the creation of ballot manifests, and (3) applying existing provisions for post-election audits to RLAs (such as those on using electronic equipment and voting tabulators and how to address election contests). The act requires SOTS to set instructions and procedures for the audits. It also allows her to adopt related regulations.

The act establishes a pilot program for RLAs of state elections in 2026. It requires SOTS to randomly select three municipalities for the program, with one for each of the following population ranges, as estimated in the most recent State Register and Manual: (1) less than 20,000; (2) 20,000-89,999; and (3) 90,000 or greater (§ 56).

Additionally, prior law required regular post-election audits for municipal elections and primaries to occur no earlier than five days after an election and no later than two business days before the town clerk's canvass for votes. Instead, under the act, the audits for municipal elections and primaries must occur at least 15 days after the election or primary instead of five.

Lastly, the act makes minor, technical, and conforming changes to existing election audit statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027, except the pilot program provision is effective upon passage.

Definitions

The act requires registrars of voters to do RLAs for state elections, instead of the general post-election audit process. Federal and state primaries, as well as municipal elections and primaries, remain subject to existing auditing requirements.

Under the act, an RLA is a publicly verifiable auditing procedure that (1) manually examines a statistical sample of paper ballots that reflect the intents of the voters who cast the ballots, (2) produces an outcome of either "ACCEPTABLE" or "INCONCLUSIVE," and (3) guarantees a specified risk limit.

The "risk limit" is the maximum probability that an audit would produce an outcome of "ACCEPTABLE" when there

is a disagreement between the person declared elected and the person who got the most votes as determined by the paper ballots (in other words, the percentage chance an RLA will fail to catch that the reported results are incorrect). The act caps the risk limit for RLAs at 5%.

Covered Offices

Under the act, an RLA must be done on the election outcomes for the following offices:

1. presidential elector;
2. all state offices for which all electors of the state may vote, including governor, lieutenant governor, SOTS, treasurer, comptroller, AG, and senator in Congress;
3. at least one representative in Congress, selected by random draw;
4. at least 5% of the General Assembly, selected by random draw; and
5. any other office for which federal law requires an audit.

However, the act excludes a contest from an RLA if (1) the candidate ran unopposed or (2) it is subject to recanvass because of a close or tie vote (in practice, close or tie votes already require a full recount). If an office for a Congressional representative or state legislator is subject to recanvass for a reason other than a close or tie vote, or to an election contest, SOTS must ensure that office is selected for an RLA. The act requires the random draws to be open to the public.

Pre-Audit Ballot Manifests

The act requires election officials to create ballot manifests for use at RLAs following procedures established by SOTS and open to public observation. Although undefined by the act, a ballot manifest is generally a detailed description of how ballots are stored and organized, listing, at minimum, the physical location of every ballot cast in the election so that individual ballots or batches of ballot cards can be found, retrieved, and examined manually.

Under the act, a ballot manifest must be created as outlined in procedures SOTS provides. The manifests must be created by:

1. election officials in each polling place within 72 hours after the polls close,
2. ballot counters in each central counting location for absentee ballots within 72 hours after the polls close, and
3. recanvass officials within 24 hours after completing any recanvass in a voting district for a state election.

Under the act, the moderator must submit a ballot manifest to the registrars of voters immediately after creating it. The registrars must then submit it to SOTS before the designated day to begin an RLA.

Designated Day

Like post-election audits for federal and state races, the act requires SOTS to designate a day for an RLA to begin, which must be at least 15 days after a state election but at least two business days before the canvass of votes. Each audit must be noticed and open to the public.

Conducting an Audit

Under the act, registrars of voters do the RLAs. By January 1, 2027, SOTS must set instructions and procedures for doing them that are consistent for all offices subject to these audits. The act also allows her to adopt associated regulations and set guidelines for expanded audits when audit results cannot be reconciled with the outcome of the person declared elected by having the greatest number of votes, as determined by the paper ballots (the “reported results”).

If an RLA for a particular office is “INCONCLUSIVE,” the secretary must order a manual recount of all ballots cast for that office. She may also issue an order, as under prior law, to correct any irregularity or impropriety in an RLA’s conduct.

Reporting Results

As under prior law, all audit results, including RLAs, must be filed with SOTS on a form she sets. SOTS must immediately forward the results to UConn, which must analyze them and submit a written report describing any identified concerns to SOTS. She must then send SEEC a copy of UConn’s written report.

Electronic Equipment and Voting Tabulators

The act extends several of existing law's provisions on using electronic equipment and voting tabulators in post-election audits to also cover RLAs. Principally, it:

1. allows SOTS, after consulting with UConn, to authorize the use of electronic equipment;
2. requires her to have access to the code in any voting machine whenever there is a problem due to an RLA;
3. directs her or her designee to examine and recertify a tabulator if UConn's analysis indicates that it failed to record votes accurately and as required by state law;
4. requires carefully preserving and returning paper ballots used in an RLA in their designated receptacle (such as returned to the ballot box, securely sealed, and locked);
5. requires SOTS, if audit officials cannot reconcile the audit results with the reported results, to investigate voting tabulators as needed to determine if they must be (a) decertified or (b) examined and recertified; and
6. authorizes SOTS, SEEC, or a court with competent jurisdiction to issue an order after a state election to keep a voting tabulator locked for longer than law requires.

The act allows either the court or SOTS to order an audit of the voting tabulator by people they designate, but SEEC may order an audit if SOTS is the office in question. If SOTS produces a report on an investigation of a voting tabulator, it must be filed with SEEC, which may investigate further to determine if there was an election law violation.

Under the act, if the machine in question is an optical scan voting system, an order to lock it must include the tabulator, memory card, and all other parts and processes used in its programming.

Town Clerk Reporting to SOTS

By law, each municipal clerk must give SOTS a statement with the names, post office addresses, and terms of each person elected to office in a municipal election. The act requires this statement to be filed by the last day of the month in which the election was held, instead of within 10 days after the election as under prior law.

Election Official Compensation

Under the act, municipalities must compensate election officials who participate in implementing an RLA at the municipality's standard rate of pay for elections.

Regional Election Advisors

As with post-election audits, the act requires regional election advisors to consult and coordinate with SOTS in the preparation for and operation of RLAs, including communicating with and helping registrars of voters.

Election Complaints and Evidence

Like post-election audit results, the act requires RLA-reported results to be open to public inspection and allows them to be used as prima facie evidence of an irregularity in a contested election or for any other cause of action from a contested election.

The act also specifies that (1) an action or complaint may be brought in response to any state election audit within seven days after it ends (under prior law, this deadline specifically applied to actions related to manual tabulations of paper ballots), and (2) its RLA provisions do not preclude a candidate or elector from seeking other existing remedies for contested elections.

§ 57 — PROHIBITED ACTS NEAR AN ELECTIONS SITE

Generally prohibits, with certain exceptions, law enforcement from knowingly being within 250 feet of an elections site; prohibits, with certain exceptions, anyone from wearing a mask or other covering within 250 feet of an election site; establishes criminal penalties for violations and disenfranchises individuals for certain violations

Election Sites

The act generally prohibits certain acts near elections sites and subjects violators to a criminal penalty as described below. Under the act, "elections sites" include the following:

1. polling places on the day of an election, primary, or referendum;
2. early voting locations during an early voting period;
3. same-day election registration locations on election day or during the early voting period;
4. central counting locations for early voting, absentee, and same-day registration ballots;
5. recanvass locations; and
6. drop boxes during the absentee voting period.

Prohibited Actions by Certain Officers, Agents, and Those That Control Them

The act generally prohibits officers and agents authorized by any state or the federal government to use force against, search, detain, or arrest people, and those that control these officers and agents, from knowingly being within 250 feet of any elections site. However, these officers, agents, and the supervising authorities, may be within this perimeter if:

1. voting while off-duty as allowed by state law (PA 26-76, § 36 expands this to also allow voting while on duty);
2. engaging in protected political expression while off-duty;
3. in transit to another location;
4. they reside within the perimeter;
5. the governor deems it necessary for them to use force to repel armed enemies of the U.S. or the state;
6. the person is conducting a search, detention, or arrest and (a) is acting in an official capacity, (b) notified SOTS and the AG at least 24 hours before, (c) has a legal judicial warrant or order to specifically conduct these activities within the 250-foot perimeter and at the specific location, and (d) is present only as long as reasonably necessary to conduct the activity;
7. exigent circumstances reasonably require it to protect against a serious threat to life or property, but only as long as reasonably necessary to do so; or
8. SOTS or the moderator (a) requests force to suppress disorder or (b) gives permission (and the permission has not been withdrawn).

(PA 26-76, § 36, adds to this list by specifying that these officers, agents, and supervising authorities may access, travel to and from or remain at, law enforcement unit buildings that (1) are buildings or structures used by police officers when performing their official duties, including headquarters, stations, substations, and barracks; (2) were constructed and occupied by a municipal or state law enforcement agency before July 1, 2026; (3) are operated by one of these types of agencies; and (4) are within 250 feet of an elections site.)

This act also prohibits these individuals from engaging in conduct that would violate federal laws that prohibit (1) stationing military forces at locations where elections are being held, (2) military forces from interfering with elections, and (3) government employees from interfering with elections for federal offices (see *Background — Federal Laws Concerning Election Interference*).

Additionally, the act specifically prohibits these officers, agents, and supervising authorities from knowingly (1) being within 250 feet of an elections site in order to attempt to examine voter qualifications or (2) loitering or remaining within this perimeter. (PA 26-76, § 36, also allows off-duty law enforcement to remain within 250 feet of an elections site as long as necessary while present at another place or location within this perimeter (for example, doing business at a nearby location).)

Under this act, any violation of these provisions is a class C felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)). Further, any person who violates these provisions must be disenfranchised (prohibited from voting in the future).

Prohibited Actions by the General Public

Under the act, no person may be required to present any identification within 250 feet of an elections site unless required by state law. However, this provision does not prevent election, primary, or referendum officials from performing their election duties under state law. Further, under the act, actions taken by an officer or agent conducting an authorized search, detention, or arrest with proper notice and a court order as described above are not a violation.

The act also prohibits any person from wearing a mask or covering that obscures his or her face, head, or identity within 250 feet of an elections site unless it is (1) medically necessary or of religious significance or (2) reasonable given the weather conditions if the person complies with a moderator's request to remove the mask or covering.

The act makes it a class D felony to (1) violate the voter identification prohibition or (2) willfully violate the mask prohibition or refuse to comply with a moderator's request to remove a mask or other covering.

Background — Federal Laws Concerning Election Interference

Federal law generally prohibits civil or military officers from ordering or placing troops or armed individuals at any place where a general or special election is being held (18 U.S.C. § 592). Relatedly, it also prohibits armed forces members from (1) setting voter qualifications for elections; (2) using force, threats, or other means to prevent or attempt to prevent voters from voting; (3) forcing election officials to receive a vote from someone who is not qualified to vote; (4) imposing election regulations that differ from the law; or (5) interfering with an election official's duties (18 U.S.C. § 593). It also prohibits anyone employed in an administrative position in the United States or serving as a municipal, state, or federal government employee, among others, from using their official authority to interfere or affect the nomination or election of a candidate for president, vice president, U.S. senator, U.S. representative, or representatives from U.S. territories or the District of Columbia (18 U.S.C. § 595).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 58 — HARASSMENT OF ELECTION WORKERS

Increases the penalty for subsequent offenses of an existing prohibition against harassing election workers to interfere with their election day duties; expands existing harassment protections to assistant town clerks

Under prior law, it was a class A misdemeanor to publicly disclose an election worker's personal identifying information (such as name, birthdate, and Social Security number) with the intent to harass, terrorize, or alarm the worker or influence them in performing their election administration duties. The act maintains this penalty for a first offense, but makes subsequent offenses a class C felony.

It also expands the definition of "election worker" to include assistant municipal clerks, in addition to municipal clerks; registrars of voters; deputy registrars; and election, primary, and recanvass officials as under prior law. In doing so, the act:

1. extends the above penalties to anyone who publicly discloses an assistant municipal clerk's personal identifying information as described above;
2. subjects anyone who influences (or attempts to influence) an assistant municipal clerk performing election administration duties to a class C felony, as is the case for other election workers under the law (this includes influencing the election worker by force, threat, or harassment); and
3. gives assistant municipal clerks a civil cause of action against violators of the above provisions, as is the case for other election workers under the law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 59 — PROHIBITION ON SHARING TABULATORS OR TABULATOR PARTS WITH UNAUTHORIZED THIRD PARTIES

Makes it a class D felony for an election official to give a third party any tabulator or tabulator part or appliance unless authorized by SOTS

Under existing law, it is generally a class D felony for an election official to tamper with voting tabulators or alter ballots read by the tabulators. The act additionally makes it a class D felony for an election official to give a third party any tabulator or tabulator part or appliance unless authorized by SOTS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 60 — ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP BOX TAMPERING

Penalizes several acts concerning absentee ballot drop boxes, including tampering with them, the ballots inside, or ballots removed from them

The law authorizes voters to cast their absentee ballots by depositing them in designated drop boxes during the absentee voting period. The act establishes a new criminal penalty for certain acts related to these drop boxes. Specifically, it makes it a class D felony to knowingly do the following:

1. tamper with, alter, destroy, or unlawfully carry away a drop box;
2. change or destroy a ballot after it has been deposited;
3. fraudulently deposit additional ballots into a drop box with those lawfully deposited, before or after they have been counted, and falsely claim the additional ballots were lawfully deposited, with the intent to interrupt or invalidate

an election contest; or

4. fraudulently add a ballot to those retrieved from drop boxes during the counting or recanvassing of ballots, with the intent of affecting the election contest or entering any ballot as evidence in election complaint hearings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 61 — ATTORNEY GENERAL AUTHORITY TO BRING AN ACTION

Expands the AG's authority to investigate, intervene in, and take certain actions when anyone has established a policy that deprives or interferes with another person's civil rights; specifies that interfering with another person's civil rights (or attempting to) includes doing so by physical obstruction

Existing law authorizes the AG to investigate, intervene in, and bring civil or administrative actions on behalf of the state seeking injunctive or declaratory relief, damages, and any other relief that may be available under law, whenever there is a practice or pattern of conduct that:

1. deprives people of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the U.S. or Connecticut constitutions or laws (civil rights) or
2. interferes or attempts to interfere by threats, intimidation, or coercion, with another person's exercise or enjoyment of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the U.S. or Connecticut constitutions or laws.

The act expands the AG's authority to take these actions on behalf of the state by also allowing him to do so when anyone has established a policy that deprives another person of their civil rights, or interferes with them, in the ways described above. It also specifies that interfering with another person's civil rights (or attempting to) includes doing so by physical obstruction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 62 — TECHNICAL CHANGE CONCERNING TABULATOR TESTING AT SDR LOCATIONS

Makes a technical change concerning tabulators at SDR locations

Prior law required that registrars set, adjust, test, and deliver voting tabulators to polling places, including early voting and same-day registration (SDR) locations, at least one hour before they opened. The act eliminates this requirement for SDR locations which, in practice, do not have dedicated tabulators (as ballots cast there are counted at a central location).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 63, 64 & 73 — REGISTRAR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Establishes certification requirements for deputy registrars of voters and makes conforming changes; repeals a duplicative registrar training requirement

By law, SOTS, in consultation with an advisory committee, must establish a program and criteria for certifying registrars of voters. The act expands this program to deputy registrars of voters and requires that they be certified, instead of making certification optional as under prior law.

Specifically, deputy registrars taking office on or before July 1, 2026, must complete the program and meet the criteria for certification by July 1, 2028. Deputy registrars taking office after July 1, 2026, must, if elected for a (1) two-year term, be certified by the end of their term or (2) four-year term, be certified within two years of taking office. Correspondingly, the act eliminates provisions requiring deputy registrars who become registrars under certain circumstances to complete an abridged version of the program.

The act expands existing provisions on registrars to also cover deputy registrars, including requiring (1) towns to pay the costs of completing the program and getting this certification, (2) deputy registrars to annually complete eight hours of continuing education to keep their certification, and (3) SOTS to direct deputy registrars who fail to meet their annual training requirement to take the remedial measures she requires.

Relatedly, the act specifies that if a deputy registrar becomes a registrar due to the death, removal, or resignation of the registrar, the deputy's certification (completing the program and meeting the criteria) carries forward for the remainder of the term.

Existing law also requires towns to compensate municipal clerks and registrars of voters that attend two election law conferences SOTS holds (generally, \$35 per day and a mileage rate). Under prior law, in the absence of a municipality's registrar, the municipality must have compensated the deputy registrar's cost if he or she attends. Under the act,

municipalities must always compensate a deputy registrar, regardless of the registrar's absence.

The act also repeals a requirement that each registrar of voters annually designate themselves, a deputy registrar, or an assistant registrar to receive at least 10 hours of instruction in a registrar certification course created by SOTS. It also makes conforming changes concerning SOTS and the advisory committee's duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 65-68 — CORRECTION OF CERTAIN CERTIFICATES BY SOTS

Requires SOTS, if she notices an error or omission in certain candidate certificates, to make her best efforts to notify the affected candidate or the candidate's authorized individual or party

By law, SOTS may amend endorsement certificates, certificates of candidacies for nomination, and certificates of nomination to correct certain errors or omissions, but must maintain a record of any amendment she makes. The law specifies that the secretary is not required to evaluate these certificates to identify possible errors or omissions. However, under the act, if she does identify one, she must make best efforts to notify the affected candidate or the candidate's authorized individual or party so an authorized individual can correct it.

As under existing law, if a timely-filed certificate has an error or omission that would invalidate it, only the candidate or an individual authorized to act on his or her behalf may correct the issue by appearing in person at the secretary of the state's office to amend it. If the candidate or individual does not timely correct the certificate, it is deemed invalid and the party is deemed to have neither made nor certified the endorsement or candidacy for nomination, whichever applies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 69 — NOTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK USE

Specifies electronic poll books may only be used as a backup to the paper-based poll book when checking in voters; requires registrars to provide certain notice if they plan to do so

By law, registrars must use a paper-based list for checking in voters on election day or for early voting, and may only use electronic lists (electronic poll books) as authorized by SOTS. The act codifies current practice by specifying electronic lists may only be used in conjunction with the official paper-based list.

Additionally, if the registrars plan to use an electronic list, they must post conspicuous written notice on the municipality's website and at a readily accessible place at town hall or the town's municipal building at least 14 days before (1) any election or primary early voting period or (2) a referendum.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 70 — ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN UNCONSOLIDATED CITIES AND BOROUGH TASK FORCE

Establishes a task force to study absentee ballot access in certain cities and boroughs in the state that are unconsolidated with the towns where they are located

The act creates a nine-person task force to study absentee ballot access in certain cities and boroughs in the state that are unconsolidated with the towns where they are located. For elections, primaries, and referenda in these cities and boroughs, the task force must examine possible absentee ballot application procedures and delivery methods (including having absentee ballots include the ballot items to be voted on by both the (1) unconsolidated city or borough and (2) town where it is located).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Membership

The task force's membership consists of seven appointed members as well as SOTS and UConn's Center for Voting Research Technology director, or their designees. The appointed members are appointed as described in the table below.

Task Force Appointed Members

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Appointee Qualifications</i>
House speaker	A town clerk for a town that contains all or part of an unconsolidated city or borough
Senate president pro tempore	A clerk for an unconsolidated city or borough
House majority leader	None (but may be a legislator)
Senate majority leader	A registrar of voters for a town that contains all or part of an unconsolidated city or borough
House minority leader	None (but may be a legislator)
Senate minority leader	A registrar of voters for a town that contains all or part of an unconsolidated city or borough
SOTS	An attorney with state election law expertise

Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments by June 14, 2026, and fill any vacancy.

Leadership and Meetings

Under the act, SOTS or her designee must chair the taskforce and schedule and hold the first meeting by July 14, 2026. The Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee's administrative staff serve in this capacity for the task force.

Reports

By January 1, 2027, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the GAE Committee. The task force ends when it makes this report or on January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

§§ 71 & 72 — VOTER PARTICIPATION EFFORTS

Establishes a task force to study achieving 100% voter participation; allows municipalities to conduct pilot programs to achieve this

Pilot Programs

The act allows municipalities, within existing resources, to establish pilot programs to promote the goal of achieving 100% voter participation. The program may include efforts to enhance civic engagement, such as voter outreach and education campaigns. The act specifies that these pilot programs are subject to the state's election laws and municipal restrictions on diverging from certain state election policies.

Task Force

The act also establishes a nine-member task force to study (1) efforts to achieve 100% voter participation in the state by January 1, 2030, and potential implementation options; (2) ways to generally enhance civic engagement; (3) the experiences of jurisdictions that require citizens to vote; (4) municipal officials' needs in administering elections with 100% participation; and (5) needed budgetary resources to achieve 100% participation.

The task force members include the secretary of the state, or her designee, and eight members appointed as follows:

1. two by the governor and
2. one by each of the six legislative leaders.

Members appointed by the legislative leaders may be legislators. The act requires (1) initial appointments to be made by August 1, 2026, and (2) the first meeting to be held by September 1, 2026. The appointing authority must fill any vacancy. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons, who must schedule the first meeting. The GAE Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

By February 1, 2027, the task force must submit a report to the GAE Committee on its findings and recommendations, including any potential legislation to direct resources or funds to municipalities to increase voter participation. The task

force ends when it submits its report or February 1, 2027, whichever is later.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-66—HB 5532

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS, REDEFINING "GIFT" FOR PURPOSES OF SAID CODES AND INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS IN SAID CODES

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to the state ethics laws. Specifically, it amends the Code of Ethics for Public Officials by (1) adjusting disclosure requirements for tax-sheltered annuity retirement plans on public statements of financial interest (§ 2) and (2) raising the code's financial thresholds (for example, the dollar limit for an allowable gift). It also reduces the quorum requirement for the nine-member Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board from six to five (§ 1).

Relatedly, the code places limits on gifts that may be given to and received by public officials and state employees, subject to various exemptions. The act additionally exempts admission to one intercollegiate sporting event in the state per calendar year if hosted by a higher education constituent unit and given by the unit to an official or employee and up to one guest (§ 4).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except that the quorum requirement change is effective upon passage.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS

Existing law requires all statewide elected officers, General Assembly members, department heads and deputies, quasi-public agency members or directors, Investment Advisory Council members, and other governor-designated officials to file statements of financial interest with the Office of State Ethics (OSE).

These statements must include, among other things, the name of securities with a fair market value over \$5,000 owned by the official or his or her spouse or dependent children, or held in the name of a corporation, partnership, or trust for their benefit. Under the act, if these securities are a tax-sheltered annuity retirement plan under federal tax law (a "403(b) plan"), then only the name of the retirement savings plan must be disclosed and not the name of the securities. Existing law makes a similar allowance for other savings plans allowed under federal tax law (for example, 401(k) retirement savings plans, 529 education savings plans).

FINANCIAL THRESHOLDS

The state ethics codes generally prohibit public officials, candidates, and state employees from soliciting or accepting (and lobbyists from giving) various gifts if they are worth more than a certain amount. The codes also impose various prohibitions, requirements, and other conditions on certain items and actions if they are worth more than a certain amount.

The act increases these financial thresholds in the ethics codes as shown in the table below. More specifically, it increases the thresholds that determine whether (1) something is a gift subject to various prohibitions under the codes and (2) other various prohibitions, requirements, and conditions apply to an item or action (for example, the minimum value of an expenditure that must be reported on client lobbyist registrant financial reports).

Gifts (§§ 4 & 6)

The act increases the value thresholds that determine whether something is a "gift" subject to various prohibitions under the Code of Ethics for Public Officials (§ 4) or the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists (§ 6). For example, the code for public officials generally prohibits public officials and state employees from (1) accepting a gift based on any understanding that their vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced by it; (2) knowingly accepting a gift from a known registered lobbyist; or (3) knowingly accepting a gift from someone who the official or employee knows is seeking to do business with their department or agency. The code for lobbyists similarly prohibits registered lobbyists from knowingly giving a gift to a state employee or public official.

The table below shows a brief description of the covered gift and its value threshold under prior law and the act for determining whether it is exempted under the codes.

Exempted Gift Thresholds Under Prior Law and the Act

Gift	Prior Exempted Gift Value	Exempted Gift Value Under the Act
Certificate, plaque, or other ceremonial award	Less than \$100	Less than \$250
Food and beverages per recipient, per year, consumed at an occasion attended by the person paying for the food and beverages	Less than \$50	Less than \$100
Food and beverages per person consumed at a publicly noticed legislative reception for all legislators, or those from a particular state region, hosted once per year by a lobbyist or business organization	Less than \$50	Less than \$100
Gifts, including food and beverages, from someone who is not a family member to celebrate a major life event	\$1,000 or less	\$1,500 or less
Total gifts or food and beverages provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or conference of an interstate legislative association, by someone who is not a registered lobbyist or doing business with Connecticut	Less than \$100	Less than \$250
Anything with a certain value	Less than \$10 for individual items and less than \$50 total value for all things provided by a donor to a recipient in a calendar year	Less than \$20 for individual items and less than \$100 total value for all things provided by a donor to a recipient in a calendar year

Other Prohibitions, Requirements, and Conditions (§§ 3, 5 & 7-12)

The act also increases the financial thresholds that trigger various prohibitions, requirements, or other additional conditions. These include, for example, the value of a contract that a public official cannot enter into without an open and public process, or expenditure amounts that trigger certain reporting requirements. The table below shows the act's threshold increases and a brief description of the applicable provision.

Thresholds for Other Prohibitions, Requirements, and Conditions

Act Section	Threshold Increase Under the Act	Provision
3	From at least \$100 to at least \$250	The value of most contracts that public officials and state employees (and members of their immediate families and associated businesses) cannot enter unless awarded through an open and public process
3	From greater than \$10 to greater than \$20	The value of anything given to a public official or state employee that must be reported if it was given by a person (1) doing business, or seeking to, with the official's or employee's agency or (2) engaged in activities regulated by the agency
5	From at least \$50 to at least \$100	The annual cost of an "expenditure" under the code for lobbyists if it is (1) paid communications on pending administrative or legislative action or (2) solicitations of another person to communicate with public officials or state employees to influence a legislative or administrative act (by law, expenditures are subject to various reporting requirements (for example, see CGS § 1-96))

Act Section	Threshold Increase Under the Act	Provision
7	From less than \$50 to less than \$100	The amount that someone may spend to benefit a public official in the legislative or executive branch without being considered a lobbyist (as long as they are not paid or reimbursed specifically for lobbying and spend five hours or less lobbying)
8	From less than \$100 to less than \$250	The monthly amount that a client lobbyist registrant that attempts to influence legislative action may spend or agree to spend for lobbying without having to file an interim monthly report on its lobbying activities during regular legislative session
9	From at least \$10 to at least \$20	The value of each expenditure per person to benefit a legislative or executive branch public official that must be reported on client lobbyist registrant financial reports
9	From less than \$30 to less than \$60	The amount of expenditures per person that do not have to be reported if they (1) benefit General Assembly members at an event open to all legislators or members of a particular region or (2) are personally and directly received by a public official or state employee at a charitable or civic event where they participate in their official capacity
10	From at least \$10 to at least \$20	The amount of each expenditure to benefit a public official that a former registrant must report if it occurs within six months after the end of their registration
11	From at least \$10 to at least \$20	The value of each expenditure to benefit a public official for which registrants must keep records for three years
11	From at least \$50 to at least \$100	The value of all other expenditures for which registrants must keep records for three years
12	From at least \$10 to at least \$20	The amount a registrant paid or reimbursed to a public official or state employee for necessary expenses that triggers a requirement to file a statement with OSE

PA 26-67—sHB 5534*Government Administration and Elections Committee***AN ACT DESIGNATING THE STATE AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB MOVEMENT, THE STATE AMPHIBIAN AND THE STATE ROCK**

SUMMARY: The act designates (1) Connecticut as the birthplace of the Boys and Girls Club movement; (2) the spring peeper, *Pseudacris crucifer*, as the state amphibian; and (3) Housatonic marble as the state rock.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-73—sSB 472*Government Administration and Elections Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF EMPLOYEES**

SUMMARY: Existing law generally requires employers to give written notice to their employees about any electronic monitoring that may affect employees and post it in a conspicuous place accessible to their employees. This act expands these provisions by requiring employers to (1) include the specific workplace locations employees may be monitored in the notice the employer must provide about the types of monitoring they do; (2) post the notice in the locations where

monitoring may occur; and (3) give prospective employees, hired on or after October 1, 2026, a written, plain-language statement on prohibited activities that may be monitored without prior written notice (see below).

Under the act, an employer is not required to disclose the specific locations where they are electronically monitoring their employees if the employer has reasonable grounds to monitor for security and employee safety. The act also exempts airports from the specific location disclosure requirement.

Existing law permits employers to electronically monitor employees, without prior written notice, if they have reasonable grounds to believe that their employees are engaged in conduct that (1) violates the law, (2) violates the legal rights of the employer or their employees, or (3) creates a hostile workplace environment. The employer must also believe that monitoring may produce evidence of the misconduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-86—sSB 393

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES DUE TO THE DEATH OF CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS

SUMMARY: This act delays when the governor may issue a writ calling for a special election to fill vacancies in certain offices due to the death of the elected official or member elect. The act keeps the existing timeline for vacancies created for other reasons, such as resignations.

Under prior law, the governor generally had to issue these writs within 10 days after a vacancy in the office of U.S. senator, U.S. representative, or state legislator. The act instead requires him to do so between 7 and 17 days after the death, subject to certain existing exceptions unchanged by the act (see BACKGROUND).

For a probate judge vacancy created by the judge's death, the act requires the governor to wait at least seven days after the death before issuing the writ, if he chooses to do so. State law gives the governor discretion to call a special election to fill a probate court vacancy, but previously did not set a timeline or deadline for issuing these writs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Special Election Writ Exceptions

In certain circumstances, the law directs when the (1) governor must issue a special election writ and (2) special election must occur. For example, for General Assembly vacancies created between 49 and 125 days before the next regular election, the writs must be issued 46 days before that regular election and the special election must coincide with it. The law has similar provisions for congressional offices.

The law also directs the governor to not issue the writs for congressional or state legislative offices if the vacancy occurs within a certain period before the upcoming regular election for that office, in which case the vacancy is filled then.

PA 26-91—sSB 468

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF NONPROFIT HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS

SUMMARY: This act requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, if possible under federal law, to establish a policy requiring state agencies to pay a private provider organization for services provided under a purchase of service contract within 45 days after receiving the services or a properly completed claim, whichever is later.

Existing law generally requires state agencies to pay contracts within this timeframe or include interest on the payment, but it has several exceptions, including one for contracts that will be paid exclusively with federal funds (CGS §§ 4a-71 & -72). By law, private provider organizations include nonstate entities that are either nonprofits or proprietary corporations or partnerships that receive funds from the state, and may receive federal funds, to provide direct health or human services to clients.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-94—sSB 488

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY PROGRAM AND SECOND INJURY FUND

SUMMARY: This act makes several unrelated changes to the state's unclaimed property laws, including:

1. establishing various ways in which someone, including their agent or representative, may show their interest in their property so it is not presumed abandoned;
2. specifying when certain insurance policy provisions may trigger an abandonment presumption;
3. creating procedures for property holders to give unclaimed property to the treasurer early;
4. exempting certain unclaimed property owner personal information the treasurer has from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA);
5. removing a requirement to automatically distribute certain unclaimed property valued at less than \$50;
6. specifying additional procedures for returning unclaimed military medals; and
7. subjecting funds remaining from property sales due to uncompensated work by certain craftspeople (for example, jewelers) to the state's unclaimed property laws.

The act also amends provisions regarding the Second Injury Fund (SIF), including giving the treasurer flexibility for the accounts he must maintain and limiting SIF's liability for reimbursing employers and insurers in certain circumstances (§§ 8 & 9).

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 1-7 — UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Apparent Owners and Indicators of Interest (§ 1)

The state's unclaimed property laws generally require holders of an apparent owner's unclaimed property to turn it over to the treasurer if the owner has not indicated an interest in the property in a specified amount of time.

The act defines "indicated an interest" to explicitly describe certain actions, in addition to any other means outlined in the unclaimed property laws, that show the apparent owner is aware of the property. Under the act, these actions specifically include:

1. the owner communicating a record about the property or the account where it is held to the holder or holder's agent;
2. the owner orally communicating with the holder or the holder's agent about the property or the related account, with the holder or agent making and saving a contemporaneous record of the communication;
3. the owner presenting a check or other instrument paying a dividend, interest payment, or other distribution;
4. activity directed by the owner in the account where the property is held (for example, accessing the account or directing a change to the amount or type of property held there);
5. activity directed by an owner for another account at a business association or banking or financial organization that is the holder of the account (or holder's agent) where the property is held (see below); and
6. any other action by the owner that reasonably shows the holder that the owner knows the property exists.

Under the act, directed activities towards another account at a business association or banking or financial organization at least includes (1) deposits and withdrawals, except for previously authorized automated deposits or withdrawals or automated reinvestments of dividends or interest; (2) presenting a passbook or other similar evidence of a deposit for crediting interest; or (3) principal or interest payments on a loan made by the association or organization.

Under the act, any communication from the owner to someone other than the holder or holder's representative does not indicate the owner's interest in the property unless a record proves that the owner knew of his or her right to the property.

Additionally, the act specifies that an owner also indicates an interest in property if his or her agent or other representative takes the actions described above or other actions allowed under the unclaimed property laws. However, the property holder cannot act as the owner's agent for these purposes.

Insurance Policies (§ 2)

By law, unclaimed funds held by an insurance company for more than three years are presumed abandoned if a person other than the insured or annuitant is owed the money, and the company does not have that person's address. The three-

year timeline generally starts when the money became due and payable under any matured or terminated life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract.

The act specifies that an automatic premium loan provision or other non-forfeiture provision in an insurance policy does not prevent the policy from being deemed matured or terminated if the (1) insured died or (2) insured or a beneficiary become entitled to the proceeds before the depletion of the policy's cash surrender value.

Early Unclaimed Property Reporting (§ 4)

By law, before property is presumed abandoned, its holder must notify the property owner that the owner must indicate an interest in the property, or it will be transferred to the treasurer and subject to escheat to the state. Existing law also generally requires property holders, by the March 31 after the end of the calendar year in which property is presumed abandoned, to deliver it to the treasurer and prepare an unclaimed property report that includes, among other things, the name and physical address of the property's apparent owner.

The act allows the holders to ask to report and deliver unclaimed property to the treasurer early. They may do so if they believe the property will likely be unclaimed, regardless of how much time passes or any notice they give. The holder must also give the treasurer an affidavit from an authorized officer (1) describing the efforts to notify the owner, (2) affirming notice was provided at least six months before the affidavit's date, and (3) affirming the holder has not received communication from the owner indicating an interest in the property.

The treasurer, in his discretion, may consent to the request, but it must be in writing.

FOIA Exemption for Personal Information of Unclaimed Property Owners (§ 5)

By law, the treasurer must maintain a searchable public database of unclaimed property (the "CT Biglist"). Its information must include the names and addresses of apparent unclaimed property owners; the amount, description, and holder of the property involved; and any other information he requires.

The act makes the owners' personal information in the treasurer's records exempt from disclosure under FOIA, including information from property holders' reports and records that are not published on the CT Biglist. But it specifies that this does not prohibit disclosure by the treasurer or his agents for purposes directly connected to administering the laws on the treasurer's powers and duties, including disclosure to other government officials while using appropriate confidentiality protections.

Under the act, "personal information" is information that identifies or reasonably can be used to identify someone, including their name together with their (1) Social Security number, (2) other government ID number, (3) date of birth or death, (4) home or physical address, (5) other contact information, (6) internet provider address, (7) account number, or (8) abandoned property value.

Automatic Returns to Property Owners (§ 6)

Under prior law, the treasurer had to automatically pay abandoned property claims valued at less than \$2,500 to individuals if he (1) determined the individual is the property's sole owner and (2) was satisfied he had their current address. The act removes this requirement for property valued at less than \$50.

Military Medals (§ 6)

By law, military medals held by banking or financial organizations that are presumed abandoned must be given to the state Department of Veteran Affairs commissioner. The treasurer and commissioner must have a memorandum of understanding for handling and holding these medals, and the treasurer may try to identify the original owner or the owner's heirs or beneficiaries.

Under the act, if more than one person has a claim for a medal, and the treasurer made a reasonable effort to identify and contact all known potential rightful owners, the treasurer may give it to the claimant he deems appropriate.

Jewelers, Watchmakers, Silversmiths, and Television and Radio Service Dealers (§ 7)

By law, a jeweler, watchmaker, silversmith, or television or radio service dealer (craftsperson) who works on personal property at the owner's or legal possessor's request has a lien on the property and may hold it until paid for the work.

Under certain circumstances, prior law allowed them to sell the property to repay any debt owed and sale costs, and then give the remaining balance to the treasurer in trust for the debtor. Instead, the act specifically subjects these balances

to the state's unclaimed property laws and requires the craftsperson, after completing the sale, to file an unclaimed property report when they give the funds to the treasurer.

Under prior law and the act, if a debt to a craftsperson remains unpaid for more than six months, the craftsperson may sell the item, pay any sale expenses and the owed debt, and give the remaining balance to the treasurer within 10 days. But if the item is worth more than \$100, it can only be sold if the debt equals at least one-third of its value.

Before the sale, the craftsperson must give the owner or legal possessor 30 days' notice (1) by sending notice about the sale's time and place to the person's last-known address by registered or certified mail or (2) if his or her address is unknown or the mail is returned, by advertising the sale in a newspaper with substantial circulation where it will occur. Under the act, these procedures satisfy the unclaimed property program's notice requirements under state law.

§§ 8 & 9 — SECOND INJURY FUND

SIF is a state-run workers' compensation fund financed by state employers and operated by the state treasurer. Among other things, it pays or contributes to workers' compensation benefits for workers with pre-existing disabilities who are reinjured (second injuries), whose employers are uninsured, or who worked more than one job when injured. The fund was closed to second injuries that occurred on or after July 1, 1995.

SIF Accounts (§ 9)

Under prior law, the treasurer had to operate three accounts within SIF including (1) an operating account for paying SIF operations; (2) a settlement account for covering disbursed claims; and (3) a finance account to, among other things, pay certain claims, issue cash advances, and cover certain administrative costs. The act conforms the law to existing practice by instead generally authorizing the treasurer to operate whatever accounts or short-term investment funds he deems necessary for SIF's operation.

SIF Liability (§ 8)

The law allows employers and insurers to transfer liability for certain workers' compensation claims to SIF and get reimbursed for certain benefits they already paid. For example, if an employee works multiple jobs and is injured, a self-insured company where the employee was injured may pay out benefits to cover lost wages for all the employee's jobs, not just lost wages from the company itself.

By law, employers' insurers or self-insured employers may apply for reimbursement of the portion of benefits paid out to cover lost wages from these other jobs. The law specifies that SIF may only reimburse an insurer or employer within two years from when they paid the benefits to the employee.

Under prior practice, SIF had to reimburse a benefit payment that included benefits owed from before the two-year deadline, such as if an insurer underpaid benefits to an employee for 10 years and made a one-time lump sum payment to make the employee whole. The act limits the amount insurers or employers may be reimbursed to a three-year period (making the insurer or employer, instead of SIF, liable for 7 of the 10 years of underpaid benefits in the example above).

PA 26-118—SB 470

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL AND MINOR REVISIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act allows certain contracts entered into or amended by a constituent unit of the state's higher education system on or after June 4, 2026 (the act's passage, instead of on or after July 1, 2026, as under prior law), to include either (1) the text required by the state's general nondiscrimination contract compliance law or (2) a specific nondiscrimination affirmation.

The act also makes technical changes in various statutes affecting government administration.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the contract provision is effective upon passage.

PA 26-140—HB 5343*Government Administration and Elections Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF ADVERTISING PURCHASED BY THE STATE**

SUMMARY: Beginning by November 1, 2026, the act requires state agencies (including departments, boards, councils, commissions, and other executive branch state agencies other than public higher education institutions) to annually give the Department of Administrative Services commissioner a summary of all advertising purchased during the preceding fiscal year. Each agency must report, in a form and way the commissioner sets, the:

1. agency's overall advertising spending;
2. name of each advertising vendor that received an individual advertising contract and the contract amount;
3. advertising methods, categorized by media type, such as Internet search platforms, national and local news outlets, and digital platforms; and
4. general subject matters of the advertising.

The act then requires the commissioner, beginning by January 1, 2027, to annually give the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee a report summarizing this information. The commissioner must do so within available appropriations and may accept voluntary assistance from in-state higher education institutions or other neutral third parties with relevant experience to help the state agencies prepare these reports.

The act similarly requires, within available appropriations, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities chancellor and University of Connecticut president, beginning by January 1, 2027, to annually give the GAE Committee a report that summarizes, for the preceding fiscal year, the:

1. amount spent on advertising;
2. names of each advertising vendor that paid more than \$50,000;
3. advertising methods, categorized by media type, such as Internet search platforms, national and local news outlets, and digital platforms outlets; and
4. general subject matters of the advertising.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-27—HB 5039

*Government Oversight Committee***AN ACT REQUIRING TRANSPARENCY AND ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN LEGISLATIVELY DIRECTED FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR OTHER EXPENSES**

SUMMARY: This act addresses the management and oversight of legislatively directed funds (LDFs) and agencies’ “Other Expenses” appropriations by creating requirements for LDF recipients and subrecipients, administering state agencies (executive branch entities other than public higher education institutions), and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).

Under the act, an LDF is a specific amount appropriated by the General Assembly by public or special act for a contract or other expenditure with a grant, loan, or other form of economic assistance to a specific entity. It does not include funds authorized by the State Bond Commission or appropriations (1) in response to a natural disaster or emergency; (2) to a state agency, a political subdivision, the Judicial Department, the Legislative Department, or a constituent unit of public higher education as the recipient or subrecipient; or (3) made through a formula or competitive award process (including statutorily defined grant programs).

Specifically, the act:

1. limits state agencies from entering written agreements to give funds to an entity at the direction of the General Assembly, unless the General Assembly includes specific recipient information in legislation or in the Office of Fiscal Analysis’ (OFA) budget sheets;
2. requires OPM to adopt policies and procedures for state agencies that administer LDFs to have uniform procedures across agencies and ensure LDFs are distributed in a way that achieves their intended purpose;
3. requires reports and publications by LDF recipients, state agencies, OPM, and the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA); and
4. prohibits certain uses of agencies’ Other Expenses appropriations and creates a transition process for certain non-compliant uses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS TO IDENTIFY RECIPIENTS AND USE OF FUNDS

The act prohibits state agencies from entering into a written agreement to give funds (such as grants, loans, or incentives) to a specific entity at the direction of the General Assembly unless a public or special act appropriates the funds and the special act, public act, or OFA’s budget sheets include the (1) awardee’s identity, (2) intended purpose of the funds, and (3) same information described above about any intended subrecipient. The act specifies that these requirements do not apply to appropriations or funds that are not LDFs as defined by the act.

OPM LDF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The act requires OPM to establish policies and procedures for state agencies that administer LDFs. The policies must include how LDFs are distributed to recipients to ensure they are used for the intended purpose. If the policies are adopted or revised on or after July 1, 2026, the act requires the OPM secretary to email the policies and procedures to a committee of the six legislative leaders; the chairpersons and ranking members of the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Government Oversight committees; and the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. The adopted or revised policies and procedures are not (1) effective until 60 days after submission, unless waived by a majority of the committee members, and (2) subject to the regulatory process.

LDF Distribution Requirements

The act requires LDFs to be distributed in a uniform procedure as follows:

1. for LDFs up to \$150,000, the funds must be distributed as an initial or advance payment or scheduled disbursement of funds according to a written agreement between the administering state agency and the recipient, including the funds’ intended use; and
2. for LDFs greater than \$150,000, the administering state agency may distribute the funds in an initial or advance payment if the state agency consults with the LDF recipient and determines, after considering the appropriation’s purpose, that it (a) is necessary to ensure the payments are responsive to the recipient’s needs for the LDF’s purpose and (b) facilitates startup or procurement costs, with the remaining balance distributed in subsequent payments or as reimbursements based on eligible expenses (distribution must be made according to a written agreement

between the administering state agency and the recipient that states the funds' intended use).

Reimbursement Requirements

If an LDF is distributed on a reimbursement basis, the administering state agency's reimbursement procedures must not impose administrative barriers that (1) are inconsistent or more burdensome than required by the act, (2) prevent nonprofits or community-based entities from receiving or using the funds, or (3) jeopardize the funds' intended use and purpose. In addition, the procedures must:

1. have reimbursement determinations within 45 days after a recipient's eligible expense claim is submitted to the administering state agency and
2. allow initial or advance payments to recipients when necessary to ensure the funds are used as intended.

Requirements for Payment to Subrecipient

Before making any type of payment to a subrecipient (an entity that receives LDFs from a state agency or other pass-through entity for the same authorized purpose, excluding subcontractors), the LDF recipient must obtain the written approval of the administering state agency and the OPM secretary, if required under the OPM policies and procedures.

State Agency Remittance Requirements

Under the act, within 15 days after receiving an LDF request for reimbursement, the administering state agency must either approve the request or issue written acknowledgement of receipt. The act requires the administering state agency to remit payment within 45 days after receiving a properly submitted, undisputed request.

OPM PRE-AWARD CONFERENCE FOR LDF RECIPIENTS

The act requires the OPM secretary to annually hold a pre-award conference for LDF recipients by August 1. Administering state agencies must designate at least one employee to attend the conference. The conference must be recorded, and the recording and any written conference materials must be posted on OPM's website. The conference must include:

1. instruction on policies and procedures for administering LDFs;
2. contact information of at least one administering state agency employee whom LDF recipients may contact for fiscal and programmatic questions;
3. a description of any monitoring, audit, or compliance review processes; and
4. relevant written materials.

LDF REPORTING AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

The act creates the following reporting and publishing requirements:

1. beginning by October 1, 2027, OPM must quarterly report to the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Government Oversight committees by providing (a) an overview of LDF statuses for the current fiscal year, (b) an accounting of the funds disbursed since the last report (or since the start of the fiscal year for the first report), and (c) a disbursement plan for any remaining LDFs;
2. beginning by January 1, 2028, each LDF recipient must annually report to the administering state agency describing how the LDFs were used in the preceding fiscal year and how any subrecipient used funds, in a manner set by the OPM secretary;
3. beginning by March 1, 2028, each state agency must annually report to OPM summarizing LDFs it administered in the prior fiscal year and any LDF recipient reports, or a statement that the agency does not administer any LDFs, in a manner set by the OPM secretary;
4. beginning by June 30, 2028, OPM must annually publish a publicly accessible online database listing LDFs administered by each state agency in the previous fiscal year, including summaries from the annual reports described above; and
5. OPM must submit a preliminary report by June 30, 2028, and annual reports beginning by January 1, 2029, to the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Government Oversight committees summarizing the reports submitted by the administering state agencies and LDF recipients.

LDF Allotment Reductions Notice

If the governor reduces an allotment requisition or allotment in force related to an LDF, the act requires the OPM secretary to give the six legislative leaders written notice, including an explanation for the reduction, within seven days.

“OTHER EXPENSES” IN THE STATE BUDGET

The act prohibits state agencies (executive branch entities other than public higher education institutions) from using any funds appropriated for Other Expenses (a category of their budget accounts that generally includes contractual services, commodities, and sundry charges) as grants or pass-through payments unless the (1) General Assembly passes a public or special act that appropriates funds for Other Expenses for this purpose or (2) funds are used according to a written agreement in effect on July 1, 2026, to fulfill a transitional non-compliant Other Expenses obligation (see below).

Transitional Non-Compliant Other Expenses Obligations

Transitional non-compliant Other Expenses obligations are expenditures or obligations of funds from Other Expenses that provide financial assistance, a grant, or other payment to a recipient (in this context, recipients do not include a state agency, a political subdivision of the state, the Judicial Department, the Legislative Department, or a constituent unit of public higher education) and do not qualify for the first exception above. The act prohibits expanding, renewing, or increasing funding for transitional non-compliant Other Expenses obligations past the amount and duration authorized as of July 1, 2026.

The act requires state agencies, by January 1, 2027, to review any expenditures of funds from Other Expenses and designate any transitional non-compliant Other Expenses obligations. By the same date, the OPM secretary, in consultation with OFA, must create a plan to reclassify or reallocate each transitional non-compliant Other Expenses obligation in an appropriate way and submit the plan to the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Government Oversight committees.

Beginning July 1, 2027, the act prohibits state agencies from continuing or entering into any new agreement or obligation that would qualify as a transitional non-compliant Other Expenses obligation, unless the obligation has been reclassified or reauthorized by the General Assembly.

Reporting and Review for Other Expenses

If a state agency, on or after July 1, 2026, makes an expenditure from Other Expenses to a municipality or nonprofit, the act requires the agency to submit a statement to OPM that includes (1) the expenditure’s purpose, (2) the statutory or program guidelines authorizing the expenditure, and (3) whether the expenditure is financial assistance or a grant award. Any budget document or report submitted by the governor to the General Assembly must include these expenditures and the information in the statement submitted to OPM. If any budget document or report recommends that an expenditure be made annually, the act requires the expenditure to be included as an individual appropriation, not in Other Expenses.

Within 30 days after the results of any state agency APA report, the act requires OPM to submit a report to the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Government Oversight committees listing expenditures over \$10,000 from Other Expenses made by each agency, including the recipient’s name, expenditure amount and purpose, and date of approval from the secretary, if required.

Additionally, APA must annually review each state agency’s Other Expenses expenditures and report to the OPM secretary and the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Government Oversight committees. The report must identify any expenditures inconsistent with these provisions, including any expenditures that are a grant award. If APA identifies inconsistent expenditures, the act requires the OPM secretary to write a letter to the appropriate state agency department head providing corrective action to prevent reoccurrence. The expenditure must be subject to recoupment or lapse and may result in a reduction in following Other Expenses appropriations.

PA 26-49—sSB 423*Government Oversight Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OVER HIGHER EDUCATION**

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes to reporting requirements related to the public higher education system. It:

1. changes existing requirements and adds new ones for the Board of Regents for Higher Education's (BOR) annual report on consolidating the community colleges into Connecticut State Community College;
2. requires, by December 31, 2026, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) chancellor to report to the Government Oversight and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees on a comparison of the number of certain CSCU personnel on June 30 of 2011, 2019, and 2026; and
3. adds the Government Oversight Committee to the list of legislative committees that must receive the Planning Commission for Higher Education's updated higher education strategic master plan and annual reports on the plan's progress.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 1 — REPORT ON CONSOLIDATING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The community-technical colleges merged into Connecticut State Community College in 2023. The law requires BOR to annually report certain information on the consolidation's results through July 1, 2030. The act changes the due date for the next annual report from July 1, 2026, to August 1, 2026, and makes future annual reports due by August 1. Beginning with the next report, the act changes the report's existing requirements and adds new ones. It also requires submitting this report to the Government Oversight Committee, in addition to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee as is already required.

Changes to Report Requirements

Prior law required the report to compare certain performance metrics from July 1, 2023, to the report's date. The act instead requires the report to compare metrics from July 1, 2019, to July 1 of the year of the annual report. This applies to the following metrics:

1. percentage of students enrolled for the first time in courses for credit who (a) complete introductory math and English requirements within a year of enrollment; (b) enroll for a full semester and re-enroll the following semester or the next fall or spring semester, or graduate; and (c) within three years after enrollment, graduate, transfer to a four-year institution, or are still enrolled;
2. ratios of students to (a) student-counselors or advisors, (b) full-time faculty, and (c) part-time or adjunct faculty;
3. number of executive positions at each campus; and
4. number of personnel by location or functional area for each campus and type of position.

The act adds that the report must include data on the percentage of students who:

1. enrolled for the first time in courses for credit and either (a) enroll for more than six credits their first semester or (b) complete more than 24 credits during their first year, and
2. attend multiple campuses.

It also requires categorizing by demographics the data already required about student outcomes within three years of enrollment.

New Report Requirements

Starting with the report due August 1, 2026, the act also requires the annual report to include:

1. details on the financial impact of consolidation and whether it saved money or added costs from July 1, 2019, to the year prior to the report, including information on the average per student cost of the admissions and financial aid departments and the student registration and records process;
2. whether any administrative service cannot be efficiently redistributed;
3. a cost-benefit analysis of eliminating the central office and having an administrative office on each campus;
4. a comparison of the number of faculty and direct student support staff prior to consolidation and at the time of the report;
5. the percentage change in administrative positions, faculty, and direct student support staff since consolidation;
6. the results of a new annual survey of (a) students about the impact on their ability to take classes needed for their major and (b) faculty about the impact on their ability to teach classes;
7. details on how consolidation has or has not created a seamless transition from the regional-technical community colleges to the Connecticut State University System (CSUS);
8. an analysis of the consolidation's impact on the missions of two- and four-year colleges with an explanation of it;
9. a detailed comparison of CSUS budgets compared to the separate regional -technical community colleges before and after consolidation; and

10. a comparison of student outcomes at CSUS and UConn.

§ 2 — REPORT ON CSCU PERSONNEL

The act requires the CSCU chancellor, by December 31, 2026, to report to the Government Oversight and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees with information comparing the number of certain CSCU personnel on June 30 of 2011, 2019, and 2026. The comparison must address full- and part-time staff at the CSCU system office, the Connecticut State Community College central office, and each regional community-technical college campus performing the following functions:

1. academic and student affairs,
2. accounting,
3. board affairs,
4. finance and budget,
5. compliance and audit,
6. chancellor's office,
7. external affairs,
8. facilities,
9. human resources and labor relations,
10. decision support and institutional research,
11. information technology,
12. legal, and
13. business services and procurement.

§ 3 — HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN

Existing law requires the Planning Commission for Higher Education to:

1. revise the 2015 higher education strategic master plan and submit an updated plan with goals and benchmarks for 2026 and 2030 to the governor and various legislative committees by December 1, 2025 (the plan does not appear to have been submitted) and
2. beginning by January 1, 2027, annually report on the plan's implementation and goal progression to these recipients.

Under this law, the legislative recipients are the Appropriations, Commerce, Education, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Labor and Public Employees committees. The act additionally requires the commission to submit the plan to the Government Oversight Committee by July 1, 2026, and also give it the annual updates.

PA 26-70—sHB 5476

*Government Oversight Committee
Appropriations Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE USE OF CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS HOTLINES AT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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Requires, instead of allows, DCF and the state's attorneys to set up multidisciplinary teams to help abused, neglected, or trafficked children

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Requires DOC to (1) issue an RFP for a confidential crisis hotline for reporting sexual violence and report on it to the legislature and (2) revise its policy on using these hotlines to report sexual violence and post it on the department's website

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes related to preventing and responding to human trafficking in the state and requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to revise its policy on confidential hotlines to report sexual violence, as described in the section-by-section analysis below. It also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§§ 1 & 14 — OPM HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION COORDINATION

Broadens OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division's responsibilities to include advising and helping coordinate trafficking prevention efforts; requires the division to (1) evaluate state agency and law enforcement coordination of related efforts and (2) develop a plan for how the efforts should be coordinated

Existing law requires the Office of Policy and Management's (OPM) Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division to promote a more effective and cohesive state criminal justice system through certain specified actions. The act expands the list of activities the division must perform to include advising and helping develop coordination of trafficking prevention efforts among state executive branch agencies and other multidisciplinary partners, including helping provide associated training (see § 10 below).

The act relatedly requires the division to (1) evaluate the coordination of efforts among state executive branch agencies and law enforcement agencies to prevent human trafficking in the state and (2) develop a comprehensive plan for how the state agencies' and other multidisciplinary partners' activities and programs should be coordinated for this purpose. It requires the state agencies to give the division any information, data, or assistance it needs, if state or federal law permits it. The division must submit a copy of its plan, including any related recommendations for legislation, to the Appropriations, Government Oversight, and Judiciary committees by January 1, 2027.

Under the act, "human trafficking" refers to all acts involved in recruiting, abducting, transporting, harboring, transferring, selling, or receiving people within national or across international borders using force, coercion, fraud, or deception, to place them in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions; forced labor or services, such as forced

prostitution or sexual services; domestic servitude; bonded sweatshop labor; or other debt bondage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 2 — TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Increases the Trafficking in Persons Council's membership by adding the secretary of the state or her designee

The act increases the Trafficking in Persons Council's membership by adding the secretary of the state or her designee. By law, among other things, this council coordinates human trafficking data collection and analysis and consults with government and non-government organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and help victims, and prosecute traffickers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 3-5, 10 & 11 — AGENCY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Requires, within available appropriations, (1) DCF employees and contracted service providers who have regular contact with children to be trained on identifying and reporting human trafficking, (2) the judicial branch to develop and give certain employees training on trafficking, and (3) DCF to help POST develop trafficking training; requires POST's and municipal police departments' basic and review training to include training on human trafficking

DCF (§§ 3 & 4)

Existing law requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF), with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, to develop initial and refresher training programs on accurately and promptly identifying and reporting human trafficking.

The act requires the DCF commissioner, within available appropriations, to give this training, which may be in a recorded format, to all department employees and its contracted service providers who have regular contact with children as part of their job or while providing their services. It correspondingly explicitly includes this training in DCF's listed statutory responsibilities for developing and training staff.

Under the act, each employee and service provider must complete (1) an initial training program by the later of July 1, 2027, or six months after beginning their employment or the applicable contract date, and (2) refresher training every three years. But it requires social work trainees, beginning January 1, 2027, to have done this training before they are assigned to a case.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the inclusion of the training in DCF's responsibilities and the social worker training requirement is effective October 1, 2026.

Judicial Branch (§ 5)

The act requires the chief court administrator, within available appropriations, to develop and provide training for all judicial branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD) employees on the trafficking of minors and adults. The trainings must at least include:

1. awareness of and compliance with the laws and protocols on trafficking;
2. how to identify, access, and provide services for trafficking victims; and
3. techniques for (a) de-escalating and reducing harm when encountering victims and (b) receiving trauma disclosures from minors.

Under the act, each CSSD employee must complete (1) an initial training program by the later of July 1, 2027, or six months after beginning their employment, and (2) refresher training every three years. The act allows for the use of a recorded training curriculum to meet these requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Law Enforcement (§§ 10 & 11)

Under prior law, DCF could, within available appropriations, train law enforcement officials on the trafficking of minors with information about the laws and protocols on trafficking and how to identify, access, and provide services for victims.

The act instead requires DCF to help the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) develop this training,

which the act expands to include trafficking of adults. DCF must do this within available appropriations and in collaboration with OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division.

The act also requires the law's required basic and review police training programs administered by POST or a municipal police department to include this trafficking training.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the requirement for police basic and review training to include trafficking training is effective October 1, 2026.

§ 6 — CONGREGATE CARE RESIDENCE OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS

Sets policy, plan, and security measure requirements for DCF-licensed congregate care residence operators

The act sets policy, plan, and security measure requirements for DCF-licensed congregate care residence ("child care facility") operators, who are the people responsible for total facility operation. By law, these facilities are used for out-of-home placements of:

1. children or youths under age 18;
2. people under age 21 who are (a) homeless or at risk of homelessness or (b) enrolled full-time in a secondary or technical school, college, or state-accredited job training program; or
3. people who require special education, until the end of the school year during which they reach age 22.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Policies

First, the act requires each operator to have clearly stated written policies of its plans, program, and services, which must be reviewed at least annually for any needed updates. It requires operators to give DCF evidence of the annual review, if it asks and in its prescribed format.

The act also requires each operator to have personnel policies on employee, temporary worker, volunteer, and intern training and education. The policies must include introductory orientation, ongoing training and development, supervision, and annual evaluations.

Plans

Under the act, the operators must develop a plan for ongoing training, review it at least biennially, and update it as needed to be consistent with best practices. The plan must have a written curriculum and an annual minimum amount of training hours. Operators must document the training's implementation as DCF requires.

The act requires each operator to give DCF, at least biennially, a written quality assurance plan for its facility. The plan must describe (1) how facility services quality will be monitored and (2) the facility's compliance with its stated purpose, program objectives, security requirements, and other requirements from DCF, such as evidence of the plan's implementation, with findings and, if applicable, an improvement plan. Plan revisions must be immediately available to facility staff and DCF.

Security Measures

Lastly, under the act, these facilities must also have (1) the internal and external security measures needed to ensure the residents' safety and (2) supervisory staff that can ensure each child's health, safety, security, and well-being and appropriate facility security while keeping a home-like atmosphere.

§ 7 — CHILD ADVOCATE REVIEWS OF CHILDREN'S PLACEMENT

Specifies that the child advocate's responsibility for reviewing where children are placed by a state agency or department includes reviewing STTAR Enhancement Plan homes

The act specifies that the child advocate's existing responsibility for periodically reviewing where children are placed by a state agency or department includes reviewing Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification (STTAR) Enhancement Plan homes. (STTAR is a short-term group home program for children DCF removes from their homes due to high-risk situations.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 8 — HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION AND RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Requires creating a subcommittee on human trafficking prevention and response to implement certain recommendations on the state's trafficking response efforts

The act requires the Division of Criminal Justice's Statewide Steering Committee of the Regionalized Human Trafficking Recovery Taskforce (RHTRT) to create a Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Subcommittee. RHTRT is a greater-Hartford-area partnership to combat trafficking, bringing together law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, and service providers to investigate cases, help victims, and increase prevention efforts.

Under the act, the subcommittee (1) is made up of members RHTRT appoints and (2) works as a public-private partnership to implement the recommendations from the RHTRT report "A Blueprint to Strengthen Connecticut's Response to Human Trafficking." The act specifies that the subcommittee does not take over any of the Trafficking in Persons Council's responsibilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Purpose

To implement the recommendations, the act requires the subcommittee to work on the following:

1. advancing development of a permanent statewide entity to coordinate anti-trafficking response across agencies and service providers to help minor children and adult trafficking victims, including creating associated standards;
2. creating and implementing a standard, cross-disciplinary training framework and centralized learning management system;
3. developing and implementing a unified statewide data collection process with shared definitions, standard reporting fields, and secure data-sharing protocols;
4. designing and implementing standard, trauma-informed screening questions and referral methods for consistent identification of and response to victims across systems;
5. expanding and strengthening statewide service capacity by mapping and verifying providers, identifying service and funding gaps, and supporting the creation of a vetted resource directory; and
6. reviewing trafficking trends, identifying systemic gaps, and developing policy recommendations for submission to the Trafficking in Persons Council.

§ 9 — MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS FOR ABUSED, NEGLECTED, OR TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

Requires, instead of allows, DCF and the state's attorneys to set up multidisciplinary teams to help abused, neglected, or trafficked children

The act requires, instead of allows, DCF and the state's attorneys to set up multidisciplinary teams to, among other things, review cases, coordinate intervention and prevention, and ensure treatment of abused, neglected, or trafficked children. By law, these teams include various professionals, including, among others, DCF and the appropriate state's attorney or designee, law enforcement, health care workers, a victim advocate, and a forensic interviewer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 12 & 13 — DOC CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS HOTLINE FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Requires DOC to (1) issue an RFP for a confidential crisis hotline for reporting sexual violence and report on it to the legislature and (2) revise its policy on using these hotlines to report sexual violence and post it on the department's website

The act requires the DOC commissioner, by October 1, 2026, to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for a confidential crisis hotline so that correction officers and incarcerated people can report sexual violence incidents. By January 1, 2027, the commissioner must report the RFP's results, including any appropriations request for the hotline, to the Appropriations, Government Oversight, and Judiciary committees.

The act also requires the commissioner, by December 1, 2026, to (1) revise the department's policy on using confidential crisis hotlines for correction officers and incarcerated people to report sexual violence incidents and (2) post it on the department's website. Under the act, the revised policy must ensure that incarcerated people can access the hotline for free and in a location that makes using it confidential, without supervision of, or permission from, a DOC employee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, for the RFP provision, and October 1, 2026, for the crisis hotline policy revision.

BACKGROUND

Related Act

PA 26-26, § 7, also requires DCF to develop and provide a mandatory training program for its employees about human trafficking and how to interact with victims.

PA 26-109—SB 247

Government Oversight Committee

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes in the government administration statutes. It generally:

1. prohibits state agencies from entering certain settlement agreements that prohibit an employee from working while requiring that the employee continue to be paid, with exceptions (§ 1);
2. specifies a process for determining when a foundation that supports a state agency must reimburse the agency for the services of state employees (§ 2);
3. removes a requirement for the comptroller to be part of an annual audit that the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA) must conduct on the treasurer's books and accounts (§ 3);
4. makes several changes related to the APA's involvement in audits done by other state agencies (§§ 4-6);
5. requires each quasi-public agency to submit its annual report with certain agency administrative and financial information to the governor and the APA within six months after its fiscal year ends (prior law did not set a deadline) (§ 7); and
6. clarifies that when the APA conducts the annual comprehensive financial review of the Technical Services Revolving Fund (a fund used to purchase, install, and use information and telecommunication systems for state agencies), it must be done as a part of the audit of the comptroller's annual comprehensive financial report (§ 8).

The act also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, and the provision on foundation agreements with state agencies applies to agreements entered into or renewed on or after that date.

§ 1 — SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

Existing law generally prohibits state agencies (including higher education constituent units and institutions) from paying a resigning or retiring employee more than \$50,000 to avoid potential litigation or under a non-disparagement agreement, unless the payment is (1) for a settlement agreement entered into by the attorney general on behalf of the agency or (2) authorized by the governor. The act extends this prohibition to also cover any other types of agreements that prohibit an employee from working while requiring that they continue to be paid their regular salary and benefits.

But the act also expands when these payments are allowed if the payment is (1) for administrative leave authorized by the Office of Labor Relations pending a disciplinary investigation, (2) under a collective bargaining agreement or employment contract that covers the employee, or (3) otherwise required by state or federal law.

§ 2 — FOUNDATION REIMBURSEMENTS FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

The law generally requires foundations that support state agencies (such as the UConn Foundation) to ensure that they pay the salaries, benefits, and expenses of their officers and employees. The act specifies that this does not apply to those officers or employees who are state employees paid by the state under an agreement with the foundation.

Existing law relatedly requires a state agency and its foundation to have a written agreement that requires the foundation to reimburse the agency for the expenses the agency incurs for the foundation's operations that it otherwise would not have incurred. The act requires this agreement to include whether the foundation must reimburse the agency for any portion of the expenses, salaries, or benefits of state employees providing services to the foundation, and if so, in what amount.

§§ 4-6 — APA INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER AGENCIES' AUDITS

The law requires the State Contracting Standards Board to triennially audit state contracting agencies. The act removes a provision that allowed the board to enter into an agreement with the APA to do these audits.

Prior law also generally required a state agency proposing to contract for auditing services to wait until the APA advised the agency on whether it could perform the services. The act removes this limitation and instead requires the agency to ensure that the contract requires the auditor to give the APA any information related to the audit's findings, including a copy of the audit, upon request.

PA 26-132—HB 5256

Government Oversight Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESS FOR INITIATING LOCAL LEGISLATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY: This act eliminates the requirement that a unit of local government (such as a town or taxing district) seeking a change to its special act powers (generally its charter) file a copy of the request with the secretary of the state before the start of the legislative session.

With exceptions, the state constitution generally prohibits the legislature from adopting special acts regarding the powers, organization, terms of elective offices, or form of government of any single town, city, or borough (Conn. Const. Art. X, § 1). Relatedly, state statute requires that any special legislation on the powers, organization, or form of local government be requested by the affected unit of local government, generally through a resolution adopted by its legislative body or by citizen petition (see BACKGROUND).

Under prior law, the local government unit's clerk must have filed the petition's text or a certified copy of the adopted resolution, as applicable, with the secretary of the state at least 10 days before the start of the legislative session in which it would have been considered.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Resolution or Petition Requesting Special Legislation

Under state statute, a request for special legislation may be brought in three ways:

1. a two-thirds vote on a resolution endorsing the action, adopted by the (a) council or board of directors in a town; (b) board of aldermen, council, or body charged with making appropriations in a city or consolidated town and city; (c) board of burgesses in a borough or consolidated town and borough; or (d) board of directors or district committee in a district;
 2. in a town without a council or board of directors, a resolution endorsing the action adopted by (a) the board of selectmen or (b) a majority vote of the town meeting or representative town meeting; or
 3. 10% of the local government unit's electors signing a petition supporting the action and filing it with the clerk.
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PA 26-133—sHB 5352

Government Oversight Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AND MANDATORY DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINTS

SUMMARY: Existing law generally requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to dismiss a complaint if it does not issue a final decision within one year of receiving it. The deadline may be extended for delays caused by (1) SEEC granting an extension or continuance to the respondent or (2) complaint-related subpoenas or litigation or investigations by, or consultations with, certain prosecutorial agencies.

This act exempts from this deadline complaints received on or after October 1, 2026, about potential violations of prohibited acts under state election law (such as fraudulent registration, fraudulent voting, tampering with ballots, or various types of misconduct by election officials). The law already exempts complaints regarding potential violations of state

election law by foreign nationals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

395

PA 26-4—sSB 150

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act eliminates a requirement that at least \$100,000 of available funding for the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program be for Charter Oak grants, which conforms to the elimination of the Charter Oak grant as of July 1, 2026.

The act also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-18—sSB 427

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

SUMMARY: This act requires the state Department of Education (SDE) commissioner to appoint a dual and concurrent enrollment course coordinator by January 1, 2027, to track establishment of these courses and student outcomes, such as completion rates and average grades, by school district. Dual and concurrent enrollment courses are a type of advanced course or program offered by high schools in collaboration with higher education institutions (see BACKGROUND).

Existing law, beginning in FY 27, creates a high-need student fee-waiver grant program (within available appropriations) to expand opportunities for high-need high school students to access advanced courses or programs. Under prior law, only a school board could apply to SDE for reimbursement under the program for fees that were paid on behalf of a high-need student. The act also allows higher education institutions to apply for reimbursement for fee waivers given to a high-need student in an advanced class or program but specifies that higher education institutions that receive a grant cannot charge the student's parents any course or program enrollment costs.

The act also makes minor clarifying changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Courses

PA 25-99 defined both “concurrent enrollment course” and “dual enrollment course” as postsecondary education courses in any academic subject or career-oriented pathway for high school students simultaneously enrolled in a higher education institution. Concurrent enrollment courses are delivered at high schools and taught by high school teachers, while dual enrollment courses are taught by higher education institution faculty members.

PA 26-85—SB 383

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY RELATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION

SUMMARY: This act eliminates the requirement for the chief workforce officer, in consultation with various others, to establish a human services career pipeline program. But it retains requirements for the officer to (1) develop a plan for a pipeline program (the act also extends the deadline for the plan) and (2) consult with a similar list of entities on the greatest needs of human services providers and barriers to hiring and retaining these providers.

The act extends, from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2027, the deadline for the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) to implement a program to support individuals pursuing training for a commercial driver's license (CDL). It also makes changes to the types of trainings that can be added to the program and changes reporting requirements.

Finally, the act eliminates the requirement for OWS to establish a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system pipeline training pilot program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the changes related to the CDL training program are effective upon passage.

§ 1 — HUMAN SERVICES WORKFORCE

Elimination of Required Pipeline Program

The act eliminates the requirement that the officer establish, and annually report on, a human services career pipeline program to ensure there are enough trained providers to serve people who are elderly and people who have disabilities, cognitive impairment, or mental illness. Prior law required this program to (1) be established within available appropriations and in consultation with various others and (2) include training and certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, administering medication, job placement, and service provider retention incentives.

Extended Deadline for Required Pipeline Program Plan

Existing law requires the officer to develop a plan for a human services career pipeline program in consultation with the labor commissioner and report on the plan to the Aging, Appropriations, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Human Services, Labor and Public Employees, and Public Health committees. The act extends the expired deadline (from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2026) for the officer to report on the plan.

By law, the plan must include (1) a strategy to increase how many state residents pursue human services careers, (2) recommendations for salaries and working conditions to retain adequate providers to serve state residents, and (3) estimated funding needs for the program.

Changes to Required Study

Existing law requires the officer to consult with certain other entities to determine the greatest needs for human services providers and barriers to hiring and retaining them. The act:

1. specifies that the determination of providers' greatest needs relates to what providers need in order to serve people who are elderly and people who have disabilities, cognitive impairment, or a behavioral health disorder; and
2. requires the officer to consult with the public health commissioner when making this determination, in addition to the already required consultation with the commissioners of aging and disability services, developmental services, labor, mental health and addiction services, and social services; Council on Developmental Disabilities; and Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council.

§ 2 — CDL TRAINING PROGRAM

The act extends the expired deadline (from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2027) for OWS to implement a program to support individuals pursuing CDL training. By law, (1) OWS can competitively choose a consultant to support the program's design and implementation and (2) its design must consider metrics to identify training providers, incentive-based payments for providers, and a way to target potential students.

The law required OWS to identify additional career training opportunities to expand the CDL training program by July 1, 2025. The act (1) eliminates the requirement that these additional training opportunities only require one year or less of training and (2) requires the officer to approve adding or removing a training opportunity from the program.

Reports

The act eliminates requirements for OWS to report to the Appropriations; Commerce; Education; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; Higher Education and Employment Advancement; and Labor and Public Employees committees on the (1) design and implementation of the CDL training program and (2) additional training opportunities.

The act also (1) eliminates an annual reporting requirement to the governor and these same committees set to begin by July 1, 2026, on the CDL program and (2) replaces it with a requirement to annually report beginning by October 1, 2027, on the training opportunities as part of OWS's annual report to the governor and the Appropriations, Commerce, Education, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Labor and Public Employees committees. As under existing law, information about the program must include completion and job placement rates, starting wages, wage gains and growth, funds used for payment obligations, grants, wrap-around services, the percentage of participants complying with repayment

obligations, and the total repayment received.

§ 3 — HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM PIPELINE TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM
ELIMINATION

The act eliminates the requirement that OWS establish, in consultation with the Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Higher Education (OHE), and Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) and within available appropriations, a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system pipeline training pilot program. It eliminates provisions that required:

1. the program to include pre-apprenticeship workforce pipeline training programs to support individuals from underserved and underrepresented populations and historically marginalized communities;
 2. OWS to develop criteria with DOL to prioritize (a) low-income and underrepresented individuals in municipalities with more than 100,000 people and (b) nonprofit and community-based organizations serving low-income and underrepresented individuals; and
 3. OWS, in consultation with DOL, OHE, and CTECS, to identify recent participants in training programs and support their transition into immediate job vacancies.
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PA 26-113—sSB 335

Housing Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITY CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS

SUMMARY: This act prohibits residential rental agreements from requiring that tenants pay for utilities if there is no separate meter used to measure utilities delivered exclusively to their dwelling unit. By law, statutorily prohibited provisions included in a rental agreement are unenforceable.

Under another existing law, the owner, agent, lessor, or manager of a residential dwelling (the landlord) is liable for the costs of a utility service (specifically, electric, gas, water, or heating fuel) provided to the building, unless the utility company provides the service (1) to a dwelling unit of the building on an individually metered or billed basis and (2) for the exclusive use of the unit's occupants (CGS § 16-262e(c)). Relatedly, in a recent case the Connecticut Supreme Court held that a landlord could not recoup its utility costs by imposing variable utility payments on individual tenants (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, and applicable to rental agreements entered into or renewed on or after this date.

BACKGROUND

Court Decision on Landlords and Utility Costs

In a 2024 decision, the Connecticut Supreme Court held that a landlord could not recoup its utility costs from buildings served by a single master meter by imposing variable utility payments on individual tenants for their proportional use as calculated by the landlord.

In its decision, the court noted that landlords whose buildings operate with master meters may use the “building in” approach to estimate utility costs for the year and build that figure into monthly rent as part of a rental agreement (*Northland Inv. Corp. v. Pub. Utilities Reg. Auth.*, 349 Conn. 35 (2024)).

PA 26-125—HB 5259

Housing Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SUMMARY: State law specifically requires boards of education to provide educational services to homeless children and young people in keeping with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (see BACKGROUND). This act maintains this requirement but specifies that these services must be provided according to this federal law as it was on December 23, 2022.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Originally enacted in 1987, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires states to ensure that each homeless child and homeless young person has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children. This includes requiring states to ensure that their school district residency laws do not create obstacles for homeless students to attend school (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.).

Federal law defines “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes those sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, among others (42 U.S.C. § 11434a).

PA 26-39—HB 5558

*Human Services Committee
Appropriations Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to give copies of original or investigation reports of alleged abuse and neglect to the alleged victim's parent, guardian, or other legal representative, upon request to the applicable regional DDS office. Under the act, these people cannot access the reports if they are, or live with, the alleged or substantiated perpetrator (§ 1). (Under prior practice, these people could access the reports upon request.)

Additionally, the act:

1. requires DDS to give certain people with intellectual disabilities, and their legal representatives, a guide on the DDS abuse and neglect reporting process during their annual individual planning meeting (§ 2);
2. requires the commissioner to ensure all DDS staff are trained in state law's information sharing requirements for abuse and neglect complaints (§ 3);
3. expands the required content of DDS's annual report to the Human Services and Public Health committees on abuse and neglect reports filed under existing law (§ 4);
4. requires the Human Services and Public Health committees to conduct an annual hearing and review of DDS's annual report (§ 4);
5. expands the scope of the department's five-year review of its policies and procedures on abuse and neglect investigations and reports to include, among other things, ways to improve screening of people hired to provide services to DDS program participants (§ 4); and
6. requires the DDS commissioner to ensure that all materials related to the prevention or occurrence of, and response to, abuse and neglect of people the department serves are distributed through a consumer-friendly and easily accessible website that ensures the widest possible access to services for families and people with disabilities (§ 4).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the investigation report provision is effective upon passage.

DDS ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL PLANNING MEETINGS

By law, DDS must annually assess the need for future DDS residential funding or services for each person with intellectual disability who qualifies for them and who has an individual plan prepared by the department. DDS must do this in consultation with the person and his or her legal representative, if applicable. The act requires DDS to give the person and the representative the latest version of its "Guide for Individuals and Legal Representatives when an Allegation of Abuse or Neglect has Been Made" during the person's annual planning meeting.

DDS ANNUAL REPORT ON ABUSE AND NEGLECT FILINGS

Report Content

Existing law requires DDS to investigate reports of abuse and neglect of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and people who receive services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services. The law also requires DDS to maintain a registry of, among others, certain former employees who were fired from or left their jobs due to substantiated abuse or neglect and to make the registry available to specified agencies and employers.

Under existing law, the DDS commissioner must report annually on abuse and neglect reports filed under these laws to the Human Services and Public Health committees and post the report on its website. The act expands the report's required content to include the following:

1. the number of substantiated complaints by the perpetrator, including family members, day program providers, or direct care or other residential care staff;
2. the number of substantiated complaints by the setting where the abuse or neglect occurred, including private homes, day programs, state-licensed community living arrangements, state-operated residential programs, and health care facilities;
3. the percentage of (a) investigations that produced recommendations and (b) recommendations that were confirmed as completed by providers within 90 days after issuing them;
4. how many regulatory citations DDS issued for failing to (a) ensure abuse and neglect was detected and reported

- and (b) implement corrective action requirements;
- 5. how many abuse or neglect allegations were reported for people who died and what findings, recommendations, or administrative action DDS took; and
- 6. any systemic agency actions and recommendations to ensure the safety of people DDS serves and prevent and respond to abuse and neglect concerns.

Annual Hearing and Review

The act requires the Human Services and Public Health committees to conduct an annual hearing and review of DDS's abuse and neglect report and DDS's and the Department of Social Services's compliance with federal Medicaid requirements on safety and quality of care for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Medicaid home- and community-based waiver programs. This includes how the departments continue to address audit findings and recommendations from the federal Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General and Auditors of Public Accounts on abuse and neglect prevention, timely reporting of abuse and neglect concerns, and timely implementation of related corrective actions.

DDS FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

By law, the commissioner must review department policies and procedures on abuse and neglect investigations and reports every five years. As part of the review, the act requires the commissioner to review the department's method for sharing information on original reports and investigation reports of abuse and neglect with the reported victim or his or her legal representative (except as described above) while generally keeping records related to its registry of former employees confidential. Existing law already requires the commissioner to review this method regarding substantiated abuse and neglect complaints.

The act also requires the commissioner's review to include an evaluation of systems to screen people hired to provide services to DDS program participants and any recommendations needed to improve background checks of these people.

PA 26-71—sHB 5481

Human Services Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM TO TREAT CERTAIN MEDICAID PATIENTS AT A SHORT-TERM HOSPITAL SPECIAL HOSPICE

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a pilot program to identify and use a licensed short-term hospital special hospice (see BACKGROUND) to treat Medicaid patients with advanced illness who (1) are eligible for hospice, (2) clinically complex and high acuity, and (3) cannot be safely managed at home or in a nursing home. Under the act, the hospice facility must get the appropriate license to care for these patients. DSS must implement the pilot program by December 30, 2027, within funds specifically appropriated for this purpose.

The act also requires the commissioner or her designee, by January 15, 2027, to report to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees on the pilot program's development, including any potential savings, as well as legislative and funding recommendations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Inpatient Hospice Facility Regulation

Connecticut has two sets of inpatient hospice regulations: one for facilities licensed before July 31, 2012, that provide a hospital level of care ("short-term hospital special hospice") and a second category, with less stringent requirements, for inpatient facilities licensed after that date ("hospice facility") (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 19a-495-5a et seq.). For the latter, these facilities operate based on Medicare's minimum regulatory requirements for inpatient hospital facilities (42 C.F.R. § 418.110).

PA 26-72—sHB 5562

Human Services Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES

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[§ 9 — ELIMINATED REPORTING REQUIREMENT](#)

Eliminates a requirement that DSS report at least annually to MAPOC on gender-affirming care coverage

[§ 10 — FEDERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING NURSING HOME RESIDENTS](#)

Incorporates into state law by reference federal regulations on (1) giving antipsychotic pharmaceuticals to a nursing home resident and (2) a nursing home resident's informed consent to treatment

[§ 11 — ADS SPENDING CAP FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION SERVICES](#)

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[§ 12 — HUSKY C REPORT](#)

Requires DSS to report annually, from 2027 to 2032, on HUSKY C to the Appropriations and Human Services committees

§ 13 — PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Requires the DSS commissioner to report to the Human Services Committee on reimbursement systems to better integrate peer support specialists into the state medical assistance program

§ 14 — WHEELCHAIR REPAIR AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Changes the council's membership; transfers administrative duties to OHA; removes authorization for legislators to serve on the council; requires council members to serve two-year terms at the pleasure of the appointing authority

§ 15 — WHEELCHAIR DEALER REPORTS AND NOTICES

Requires authorized DSS-contracted wheelchair dealers to report monthly, rather than annually, on wheelchair repairs and requires authorized wheelchair dealers to notify consumers about their rights to timely repair

§ 16 — STUDY ON INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY

Requires the DSS commissioner to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility for psychiatric treatment services for children and young adults

SUMMARY: This act makes unrelated changes in human services laws, as described in the section-by-section analysis below. It also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§ 1 — POSTING AT MANAGED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

Requires managed residential communities to post DSS contact information for reporting suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of an elderly person, or that an elderly person may need protective services

Existing law requires managed residential communities to prominently post a resident's bill of rights, including contact information for the Department of Public Health and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The act expands this required posting to include Department of Social Services (DSS) contact information for reporting suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of an elderly person, or that an elderly person may need protective services.

A managed residential community is a for-profit or nonprofit facility consisting of private residential units that provide a managed group living environment with housing and services for people primarily age 55 and over (assisted living facilities). The term excludes state-funded congregate housing facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 2 — REPORT ON SNAP BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION

Requires DSS to report once, rather than annually, to the Human Services Committee on staggering SNAP benefit distribution

Existing law requires DSS to distribute Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to cohorts of beneficiaries at multiple intervals during the month (implement a staggered distribution), starting March 1, 2026. Prior law required DSS to report on this to the Human Services Committee annually, starting by April 1, 2026. The act makes this report a one-time requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 3 — DDS FORMER EMPLOYEE REGISTRY ACCESS

Broadens access to DDS' registry of former employees terminated or separated from employment due to substantiated abuse or neglect

Existing law requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to maintain a registry of certain former employees who were fired from or left their jobs due to substantiated abuse or neglect and makes the registry available to specified agencies, employers, and charitable organizations. The act additionally requires DDS to make the registry

available to employers of service providers for people who get services or funding from DSS' Medicaid waiver program for autism spectrum disorder.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 4 — LGBTQ JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY NETWORK

Changes the network's membership and sets requirements for its bylaws

Existing law establishes a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Justice and Opportunity Network to make recommendations to the state government on delivering access and opportunity services to LGBTQ people. The act changes the network's membership and requires that the new members (1) be appointed jointly by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore and (2) reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ community.

Under prior law, the network included the following members:

1. the Safe Harbor Project, the New Haven Pride Center, the Triangle Community Center in Norwalk, Advancing CT Together, the Connecticut chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, the Rainbow Center at the University of Connecticut, the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective, the Connecticut Transadvocacy Coalition, the Queer Unity Empowerment Support Team, the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, A Place to Nourish Your Health, Kamora's Cultural Corner, Apex Community Care, and the Queer Youth Program of Connecticut executive directors;
2. Connecticut Latinas/os Achieving Rights and Opportunities, OutCT in New London, and Connecticut Community Care presidents;
3. a licensed physician who is LGBTQ, appointed by the House speaker;
4. a licensed mental health services provider who is LGBTQ;
5. an LGBT Aging Advocacy coalition member, appointed by the governor; and
6. additional members appointed by the House speaker or Senate president pro tempore.

The act eliminates these requirements and instead requires the network to include the following members:

1. a health care provider, licensed in medicine and surgery or nursing, serving the LGBTQ community;
2. a mental health provider, licensed in medicine and surgery or psychology, serving the LGBTQ community;
3. a representative of an organization working to improve the health of people with HIV/AIDS;
4. a licensed attorney representing an organization working to eliminate LGBTQ+ discrimination;
5. an LGBTQ youth organization representative;
6. an LGBTQ elderly organization representative;
7. an LGBTQ veteran;
8. an LGBTQ corporate employee affinity group representative;
9. an LGBTQ educator;
10. a representative of an organization that works with a resettlement community supporting refugees and other immigrants;
11. an LGBTQ community center executive director;
12. a representative of an organization working with the disability community;
13. a representative of an affirming interfaith organization working to welcome and include diverse communities, including LGBTQ people;
14. a parent or caregiver of an LGBTQ child;
15. the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity executive director; and
16. up to nine at-large representatives with an interest in furthering state policy specific to LGBTQ persons' interests and welfare.

The act requires these appointments to be made by September 1, 2026. As under existing law, members (1) serve at the will of the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore, who set term limits for each member, and (2) choose the chairpersons.

The act also requires members to (1) adopt bylaws to conduct network business and (2) annually elect officers, as bylaws may designate, from among the members. Bylaws may include:

1. alternate representatives of the network to attend and vote at any meeting in place of absent representatives;
2. an executive committee of the network and additional committees, including nonvoting advisory committees;
3. procedures to address member non-attendance, including participation standards, notice requirements, and potential consequences for repeated or unexcused absences; and
4. procedures for adopting a governance model.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 5 — LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Broadens the committee's required study topics; changes the committee's reporting requirements and leadership selection process; requires the committee to issue a report by January 1, 2027, on the impact of federal changes on long-term care financing in the state

The act requires the Long-Term Care Planning Committee (LTCPC), within available appropriations, to study (1) state long-term care financing models, including payroll deductions for long-term care; (2) best practices for workforce retention, wages, and standards; and (3) projected federal support for long-term care and solutions for insufficient federal funding.

Existing law requires the LTCPC to study various other long-term care related topics, such as evaluating available data on Medicaid nursing home expenditures compared to those for home- and community-based Medicaid waiver recipients who need a nursing home level of care. The act eliminates the requirement that the study include the number of people who received care to help in short- and long-term Medicaid expenditure forecasting.

The act also requires the LTCPC, when annually reporting to the Aging and Human Services committees each January 1, to report on (1) the issues the committee must study under existing law and the act; (2) a list of long-term care supports and services in the community and institutions (for example, nursing homes); and (3) any related recommendations. The act eliminates a requirement that the report include the number of people receiving long-term care supports and services in community and institutional settings.

Existing law sets the LTCPC membership, which includes several state agency representatives and the chairpersons and ranking members of the Aging, Human Services, and Public Health committees. The act makes minor changes for state agency members by specifying that agency heads or their designees must serve as committee members.

Prior law allowed the members to elect any member as a chairperson. The act instead designates the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, or his designee, as a chairperson. It also requires the members to elect a Senate chairperson and a House chairperson from among the committee's legislative members.

The act requires the LTCPC, within available appropriations, to issue a report by January 1, 2028, on the impact of the federal FY 25 Reconciliation Law (commonly referred to as H.R. 1 or the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (P.L. 119-21)) and other recent federal regulatory changes on financing long-term care options in the state and solicit recommendations for further actions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 6 — LONG-TERM CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Adds members to the Long-Term Care Advisory Council; requires the Human Services Committee chairpersons to jointly appoint council leadership; allows the council to accept gifts and charitable contributions

By law, the Long-Term Care Advisory Council advises and makes recommendations to the LTCPC. The act:

1. explicitly requires it to advise on the topics the LTCPC must study under existing law and the act (see above);
2. adds the OPM secretary and the Human Services Committee's chairpersons and ranking members, or their designees, to the council;
3. replaces as a member the Legal Assistance Resource Center executive director, or his or her designee, with a representative from one of the following state legal services programs: CT Legal Services, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, or New Haven Legal Assistance Association;
4. requires the Human Services Committee chairpersons to jointly appoint the council's chairpersons; and
5. authorizes the council to accept gifts and charitable contributions to finance its work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 6-8 — ORGANIZATION NAME CHANGE

Changes statutory references to "LeadingAge Connecticut" to "LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island"

The act updates statutory references to "LeadingAge Connecticut," a nonprofit advocacy organization, to "LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island," to reflect the organization's current structure.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the name change for the organization's representative on the Long-Term Care Advisory Council is effective July 1, 2026.

§ 9 — ELIMINATED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Eliminates a requirement that DSS report at least annually to MAPOC on gender-affirming care coverage

The act eliminates the requirement that DSS report at least annually to the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (MAPOC) on gender-affirming care coverage in the HUSKY Health Program (which includes Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 10 — FEDERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Incorporates into state law by reference federal regulations on (1) giving antipsychotic pharmaceuticals to a nursing home resident and (2) a nursing home resident's informed consent to treatment

The act incorporates the provisions of two federal regulations into state law by reference. The act incorporates these regulations as adopted as of January 1, 2026, and requires that they apply in the same way and with the same force and effect as if the language of the federal regulations had been incorporated in full into the general statutes.

Specifically, the act incorporates the provisions of 42 C.F.R. § 483.45(e) on providing antipsychotic pharmaceuticals to a nursing home resident. These regulations set requirements for nursing home facilities when administering psychotropic drugs to residents. Among other things, they require facilities to ensure that residents who use psychotropic drugs receive gradual dose reductions and behavioral interventions, unless clinically contraindicated, to discontinue these drugs.

The act also incorporates the provisions of 42 C.F.R. § 483.10(c) on a nursing home resident's informed consent to treatment. Among other things, these regulations give a resident the right to be informed of and participate in their treatment, including the right to (1) participate in developing and implementing a person-centered care plan and (2) request, refuse, or discontinue treatment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 11 — ADS SPENDING CAP FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION SERVICES

Increases the amount ADS can spend in a fiscal year on community inclusion services for deaf and blind adults

The act increases, from \$10,000 to \$14,000, the amount the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) may spend per person each fiscal year on community inclusion services for people ages 21 or older who are both blind or visually impaired and deaf. Community inclusion services help people with disabilities connect with their peers without disabilities and the community at large.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 12 — HUSKY C REPORT

Requires DSS to report annually, from 2027 to 2032, on HUSKY C to the Appropriations and Human Services committees

The act requires the DSS commissioner to report annually on HUSKY C, starting by October 1, 2027, and continuing until October 1, 2032, to the Appropriations and Human Services committees. The report must include:

1. the number of people eligible for HUSKY C for the previous fiscal year,
2. the number of people found ineligible for HUSKY C for exceeding the asset limit and the amount by which their assets exceeded the limit, and
3. projected costs the state would incur in the next fiscal year if asset limits were increased.

HUSKY C is Medicaid for people who are age 65 or older, blind, or living with a disability (CGS § 17b-290).
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 13 — PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Requires the DSS commissioner to report to the Human Services Committee on reimbursement systems to better integrate peer support specialists into the state medical assistance program

The act requires the DSS commissioner to (1) evaluate how peer support specialists are reimbursed, supervised, and trained and (2) make recommendations on how to structure a reimbursement system to better integrate this work into the state medical assistance program, which includes Medicaid and the state Children's Health Insurance Program.

Under the act, a "peer support specialist" is someone with experience living with mental illness or substance use disorder who is certified to provide peer recovery support under a program administered by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). These specialists provide "peer support services," which are recovery-focused behavioral health services that give someone the opportunity to learn to manage his or her recovery.

Under the act, the commissioner must review:

1. services under the medical assistance program that would benefit from peer support services and peer support specialists;
2. how these services and specialists are currently used in the medical assistance program;
3. payment mechanisms currently used to reimburse specialists;
4. how specialists are trained and supervised in the medical assistance program;
5. best practices in other states to reimburse, train, and supervise specialists and integrate their services into medical assistance programs; and
6. alternate payment mechanisms to ensure enough workers and specialists are available to serve medical assistance beneficiaries.

The DSS commissioner must report her evaluation and recommendations to the Human Services Committee by January 31, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 14 — WHEELCHAIR REPAIR AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Changes the council's membership; transfers administrative duties to OHA; removes authorization for legislators to serve on the council; requires council members to serve two-year terms at the pleasure of the appointing authority

By law, the Wheelchair Repair Advisory Council must monitor wheelchair repairs and make recommendations on improving repair times. Under prior law, the council had eight appointed members and several ex-officio members.

The act adds a member to the council by requiring the Human Services Committee chairpersons to appoint two consumers who use a complex rehabilitation technology wheelchair that is leased or repaired under the Medicaid program, rather than one. It requires one of the members appointed by the General Law Committee ranking members to be an authorized dealer, rather than a consumer who privately pays for complex rehabilitation technology. The act also (1) requires appointed council members to serve two-year terms at the pleasure of the appointing authority and (2) removes a provision allowing legislators to serve as appointed council members.

The act requires the Office of the Healthcare Advocate's (OHA) administrative staff, rather than that of the Human Services Committee, to serve as the council's administrative staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 15 — WHEELCHAIR DEALER REPORTS AND NOTICES

Requires authorized DSS-contracted wheelchair dealers to report monthly, rather than annually, on wheelchair repairs and requires authorized wheelchair dealers to notify consumers about their rights to timely repair

An authorized wheelchair dealer is any company doing business in the state selling or leasing wheelchairs, including complex rehabilitation technology wheelchairs. The act requires authorized DSS-contracted wheelchair dealers to report monthly, rather than annually, on wheelchair repairs to the Wheelchair Repair Advisory Council and the DSS commissioner. By law, this report includes information on minimum, maximum, and average times from when a repair is requested to when the dealer responds and makes the repair, among other things.

The act also requires authorized wheelchair dealers to notify consumers about their rights to timely repair, including repair at the consumer's home if requested, and other rights under the law. Dealers must provide the notice (1) in writing when a consumer leases or buys a wheelchair, (2) in any mailings to the consumer, and (3) on the dealer's website.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 16 — STUDY ON INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY

Requires the DSS commissioner to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility for psychiatric treatment services for children and young adults

The act requires the DSS commissioner to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults, ages 14 to 21, with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The DSS commissioner must do this in collaboration with the children and families, DDS, and DMHAS commissioners, and the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate.

The study must include:

1. the appropriate facility size and number of people served at one time;
2. the best treatment practices for the population;
3. the operational costs of establishing the facility and the feasibility of operating it within available appropriations;
4. appropriate sites for the facility, including on state-owned property; and
5. billing options, including for Medicaid, for inpatient psychiatric services for this population.

DSS must submit a report with its study results by July 1, 2027, to the Appropriations, Childrens, Human Services, and Public Health committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-88—SB 429

Human Services Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY: This act sets requirements for how the Department of Social Services (DSS) calculates mileage to reimburse ambulance services under the state medical assistance program (which includes Medicaid). Specifically, the act requires the DSS commissioner to calculate out-of-district mileage for these services based on an ambulance's distance traveled with the patient onboard from the patient pickup to the destination, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of a mile.

The act allows an ambulance service to use any reasonable and verifiable method to document mileage, including GPS data, navigation or dispatch computer systems, or commercially available mapping routing programs. The DSS commissioner must require ambulance service providers to keep mileage documentation in the patient care record, including a trip report with the patient's name, street address, pickup point, and destination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-93—sSB 478

Human Services Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER SAFEGUARDS FOR LONG-TERM CARE POLICIES

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes affecting long-term care (LTC) insurers, including (1) establishing new annual reporting requirements for insurers and the Connecticut Insurance Department (CID) on LTC policy losses, (2) allowing the insurance commissioner to report on the feasibility and effect of certain insurer requirements on LTC insurance access, and (3) authorizing the insurance commissioner to investigate and take disciplinary action against an LTC insurer who violates state LTC insurance laws.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

INSURER AND AGENCY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The act requires LTC insurers to annually report to the insurance commissioner, by May 1, on each individual and group policy's losses (both incurred and actually paid). The commissioner must then annually report to the Aging, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees aggregated and de-identified data on these losses over the past three calendar years, noting which policies were pre-certified under the Connecticut Partnership for LTC.

The commissioner must do this starting by October 1, 2027, and in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary. OPM and CID must post the reports on their respective websites.

Additionally, the act allows the insurance commissioner, in consultation with the OPM secretary and within available appropriations, to report to the Aging, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees by July 1, 2027, on the feasibility and effect on access to LTC insurance of the following:

1. requiring LTC insurers to allow policyholders to cancel their insurance and get a refund for all premiums they paid since the start of the policy whenever the insurer files for a rate increase that exceeds the inflation rate;
2. the level of rate increases the commissioner may approve; and
3. information on Connecticut's reinsurance market, including any recent impacts the market has had on the availability and cost of long-term care insurance policies and the economic impact to the state.

Under the act, the report's data must be aggregated and deidentified.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER INVESTIGATION POWERS

The act allows the insurance commissioner to investigate LTC insurers that he reasonably believes are violating the state's LTC insurance laws. After investigating, if he finds a violation occurred, after holding a hearing, he may take disciplinary action against the insurer. Disciplinary action includes ordering a corrective action plan, imposing administrative remedies, or issuing a penalty of up to \$15,000.

Under the act, the commissioner may allow the insurer to submit a corrective action plan for approval at any time before the hearing ends.

The act also authorizes the commissioner to refer any suspected violations to the attorney general to consider any further available remedies.

PA 26-102—sSB 87

Human Services Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NONPROFIT PROVIDER ADVISORY BOARD AND PROHIBITING AUTO INSURANCE PENALTIES ON VOLUNTEER DRIVERS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

SUMMARY: This act establishes a 24-member Nonprofit Provider Advisory Board within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), to advise and make recommendations on nonprofit service delivery and financial viability, among other things.

The act also prohibits auto insurers from refusing to renew a motor vehicle policy or increasing the rate, including by assigning a surcharge on a premium, just because the insured party (or someone who customarily operates the vehicle insured under the policy) is a volunteer driver who provides services, such as transporting people or goods to nonprofit or charitable organizations without compensation above expenses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on volunteer driver insurance is effective January 1, 2027.

NONPROFIT PROVIDER ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory Board Purpose and Duties

The act establishes the advisory board within OPM to advise the governor and OPM on:

1. areas to improve nonprofit provider service access and delivery;
2. opportunities to collaborate across state agencies that promote nonprofit provider effectiveness and efficiency and streamline state processes, including opportunities to adjust state agency processes and contract expectations to benefit providers and state residents;

3. recommendations on short- and long-term strategies to enhance nonprofit organizations' financial viability, including through payment reform models, based on best practices;
4. a recommendation for a standardized workforce data collection system for nonprofit organizations to measure and compare impact across private provider services; and
5. short- and long-range opportunities, issues, and gaps for nonprofit providers that may result from changes in federal funding or policies.

Advisory Board Membership and Appointments

The act requires the governor to appoint the following 12 members, who serve terms that align with the governor's term:

1. a nonprofit adult behavioral health care provider who contracts with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;
2. a nonprofit children's behavioral health care provider who contracts with the Department of Children and Families;
3. a nonprofit homeless services provider who contracts with the Department of Housing;
4. a nonprofit service provider for people with intellectual disabilities who contracts with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS);
5. a nonprofit provider serving people with co-occurring intellectual or developmental disabilities and behavioral health care needs who contracts with DDS or the Department of Social Services;
6. a nonprofit community justice services provider who contracts with the Department of Correction;
7. the chief executive officer of a statewide association of community nonprofits, or the officer's designee; and
8. five at-large appointments.

The advisory board also includes the following 12 ex-officio members or their designees:

1. the OPM secretary;
2. the commissioners of aging and disability services, children and families, correction, developmental services, early childhood, housing, labor, mental health and addiction services, public health, and social services; and
3. the Court Support Services Division's executive director.

The governor must designate an appointee to serve as the advisory board's chairperson.

PA 26-143—sHB 5354

Human Services Committee

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID PROVIDER AUDITS

SUMMARY: This act modifies the circumstances in which the Department of Social Services (DSS) can determine overpayment by extrapolation when auditing Medicaid provider claims. By law, extrapolation means determining an unknown value by projecting the results of a review of a sample of claims to the entire population of claims from which the sample was drawn.

Prior law allowed DSS to make these findings based on extrapolation if the total net amount of the extrapolated overpayment calculated from a statistically valid sampling and extrapolation method exceeded 1.75% of total claims paid to the provider for the audit period. The act raises this threshold to 2.75%.

The act also requires DSS, starting with audit review periods beginning January 1, 2027, to create and provide up-to-date educational materials and technical assistance documents to help providers with proper Medicaid billing before extrapolation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-146—sHB 5561

Human Services Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING A FIVE-YEAR MEDICAID RATE REVIEW, DENTAL REPRESENTATION ON A MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL, BIOMARKER TESTING AND OPIOID PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS AND A STUDY CONCERNING PAYMENT OF SPOUSES FOR STATE-SUBSIDIZED HOME CARE

SUMMARY: This act makes various unrelated changes affecting Medicaid services and provider reimbursement, including the following:

1. requiring the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to create a five-year process for reviewing Medicaid reimbursement rates that examines provider reimbursements and generally benchmarks rates to those for the same services paid by Medicare (§ 1),
2. adding a representative of the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership's Dental Policy Advisory Council to the membership of the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (MAPOC) (§ 2),
3. requiring the DSS commissioner to report to the Human Services Committee on prior authorization requirements for Medicaid coverage of biomarker testing and how many beneficiaries were approved for this testing in FY 26 (§ 3),
4. requiring opioid prescribers to consider the feasibility of non-opioid pain treatment options for Medicaid beneficiaries and allowing DSS to adopt implementing regulations (§ 4), and
5. establishing a working group to study the feasibility of allowing spouses to be paid for providing personal care assistance (PCA) for spouses enrolled in Medicaid home care programs (§ 5).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except provisions on (1) biomarker testing (§ 3) and (2) the PCA working group (§ 5) take effect upon passage.

§ 1 — FIVE-YEAR MEDICAID PROVIDER RATE REVIEW

The act requires the DSS commissioner to create a five-year process for regularly and predictably reviewing Medicaid reimbursement rates. The process must (1) examine Medicaid provider reimbursements and (2) benchmark the rates to those for the same services paid by Medicare, when possible under available appropriations.

It requires the commissioner to review Medicaid provider rates using this new process starting by January 1, 2027.

Under the act, the new rate review process may include evaluating rates paid in individual parts of the Medicaid program if all rates are reviewed by January 1, 2032. As part of this process, the commissioner may increase and rebase rates at the end of each calendar year using an applicable, more current Medicare base year to (1) strengthen access to care, (2) improve care quality and outcomes, and (3) reduce spending on acute care services. The commissioner must do this in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary and only if funds are appropriated for this purpose.

At the end of the five-year review process, the act requires the commissioner to start a new review using the same evaluation schedule and repeat the process every five years. As part of the process, the commissioner must consolidate existing provider and service fee schedules so that each provider is reimbursed for the same service using the same schedule. When doing so, she must consider, among other things and if applicable, the most recent Medicare fee schedule for services covered by Medicare and Medicaid.

Additionally, as part of the new rate review process, the act requires the commissioner to develop a way to accept public comment that at least allows people to submit written and oral comments. The commissioner must allow public members to submit oral comments at (1) public meetings held at a time and place she chooses and (2) MAPOC meetings.

Under the act, the commissioner must annually report, starting by January 15, 2028, to the Appropriations and Human Services committees on the rate review process. The report must include (1) recommendations on appropriations needed to increase Medicaid provider rates according to the review and (2) a description of the data and methods used in making the recommendations.

§ 2 — MAPOC MEMBERSHIP

The act increases, from 50 to 51, MAPOC's membership by adding a representative of the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership's Dental Policy Advisory Council. (PA 26-68, § 449, requires the Human Services Committee chairpersons to appoint a health care worker labor organization representative to MAPOC.)

By law, this council must advise DSS on various aspects of the Medicaid program. MAPOC includes legislators, consumers, advocates, health care providers, administrative service organization representatives, and state agency

personnel.

§ 3 — BIOMARKER TESTING

The act requires the DSS commissioner, by October 1, 2026, to report to the Human Services Committee on (1) prior authorization requirements for Medicaid coverage of biomarker testing, including their impact on beneficiary access, and (2) how many beneficiaries received approval for Medicaid coverage for this testing in FY 26.

Existing law requires DSS, to the extent federal law allows, to cover medically necessary biomarker testing to diagnose, treat, manage, or monitor a beneficiary's medical condition. Biomarker testing is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for biomarkers, which are characteristics, like a gene mutation or protein expression, that can be objectively measured and evaluated as an indicator of normal biological processes, pathogenic processes, or pharmacologic responses to a specific therapeutic intervention for a disease or condition (CGS § 17b-278m).

§ 4 — PAIN MANAGEMENT FOR MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES

The act requires a prescribing practitioner who prescribes an opioid drug to treat a Medicaid beneficiary's pain to consider the feasibility of non-opioid treatment options, such as chiropractic treatment, spinal cord stimulation, acupuncture, and physical therapy.

The act allows the commissioner to adopt regulations to implement these requirements.

Under the act, a prescribing practitioner is a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or nurse midwife authorized to prescribe opioid drugs within their scope of practice.

§ 5 — WORKING GROUP ON COMPENSATING SPOUSES PROVIDING PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANCE

The act establishes a six-member working group to study the feasibility of allowing spouses to be paid for providing PCA for spouses enrolled in Medicaid home care programs.

Under the act, the working group members include (1) the DSS commissioner, OPM secretary, and Human Services Committee chairpersons or their designees and (2) a consumer of PCA services and representative of an organization providing these services, each appointed by the Human Services Committee chairpersons.

The act requires the Human Services Committee chairpersons to (1) select the working group chairperson and (2) make their appointments within 30 days after the act's passage. The chairperson must schedule the working group's first meeting within 60 days after the act's passage.

Under the act, the Human Services Committee administrative staff serve in that capacity for the working group.

The act requires the working group to report its findings and recommendations to the Human Services Committee by January 1, 2027. It terminates on the date it submits the report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

PA 26-150—SB 430

Human Services Committee

AN ACT ADOPTING THE INTEGRATED SETTING STANDARD OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT FOR PUBLIC ENTITIES

SUMMARY: This act requires state and local agencies and other public entities to administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities who are eligible to receive them. Under the act, public entities are (1) executive, legislative, and judicial branch state agencies, including any office, department, board, council, commission, institution, higher education constituent unit, or technical education and career school; and (2) local governments or departments, agencies, special purpose districts, or other local government instrumentalities. An integrated setting is one that enables people with disabilities to interact with nondisabled people, as described in federal regulations that set similar requirements.

Under the act, violations are a discriminatory practice, and anyone aggrieved by an alleged violation may file a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO). Under existing state law, it is a discriminatory practice to deprive someone of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by Connecticut or federal laws or constitutions, or cause such a deprivation, because of various characteristics, including mental or physical disability, and CHRO may receive, initiate, investigate, and mediate discriminatory practice complaints.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-151—HB 5557

*Human Services Committee
Appropriations Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS ON AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) commissioner to (1) produce a plan with recommendations on developing a standard definition of “intellectual disability” that meets certain requirements and (2) report on the plan to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees by July 1, 2027.

The act also requires the State Department of Education (SDE) commissioner to create an American Sign Language (ASL) education working group. SDE must report annually on the group’s work, starting by January 1, 2028, to the Education and Human Services committees. (PA 26-149, § 4, establishes a similar working group.)

Lastly, the act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to study Medicaid nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) reimbursement rates and service availability. The DSS commissioner must report her findings and legislative recommendations to the Human Services and Public Health committees by February 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the ASL working group is effective January 1, 2027.

§ 1 — PLAN ON INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY DEFINITION

By law, “intellectual disability” generally means a significant limitation in intellectual functioning that exists alongside deficits in adaptive behavior that started during a person’s developmental period before age 18. A “significant limitation in intellectual functioning” means an IQ more than two standard deviations below the mean as measured by tests of general intellectual functioning that are individualized, standardized, and clinically and culturally appropriate to the person.

The act requires the DDS commissioner to produce a plan with recommendations on developing a standard definition for intellectual disability that originates before age 18 and is characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, including conceptual, social, and practical skills. The definition must be consistent with generally accepted professional standards, including those recognized by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

As part of the plan, the DDS commissioner must ensure that no single test score or measure would determine intellectual disability and that the definition is based on the totality of relevant clinical, educational, and functional evidence, including:

1. standardized assessments when valid and appropriate,
2. adaptive behavior measures,
3. developmental history,
4. medical evidence, and
5. other reliable information.

The plan must include:

1. a recommended timeline to transition to a new intellectual disability definition;
2. any required federal approvals; and
3. estimates of one-time transition costs and recurring costs of using the new definition for DDS, other state agencies, and school districts impacted by the change.

§ 2 — ASL WORKING GROUP

Membership

Under the act, the ASL working group includes at least four members appointed by the SDE commissioner:

1. a Connecticut Council of Language Teachers representative,
2. an American School for the Deaf representative,
3. a Connecticut Association of the Deaf representative, and
4. at least one ASL instructor who teaches in a public school in the state.

The working group also includes:

1. one representative each from SDE, the Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Labor Department, and the Office of Higher Education;
2. one member appointed by each legislative leader;

3. the Education and Human Services committees' chairpersons and ranking members or their designees; and
4. two members appointed by the governor.

Duties

The working group must provide recommendations to SDE on:

1. curriculum guidance for ASL instruction that includes aligning the curriculum with nationally recognized proficiency frameworks;
2. guidance to educator preparation programs in the state on (a) expanding ASL and interpretation education programs; (b) creating educational incentives like tuition support, credit enhancement, or alternative programs; and (c) creating bridge, endorsement, or alternative programs for native ASL users and certified interpreters seeking teacher certification; and
3. teacher certification standards based on those established by the American Sign Language Teachers Association and the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview.

The teacher certification standards must establish a proficiency benchmark, recognize an alternative certification pathway for native ASL users and interpreters, and include reciprocity with ASL teacher certifications for other states.

§ 3 — NEMT STUDY

The act requires DSS to study access to, and reimbursement for, NEMT under Medicaid. The study must:

1. evaluate the adequacy of current Medicaid NEMT reimbursement rates;
2. examine the availability of NEMT across the state, including geographic disparities in access and service gaps;
3. evaluate options to allow home care providers, such as home health aides, to transport Medicaid beneficiaries to or from medical appointments;
4. assess appropriate qualifications, licensing requirements, and insurance standards for any home care worker providing these services;
5. review other states' practices on NEMT reimbursement rates and provider eligibility; and
6. identify any other issues the DSS commissioner deems relevant to improve access to Medicaid NEMT.

PA 26-23—sSB 340

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING REAL ESTATE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, PUBLIC MARKETING OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE LISTINGS AND REVISING THE TITLE OF A REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON TO A REAL ESTATE AGENT

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to statutes related to real estate licensees (brokers and agents). Primarily the act:

1. establishes a two-hour minimum for each Department of Consumer Protection (DCP)-approved continuing education course for real estate licensees (§ 1);
2. replaces the term “real estate salesperson” with the term “real estate agent” throughout the statutes on licensure and other related statutes (§§ 2-31); and
3. establishes requirements for real estate brokers and agents representing sellers or landlords in transactions for residential properties of up to four units, including a requirement to make listings publicly available unless the seller or landlord opts out of public marketing, and subjects violators to license suspension or revocation, fines up to \$5,000 per violation, or both (§ 32).

Lastly, it makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the sections with the terminology change are effective January 1, 2027 (§§ 2-31).

REAL ESTATE LICENSEES CONTINUING EDUCATION

By law, real estate licensees must satisfy continuing education requirements by completing DCP-approved courses, a written examination, or an equivalent education experience or study.

Under the law, the DCP-approved courses must provide at least 12 hours of classroom study on current real estate practices and licensing laws, including those related to common interest communities. The act requires that each DCP-approved course used to satisfy the continuing education requirement be at least two hours long.

ONE- TO FOUR-UNIT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The act establishes requirements for real estate brokers or agents representing sellers or landlords in transactions involving one- to four-unit residential properties, including (1) a cooperative or condominium with up to four units total and (2) any individual unit in a multiunit development. It also subjects violators, after a hearing, to license suspension or revocation, fines up to \$5,000 per violation, or both. (These are the same penalties in existing law for various real estate business-related violations.)

Requirements for Licensees Representing the Seller or Landlord

Under the act, the real estate broker or agent representing the seller or landlord in these transactions must do the following for prospective buyers or prospective tenants (or their brokers or agents if they have one) on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis:

1. disclose all property information authorized by the seller or landlord, and any other information or material facts they must disclose;
2. respond to inquiries on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis or designate a specific individual responsible for doing so; and
3. make the residential property available for in-person or virtual showings.

General Public Availability

The act generally requires a seller’s or landlord’s real estate broker or agent in these residential property transactions to make the property available to the general public on a fair, nondiscriminatory, and publicly accessible listing platform that is reasonably designed to generate broad public exposure to prospective buyers or tenants. The broker or agent must do this at the same time as, or before, the first public marketing (see below).

The broker or agent may do so through an active listing on (1) at least one multiple listing service operating in this state, (2) a publicly accessible Internet listing platform, or (3) any other electronic listing platform that provides unrestricted

public access to listing information. However, the broker or agent cannot use a listing platform if access to it is limited or the platform (1) requires an invitation, password, or other credentials to access it or (2) is designed primarily for internal use by a single brokerage or affiliated group.

Under the act, a “multiple listing service” is any cooperative information exchange system, operated by, or on behalf of, licensed real estate brokers, that:

1. aggregates and disseminates information about real estate listings among participating real estate brokers on a broad and nondiscriminatory basis, and is not limited to (a) a single brokerage or affiliated group of brokerages or (b) an exclusionary group of participating real estate brokers;
2. is governed by standardized rules;
3. allows real estate listing information to be distributed to publicly accessible real estate marketplaces and websites at the same time as, and not later than, the real estate listing’s first public marketing; and
4. is not established or operated to limit the visibility or distribution of real estate listings.

Interpretation of the Residential Property Transactions Provisions

The act specifies that its new provisions on real estate property transactions do not:

1. require a seller or landlord to publicly market the residential property or submit it for active listing on a multiple listing service operating in Connecticut;
2. prohibit using private listings, pocket listings, or office-exclusive listings, if the listing is not publicly marketed;
3. restrict a seller from directing a broker or agent to market the property privately or to a limited group of prospective buyers, as long as the direction complies with all state and federal laws;
4. restrict an individual agent at a brokerage from marketing to another agent at a different brokerage when marketing a private listing or pocket listing, if the private listing or pocket listing is not publicly marketed; or
5. restrict the broker or agent representing the seller or landlord from giving property information to other real estate brokers or real estate agents controlled and supervised by the same supervising licensee in the same office.

Public Marketing

Under the act, “public marketing” is any promotion or distribution of information through any medium that is reasonably accessible to prospective buyers or tenants, real estate licensees, and the general public that provides open and nondiscriminatory access to available residential real property for sale or lease, such as:

1. real estate listings on a publicly accessible website or digital platform;
2. promotions on a social media platform;
3. emails to more than one recipient at a time;
4. signs directing consumers to a real estate broker;
5. publication on a real estate broker’s or brokerage website, application, or other digital platform, or inclusion on a private network of at least two real estate brokerage agencies or franchisees; or
6. digital ads for public distribution.

Public Marketing Opt-Out Form

Under the act, at the time the listing agreement is executed, if the seller or landlord of these properties asks to opt out of public marketing, their real estate broker or agent must execute a Seller/Landlord Opt-Out of Real Estate Public Marketing form. The act specifies the form’s language and that it must be in 10-point type size. Among other things, the form requires the seller or landlord to acknowledge certain risks associated with foregoing public marketing, like a potential for reduced competition for the property.

PA 26-31—sHB 5265*Insurance and Real Estate Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING COURT-ORDERED ACCOUNTINGS OF COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REVISING THE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITIES**

SUMMARY: This act allows, under certain circumstances, a group of common interest community association unit owners (representing at least 20% of the total voting ownership) to petition the Superior Court for an order directing the association to get an independent third-party audit of certain financial records. It limits the frequency of these requests and requires the group of unit owners to pay for related audit expenses.

The act also expands the information on the residential condition report that a residential property seller must give to a prospective buyer. Specifically, it adds a special statement on common interest ownership that advises a buyer to ask for a resale certificate and a reserve fund report if the unit is in a community with more than 12 units or, if not, to consult with certain professionals and other unit residents about possible ownership issues.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 1 — COMMON INTEREST OWNERSHIP ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL AUDIT*Petitioning for an Audit*

The act allows a group of unit owners in a common interest ownership community (condominiums, cooperatives, and other planned communities) to petition the Superior Court for an independent third-party audit of their association's financial records. If the petition is granted, only certain association records are subject to the audit (see below).

Under the act, the group of petitioning unit owners must:

1. certify in writing that a good faith belief exists for needing the audit;
2. get a signed opinion from an independent certified public accountant (CPA) specializing in fraud or forensic accounting stating that there appears to be evidence of financial fraud or abuse of the association's funds, which also includes the CPA's basis for this opinion; and
3. certify that they own units making up at least 20% of the association's votes and attach a certified copy of the vote allocation from the recorded declaration.

Additionally, to petition for an audit, a similar audit cannot have been completed during the 12 months before the date the unit owners file their petition.

Lastly, the act requires the group of petitioning unit owners to pay any expenses associated with the audit, including any reasonable fees the association or community association manager may charge for providing financial records to the independent third-party auditor. The act specifies that the association may be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees incurred in this process.

Records Subject to Audit

If the court grants the petition, the audit applies to the following records that, by law, a common interest community must retain:

1. detailed records of receipts and expenditures affecting the association's operation and administration and other accounting records, including records relating to any reserve accounts;
2. minutes of unit owner and executive board meetings other than executive sessions, records of actions taken without a meeting, and records of actions taken by a committee on the association's behalf;
3. the names and addresses of unit owners and number of votes each may cast;
4. the association's original or restated organizational documents, as applicable, bylaws and all their amendments, and all rules currently in effect;
5. the association's financial statements and tax returns for the past three years;
6. a list of the names and addresses of the association's current executive board members and officers;
7. the association's most recent annual report delivered to the secretary of the state, if any;
8. financial and other records sufficiently detailed to enable the association to comply with the Common Interest Ownership Act's (CIOA, see BACKGROUND) provision on resale of units;
9. copies of current contracts to which the association is a party;
10. records of executive board or committee actions to approve or deny any requests for design or architectural

- approval from unit owners; and
- 11. ballots, proxies, and other records related to unit owners' voting for one year after the election, action, or vote to which they relate.

Association Records Not Subject to Audit

The act's audit provisions do not apply to the following association records that must be withheld from inspection and copying under existing law:

1. individuals' personnel, salary, and medical records unless waived by the subject of the record;
2. unredacted paper or electronic ballots, unredacted proxy forms, and other unredacted records that identify a unit owner's vote; and
3. any information if its disclosure would violate any law other than CIOA.

§ 2 — ADDITION TO RESIDENTIAL CONDITION REPORT

Under existing law, a person selling residential property generally must give a prospective buyer a written property condition report that is set out in the Uniform Property Condition Disclosure Act. On the report, the seller must answer questions on whether the property is in a common interest ownership community, and if so, if the property is subject to any association dues or fees. The act adds a special statement about common interest ownership immediately following those questions that advises the buyer to:

1. ask for a resale certificate and report of the community's reserve funds, if the unit is in a common interest community with more than 12 units, and
2. if the unit is in a common interest community with 12 or fewer units and does not keep a resale certificate, consult with trade professionals, attorneys, real estate professionals, and financial analysts, and other residents for information concerning issues that may arise with ownership.

BACKGROUND

Common Interest Ownership Act

The Common Interest Ownership Act governs the creation, alteration, management, termination, and sale of common interest communities formed in Connecticut after January 1, 1984 (CGS § 47-200 et seq.). In addition to owning their units, condominium unit owners also have an ownership interest in the areas common to all unit owners (for example, the building's lobby, grounds, and electrical systems). Unit owners, through the association of unit owners, are jointly responsible for the maintenance and operation of commonly held areas and facilities.

PA 26-33—sHB 5374

*Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Appropriations Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH COVERAGE MANDATES FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CONDITIONS

SUMMARY: This act addresses benefit mandates under certain individual and group health insurance policies.

Specifically, starting January 1, 2027, the act generally requires the applicable individual and group health insurance policies to cover the following:

1. Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) treatment (see BACKGROUND) (§§ 2 & 3);
2. prosthetic devices designed exclusively for athletic purposes (§§ 6 & 7);
3. scalp cooling systems used with chemotherapy, at least equivalent to their Medicare coverage (§§ 4 & 5); and
4. infertility diagnosis and treatment under an expanded definition of "infertility" that, among other things, establishes various ways in which infertility can be determined (§§ 8-11).

Starting January 1, 2027, the act's benefit mandates apply to each insurer, hospital or medical service corporation, Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), or fraternal benefit society that delivers, issues, renews, amends, or continues in Connecticut individual or group health insurance policies that cover (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO

plan (collectively referred to as “covered policies” below). Because of the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), state insurance benefit mandates do not apply to self-insured benefit plans. The scalp cooling system benefit mandate also applies to individual and group health insurance policies for specified disease coverage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§§ 2 & 3 — PANS AND PANDAS COVERAGE

Required Coverage

The act requires covered policies to cover the treatment of PANS and PANDAS, including the use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

§§ 4 & 5 — SCALP COOLING SYSTEM

Required Coverage

The act requires covered policies, as well as applicable policies covering specified disease coverage, that provide coverage for chemotherapy to also cover scalp cooling systems used with chemotherapy. The coverage must at least equal Medicare’s coverage for it. Under the act, a “scalp cooling system” is any device designed and intended for repeated medical use to cool the human scalp to prevent or reduce hair loss due to chemotherapy.

Out-of-Pocket Expenses

The act generally prohibits any of the covered policies from imposing out-of-pocket expenses (coinsurance, copayment, deductible, or other out-of-pocket expense) for any scalp cooling system that is more restrictive than what is imposed on substantially all other benefits under the policy. It makes an exception for high deductible health plans designed to be compatible with federally qualified health savings accounts.

Prior Authorization

Under the act, these individual and group health insurance policies may require prior authorization for scalp cooling systems, but only in the same way and to the same extent as required for the policy’s other covered benefits.

§§ 6 & 7 — PROSTHETIC DEVICES

The act expands the existing prosthetic device benefit mandate by requiring covered policies to also cover prosthetic devices designed exclusively for athletic purposes, and any medically necessary repairs and replacements to them, subject to specified conditions.

Under existing law, a “prosthetic device” is an artificial device to replace all or part of an arm or leg, including one with a microprocessor if the patient’s health care provider determines it is medically necessary. Under the law, unchanged by the act, prosthetic devices may not be considered durable medical equipment under the policy.

Prior law expressly excluded a device designed exclusively for athletic purposes. The act removes this exclusion, which expands the benefit mandate to include coverage for these devices. By doing so, it applies existing law’s provisions to this coverage including (1) generally requiring it to at least equal Medicare’s coverage for these devices, (2) generally prohibiting a policy from imposing out-of-pocket expenses that are more restrictive than most other benefits under the policy, and (3) limiting prior authorization requirements to the same manner and extent as required for other policy benefits.

§§ 8-11 — INFERTILITY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

Required Coverage

By law, covered policies must cover the medically necessary costs of diagnosing and treating infertility. Under prior law, “infertility” was defined as being unable to conceive or produce conception or sustain a successful pregnancy during a one-year period or if the treatment is medically necessary. The act expands this definition by, among other things, establishing various conditions upon which infertility diagnosis and treatment can be based, including a shorter period (six months) under specified circumstances, as described below. It also makes conforming changes.

Expanded Definition

By expanding the definition of “infertility,” the act expands the benefit mandate to include the medically necessary cost of diagnosing and treating the following:

1. the inability to establish or carry a pregnancy based on a person’s medical, sexual and reproductive history, age, physical findings, diagnostic testing, or any combination of these factors, including infertility arising from disabilities or from medical treatments or conditions associated with a disability;
2. the need for medical intervention, including the use of donor gametes, donor embryos, or a gestational surrogate, to establish a pregnancy either as an individual or with a partner;
3. a person’s inability to establish a pregnancy or carry a pregnancy to live birth after 12 months of unprotected sexual intercourse when the individual and the individual’s partner have the necessary gametes to establish a pregnancy, but a pregnancy loss may not restart the 12-month period; and
4. a person’s inability to establish a pregnancy or carry a pregnancy to live birth after six months of unprotected sexual intercourse due to their age when the person and their partner have the necessary gametes to establish a pregnancy, but a pregnancy loss must not restart the six-month period.

Existing law, unchanged by the act, allows religious employers and individuals to exclude infertility coverage from their policies if it is contrary to their religious tenets.

BACKGROUND*PANS and PANDAS*

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) are conditions characterized by a sudden and severe onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder or restrictive eating disorder in children before puberty. PANS and PANDAS are also often associated with noticeable changes in mood, behavior, and sensory and motor function in children.

PANS may be triggered by various infections, immune system issues, or environmental factors. PANDAS is a subtype of PANS specifically associated with an infection from streptococcal (strep) bacteria, such as strep throat or scarlet fever.

Related Federal Law

Under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148, § 1311(d)(3)), a state may require health plans sold through the state’s health insurance exchange to offer benefits beyond those included in the required essential health benefits, as long as the state defrays the cost of those additional benefits. The requirement applies to state benefit mandates enacted after December 31, 2011. The state must pay the insurance carrier or enrollee to defray the cost of any new benefits it mandates after that date.

PA 26-47—sHB 5375

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS

SUMMARY: This act generally requires health carriers, third-party administrators (TPAs), and pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) covering benefits under a health benefit plan in Connecticut to (1) reimburse pharmacists for covered clinical services and (2) include them in reimbursement processes and provider networks. It authorizes the insurance commissioner to adopt regulations to implement its provisions on pharmacists’ compensation.

The act also requires the commissioner, within available appropriations, to:

1. study the feasibility of (a) allowing nonprofits to pool their liability insurance policies; (b) establishing a captive insurance company, risk management agency, or a program to insure the pool’s risk; and (c) establishing any other insurance program to address state-contracted nonprofits’ needs;
2. develop a proposed plan to establish the company, agency, or program described above and a related financial analysis; and

3. report to the legislature on the study, proposed plan, and financial analysis, by November 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2028, except the provision on the insurance commissioner's study is effective upon passage.

PHARMACISTS' COMPENSATION

The law recognizes licensed pharmacists as health care providers. The act provides for their compensation when they deliver covered clinical services under certain health plans. Specifically, it (1) requires (a) health carriers, TPAs, and PBMs covering benefits under a health benefit plan (see below) to include pharmacists in reimbursement processes and (b) provider networks to reimburse them for covered clinical services and (2) prohibits these entities from denying pharmacists reimbursement for clinical services under specified circumstances. The act specifies that it does not require coverage of any service not otherwise covered under the plan.

Applicability

The act applies to any insurance company, fraternal benefit society, hospital or medical service corporation, health care center, or other entity subject to Connecticut insurance laws and regulations ("health carrier"). It also applies to (1) TPAs and (2) PBMs that administer the prescription drug, prescription device, or pharmacist services portion of a health benefit plan on behalf of plan sponsors, such as self-insured employers, insurance companies, labor unions, and health care centers.

Health Benefit Plan

Under the act, a "health benefit plan" is an insurance policy or contract offered, delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut by a health carrier to provide, deliver, pay for, or reimburse health care service costs. This expressly excludes coverage for certain types of benefits such as disability, specified accident or accident only, long term care, Medicare or TriCare supplement, travel health, any single service ancillary health (for example, vision, dental, or prescription drug coverage), or certain other limited scope, supplemental, or fixed indemnity benefits.

Covered Clinical Service

Under the act, a "covered clinical service" is any service or procedure (1) within the scope of the pharmacist's license and (2) covered under the health benefit plan's terms when done by any other licensed health care provider.

The act prohibits a health carrier, TPA, or PBM from denying reimbursement for any clinical service solely because the service (1) is provided by a pharmacist according to their scope of practice and license and (2) would otherwise be eligible for reimbursement if provided by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

Credentialing and Contracting Standards

The act specifies that it does not prevent health carriers, TPAs, and PBMs from setting reasonable participation, credentialing, and contracting standards for pharmacists.

NONPROFITS' LIABILITY INSURANCE

Proposed Plan

The act requires the commissioner to develop a proposed plan to establish a captive insurance company, risk management agency, or a program to insure nonprofits who pool their liability insurance policies. The proposed plan must assess the appropriate structure of the company, agency, or program to ensure its financial and operational viability, including:

1. a process for collecting relevant data from participating nonprofits;
2. an actuarial analysis of any risks to be underwritten;
3. a plan design; and
4. any other factors the commissioner deems appropriate.

Financial Analysis

Under the act, the commissioner's financial analysis of the company, agency, or program, must include:

1. an estimate of the initial investment required to ensure that they (a) meet any applicable statutory operating ratios in the state's insurance laws and (b) are fully operational as Connecticut-licensed insurers or reinsurers and
2. estimates of future premium costs for participating nonprofits.

Report to the Legislature

By November 1, 2026, the act requires the commissioner to report to the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; Human Services; and Insurance and Real Estate committees on the feasibility study, proposed plan, and financial analysis. The report must include (1) any legislative recommendations required to establish the company, agency, or program and (2) an assessment of funding needed for implementation and any future investment in them.

PA 26-56—sHB 5377

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING RETURN OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PAYMENTS

SUMMARY: This act makes changes to laws regarding claim payments and appeals between health care providers (for example, physicians) and (1) contracting health organizations (managed care organizations and preferred provider networks) or (2) health insurance carriers (for example, insurance companies, hospital or medical service corporations, HMOs, or fraternal benefit societies).

For contracting health organizations' provider claim payment and appeals processes, the act:

1. reduces, from 18 months to 12 months, the time period after receiving a clean (complete and error-free) claim during which a contracting health organization may generally cancel, deny, or demand full or partial return of payment from a health care provider due to an administrative or eligibility error;
2. allows organizations to use a secure electronic provider portal or electronic clearinghouse for claims or remittance communications to give providers the 30-day minimum advance notice of a payment cancellation, denial, or demand notice required by law;
3. specifies that if the above notice is sent by (a) mail, it must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or (b) email, it must be sent to an email address the provider designates; and
4. requires the organization to notify the provider of its appeal determination within 30 business days after receiving the provider's appeal, otherwise the appeal must be construed in the provider's favor.

It also applies the provider claim payment and appeals provisions that apply to contracting health organizations, under existing law and the act, to health insurance carriers that deliver, issue, renew, amend, or continue certain individual or group health insurance policies in Connecticut on or after January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027, and applicable to individual and group health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut on or after that date.

PROVIDER CLAIM PAYMENT AND APPEALS PROCESSES

Contracting Health Organizations

Time Limit. Prior law generally prohibited a contracting health organization from canceling, denying, or demanding the return of full or partial payment for an authorized covered service, due to administrative or eligibility error, more than 18 months after receiving the clean claim. The act reduces this to 12 months after receiving the clean claim.

By law, unchanged by the act, the time limit does not apply if the:

1. organization (a) has a documented basis to believe that the provider fraudulently submitted the claim, (b) already paid the provider for the claim, or (c) paid a claim that should have been or was paid by a federal or state program; or
2. provider (a) did not bill the claim appropriately based on documentation or evidence of what medical service was provided or (b) received payment from a different insurer, payor, or administrator through coordination of benefits, subrogation, or coverage under an automobile insurance or workers' compensation policy.

Advance Notice. Under existing law, an organization must give a provider at least 30 days' advance notice of a payment

cancellation, denial, or return demand by mail, email, or fax. The act specifies that if the notice is sent by mail, it must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested; and if it is sent by email, it must be sent to the provider's designated email. The act also gives organizations the option of providing this notice through a secure electronic provider portal or electronic clearinghouse used for claims or remittance communications.

Appeal. By law, a provider may appeal, according to the organization's procedures, a payment cancellation, denial, or return demand within 30 days after receiving notice of it. Prior law did not specify a method for the appeal process. The act explicitly requires organizations to have an electronic appeal process available to providers but allows them to have additional means to appeal available.

Further, the act requires the organization to notify the provider of the appeal determination within 30 days after receiving the appeal. Under the act, if the organization fails to do so, then the appeal must be construed in the provider's favor.

Existing law, unchanged by the act, requires a payment return demand to be postponed during the appeal.

Health Insurance Carriers

The act applies the provider claim payment and appeals provisions that apply to contracting health organizations, under existing law and the act (as described above), to health insurance carriers that deliver, issue, renew, amend, or continue individual or group health insurance policies in Connecticut on or after January 1, 2027, that cover (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO plan. (Because of the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), state insurance benefit mandates do not apply to self-insured benefit plans.)

PA 26-69—sHB 5373

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE INSURANCE STATUTES

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§ 10 — VIATICAL SETTLEMENT REPORTING

Eliminates prior law's requirement for viatical settlement providers to file an annual statement on settled insurance policies with the insurance commissioner

§ 11 — NOTIFICATION OF FORMULARY CHANGES

Requires health carriers to provide a list of any prescription drugs being removed from a formulary and those covered for the new plan year annually before the plan's open enrollment period; eliminates prior law's annual reporting requirement for OHS related to prescription drug formulary requirements

§§ 12 & 13 — EXTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS DEADLINES AND NOTIFICATION

Requires health carriers to notify independent review organizations when their preliminary review of an external adverse determination is complete; starts the clock for a final external review decision notice generally when the independent review organization receives the carrier's notice

§ 14 — REPORTING AGENT TERMINATIONS

Requires insurers to report agent terminations for cause to the insurance commissioner within 30 days after the termination

§§ 15 & 16 — THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATORS

Requires contracts between TPAs and insurers to include a provision requiring the TPA to continue services if the insurer is insolvent or in receivership; prohibits the insurance commissioner from renewing a TPA license until the TPA pays existing law's health and welfare fee and meets a related reporting requirement; allows insurers to conduct semiannual reviews of TPAs remotely

§ 17 — CASUALTY CLAIMS ADJUSTERS CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Allows the commissioner to make regulations to establish continuing education requirements for licensed casualty claims adjusters

§§ 18-21 — CONNECTICUT INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION

Makes changes to CIGA (which generally protects insureds in the state if certain property and casualty insurers fail) to include cybersecurity insurance policies, increase first-party real property coverage and unearned premium maximum claim amounts, and allow certain guaranty association powers and protections, among other things

§§ 22-23 & 25 — NAIC'S ASSUMPTION REINSURANCE MODEL LAW

Implements the NAIC Assumption Reinsurance Model Law, including (1) notice requirements for assumption reinsurance transactions; (2) policyholder rights under assumption reinsurance agreements, including the right to reject the transfer; and (3) the insurance commissioner's discretion when an insurer is in a hazardous financial condition

§ 24 — SURPLUS LINES BROKER REPORTING

Allows the commissioner, with limited exceptions, to require surplus lines brokers to annually report information on surplus lines policies issued in the state, such as covered real property locations and premiums and the number of policies renewed in the prior year

SUMMARY: This act makes several unrelated changes to the insurance statutes, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except as specified below.

§ 1 — SERVICE OF PROCESS NOTICES

Allows the insurance commissioner to serve notice of process electronically, instead of only by registered or certified mail

Under existing law, the insurance commissioner acts as agent for service of legal process on specified insurance companies and related entities. The act allows the commissioner, upon receipt, to send a copy of the legal process electronically to the person to be served, instead of only by registered or certified mail as under prior law.

Under existing law and the act, the commissioner must send a copy of the legal notice to (1) the person to be served at his or her last known business or personal address; (2) for foreign insurance companies, the secretary or designee; (3) for alien insurance companies, the U.S. resident manager (if any); and (4) for fraternal benefit societies, the secretary or corresponding officer.

The act additionally requires the commissioner, when sending these copies electronically, to send them to the last known email address on file for the individuals listed above.

§§ 2 & 3 — INSURANCE LICENSE SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION NOTICES

Allows the insurance commissioner to deliver insurance license suspension and revocation notices electronically

Under existing law, the insurance commissioner, after notice and a hearing, may suspend or revoke a licensee's insurance license for cause. The act allows the commissioner, regardless of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA), to send suspension or revocation notices by personal delivery.

By law, "personal delivery" is direct delivery to the intended recipient (or the recipient's designated representative), including electronic delivery to an email address the recipient identified as an acceptable means of communication. Prior law required notice by mail.

The act specifies that electronic suspension or revocation notices are deemed an acceptable means of communication when sent to a licensee or registrant as follows:

1. to an entity's (firm, association, or corporation) designated primary contact person's email address and
2. to an individual licensee's or registrant's email address.

Under the act, a notice sent this way is deemed received by the primary contact person or individual on the actual date it was received, or seven days after the date the notice is postmarked or emailed, whichever is earlier.

Under the act and existing law, anyone aggrieved by the commissioner's decision to suspend or revoke a license or registration may appeal to the New Britain Superior Court under the UAPA.

§ 4 — OBJECTION PROCESS FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE FEE

Establishes an objection process for the health and welfare fee that the insurance commissioner assesses on certain insurers, HMOs, and TPAs

Under existing law, the insurance department assesses a health and welfare fee on (1) domestic insurers and HMOs doing business in the state and (2) licensed third-party administrators (TPAs) and domestic insurers not subject to TPA licensure servicing self-insured health benefit plans. The fee is used to pay the expenses of the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Connecticut Vaccine Program (such as purchasing and distributing childhood vaccines and administering the immunization information system).

The act establishes an objection process for the health and welfare fee that is similar to existing law's process for the public health fee (a separate assessment that pays for certain other DPH programs, such as children's health initiatives, AIDS services, and tuberculosis care). More specifically, the act allows domestic insurers, HMOs, TPAs, and exempt insurers to submit objections to the proposed fee to the insurance commissioner annually, by December 20. The commissioner must then give the objector a final statement, by January 1, that includes any adjustments to the fee he deems necessary.

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, insurers must pay the health and welfare fee by February 1.

§ 5 — INSURANCE FUND

Adds the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to the offices covered by the Insurance Fund general assessment; changes several reporting dates in the general assessment process; and changes the installment payment amounts as a percentage of the total assessment

Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate

By law, domestic insurers and HMOs pay an annual general assessment to the Insurance Fund to cover the expenses of the Connecticut Insurance Department (CID), Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA), and Office of Health Strategy (OHS), among other things (PA 26-68, §§ 68-161, eliminates OHS). The act adds the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate (OBHA) to the list of entities the assessment covers.

Correspondingly, the act adds OBHA to (1) statements the insurance commissioner gives to insurers and HMOs showing appropriations for offices covered by the general assessment, (2) calculations that set the assessment, and (3) calculations to determine the upper limit for insurers' and HMOs' required payments as a percentage of office expenditures.

Reporting Dates

The act changes the deadline, from June 30 to August 31, for the Department of Revenue Services to report to the insurance commissioner the taxes (before allowable credits) paid by domestic insurers and HMOs during the calendar year before the previous calendar year (for example, information given in 2026 would cover 2024).

Under prior law, by July 31 annually, CID had to give assessed insurers and HMOs a statement showing, among other things, how much was appropriated to the offices covered by the assessment (including CID, OHA, and OHS) from the Insurance Fund for that fiscal year. Under the act, CID must instead give them the statement by September 15.

Assessment and Payment Installments

Prior law required the commissioner to assess insurers and HMOs, providing for any objections and adjustments, for the fiscal year by September 1 annually. The act changes this assessment date to October 1.

Under existing law, insurers and HMOs must pay the assessment in four installments, each as a certain percentage of the total amount due. Under the act, the first payment amount (due June 30) increases from 25% to 35%, and the final payment amount (due in equal parts on December 31 and March 31) decreases from 50% to 40%. Additionally, the act delays the second payment's due date from September 30 to October 31, but the amount remains unchanged (25%).

§ 6 — TERRORISM INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

Eliminates a requirement that condominium and unit owners' associations purchase terrorism insurance

The act eliminates prior law's requirement that a condominium or unit owners' association's master policy include coverage for terrorism if the condominium is subject to the Common Interest Ownership Act or the Condominium Act.

In doing so, the act allows these master policies to exclude coverage for losses directly or indirectly caused by terrorism (1) if the premiums charged for the policy reflect projected savings from the exclusion and (2) until the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program established under federal law expires.

Background — Federal Terrorism Risk Insurance Act

The 2002 federal Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (P.L. 107-297) created a temporary program under which the federal government shares the risk of loss from foreign terrorist attacks with the insurance industry. The 2019 Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act revised several provisions of the initial act and extended the program until December 31, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — PREMIUM BILLING NOTICES

Allows certain premium billing notices to be delivered electronically; requires insurers to give a reasonable explanation for premium increases for personal risk policies upon request

The act allows an insurer (or its agent) to send premium billing notices for personal or commercial risk insurance electronically if agreed to between the insurer and insured. Under prior law, personal and commercial risk insurers could only mail or deliver the notice to the named insured. As under prior law, the notice must be sent at least 30 days before the policy's renewal or anniversary date. The notice tells the insured the premium amount, length of coverage, and due date. This requirement applies to personal and commercial insurance policies that cost less than \$50,000 for the preceding annual policy period. It does not apply to workers' compensation insurance risks or to commercial risks subject to a premium increase of less than 10% for the upcoming policy period. Personal risk insurance includes policies covering homeowners, tenants, private passenger non-fleet automobiles, and mobile manufactured homes, among other things.

Additionally, for personal risk policies, the act requires the premium billing notice to state that the insurer will issue a reasonable explanation for a premium increase within 20 days after an insured asks for one in writing or another way the insurance commissioner sets. Under the act, a "reasonable explanation" is sufficient information to allow the policyholder to determine what caused the increase in terms that are understandable to an average policyholder.

The act also requires insurers to include a prominent statement in a location and format the commissioner sets that includes contact information for the insured to submit the request.

The act also makes a related conforming change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§§ 8 & 9 — AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Makes a technical change to a provision on settlement amounts for totaled vehicles by replacing a reference to the National Automobile Dealers Association's used car guide with J.D. Power's guide; eliminates prior law's annual reporting requirement for automobile insurance fraud investigations

Determining Settlement Amount on Totaled Vehicles (§ 8)

Under existing law, when an automobile insurer declares a covered, damaged vehicle a constructive total loss (the repair cost exceeds the vehicle's value), the insurer must calculate the vehicle's value to determine the settlement amount. Prior law required the insurer to use at least the average of the retail values given by two sources: (1) the National Automobile Dealers Association's (NADA) used car guide, or another publicly available automotive industry source the commissioner approves, and (2) one other industry source the commissioner approves for this use.

The act makes a technical change by substituting J.D. Power's used car guide (or its successor's) for that of NADA (J.D. Power acquired the NADA used car valuation service in 2015).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Automobile Insurance Fraud Reporting (§ 9)

The act eliminates prior law's requirement that insurers annually report to the insurance commissioner on their automobile insurance fraud investigations during the prior year and related information. (In practice, the Insurance Department can already access the information through the National Insurance Crime Bureau.)

§ 10 — VIATICAL SETTLEMENT REPORTING

Eliminates prior law's requirement for viatical settlement providers to file an annual statement on settled insurance policies with the insurance commissioner

The act eliminates prior law's requirement that viatical settlement providers file an annual statement with the insurance commissioner on specified information about settled insurance policies, including (1) the total number and life settlement proceeds of policies settled during the immediately preceding calendar year and (2) a breakdown of the information by policy issue year. In practice, viatical settlement providers maintain this data and are legally required to give it to the insurance commissioner upon request.

The act correspondingly eliminates the penalty for failing to file an annual statement (up to \$250 per day and \$25,000

in the aggregate).

Viatical settlements involve the sale of a life insurance policy to a third party by a terminally ill insured person.

§ 11 — NOTIFICATION OF FORMULARY CHANGES

Requires health carriers to provide a list of any prescription drugs being removed from a formulary and those covered for the new plan year annually before the plan's open enrollment period; eliminates prior law's annual reporting requirement for OHS related to prescription drug formulary requirements

The act requires health carriers (insurers and HMOs) that offer health benefit plans with prescription drug coverage to annually provide a list of (1) any prescription drugs being removed from the plan's formulary (list of covered drugs) and (2) drugs covered for the new plan year. They must do this before the plan's open enrollment period and make the list readily accessible for anyone to review.

Existing law generally allows health carriers to remove from a formulary, or move to a higher cost-sharing tier, any covered prescription drug under limited conditions (for example, when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issues a statement questioning the drug's clinical safety or approves the drug for over-the-counter use). The act specifies that health carriers may do this during the plan year.

Additionally, the act eliminates a provision that required OHS, at least annually, to study the financial impact of the law's prescription drug formulary requirements on the cost of commercial health plans in the state, including those offered and sold on the exchange. Under prior law, OHS had to report the study results for the preceding year to the insurance commissioner and the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. (PA 26-68, §§ 68-161, eliminated OHS and generally transferred its powers, duties, and functions to other state agencies.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§§ 12 & 13 — EXTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS DEADLINES AND NOTIFICATION

Requires health carriers to notify independent review organizations when their preliminary review of an external adverse determination is complete; starts the clock for a final external review decision notice generally when the independent review organization receives the carrier's notice

Under existing law, a covered person or their representative may ask the Insurance Department for an external review of an adverse determination (a denial of benefits by the insurer). The insurance commissioner assigns an independent review organization (IRO) to review the determination after a preliminary internal review by the health carrier to determine if the request meets certain criteria (for example, if the person was covered under the plan at the time of service).

Existing law requires the IRO to notify the commissioner, health carrier, and covered person (and their representative if applicable) about its decision within certain time frames.

The act makes several changes to the expedited and external review decision notice deadlines, primarily changing when the calculation of each deadline for final notice of a decision starts from when the department assigns the review (as under prior law) to when the IRO is notified (under the act). The act does not change the length of the review, only the start time when the review period begins.

Preliminary Review Completion Notification

The act requires the health carrier to notify the assigned IRO in writing once its preliminary review is complete. The health carrier already must notify the commissioner, the covered person, and, if applicable, the covered person's representative. For external reviews, existing law requires the carrier's notification within one business day after the review is complete. For expedited external reviews, existing law requires notification on the same day the carrier completes its review.

External Review

Under the act, for external reviews generally, the IRO must notify the parties (the commissioner, health carrier, and covered person and their representative) about its decision within 45 days after it receives notice that the health carrier completed the preliminary review and found the request eligible for external review. Under prior law, the IRO notified the parties within 45 days after the commissioner assigned the review to the IRO.

External Reviews of Experimental Treatment

Under the act, for external reviews covering experimental treatments, the IRO must notify the parties about its decision within 20 days after it receives notice that the health carrier completed the preliminary review and found the request eligible for external review. Prior law calculated the 20-day deadline from time of assignment by the commissioner.

Expedited External Review

Under the act, for expedited external reviews generally, the IRO must notify the parties as quickly as the covered person's condition requires but not later than 48 hours after the IRO receives notice that the health carrier completed the preliminary review and found the request eligible for external review. Under existing law, the IRO has 72 hours to notify the parties if part of the IRO's work period falls on the weekend. Prior law calculated the 48- and 72-hour deadlines from the time of the commissioner's assignment.

Expedited External Reviews of Certain Urgent Care Requests

Under the act, for expedited external reviews of certain urgent care requests, the IRO must notify the parties as quickly as the covered person's condition requires but not later than 24 hours after the IRO receives notice that the health carrier completed the preliminary review and found the request eligible for external review. Prior law calculated the notification deadline from the time of assignment by the commissioner. Under the act, these urgent care requests include health care services for substance use (or a co-occurring mental disorder) or a mental disorder generally requiring inpatient services.

Expedited External Reviews of Experimental Treatment

Under the act, for expedited external reviews covering experimental treatment, the IRO must notify the parties as quickly as the covered person's condition requires but not later than five days after the IRO receives notice that the health carrier completed the preliminary review and found the request eligible for external review. Prior law calculated the notification deadline from the time of assignment by the commissioner.

Notice Requirements

Under existing law, the IRO's decision notice must include, among other things, (1) a general description of the request, (2) the date the IRO conducted the review, (3) the date the IRO made its decision, and (4) the reason for its decision.

Prior law required the IRO's notice to also include the date the commissioner assigned the review to the IRO. The act instead requires the IRO's notice to include the date the IRO received notice that the carrier completed its preliminary review and found it eligible for external review.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 14 — REPORTING AGENT TERMINATIONS

Requires insurers to report agent terminations for cause to the insurance commissioner within 30 days after the termination

The law requires insurers, upon the insurance commissioner's request, to report the facts related to an agent's termination, including the reason. If insurers terminate an agent for cause, the act requires them to report it to the commissioner within 30 days after the termination.

§§ 15 & 16 — THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATORS

Requires contracts between TPAs and insurers to include a provision requiring the TPA to continue services if the insurer is insolvent or in receivership; prohibits the insurance commissioner from renewing a TPA license until the TPA pays existing law's health and welfare fee and meets a related reporting requirement; allows insurers to conduct semiannual reviews of TPAs remotely

Contracts and License Renewals (§ 15)

Existing law requires a TPA to have a written agreement with an insurer or other person using its services ("insurers") and sets provisions the agreement must include, such as the types of insurance the TPA may administer, a statement of activities the TPA must perform on the insurer's behalf, and termination and dispute resolution procedures. The act requires the agreement to also include a provision requiring the TPA to continue to provide services if the insurer is insolvent or in receivership.

The act also prohibits the commissioner from renewing a TPA's license unless the TPA annually (1) reports to the insurance commissioner on the number of enrollees for which it provides health benefits and (2) pays the health and welfare fee the commissioner assesses under existing law (see § 4).

TPA Semiannual Reviews (§ 16)

By law, if a TPA administers benefits for more than 100 certificate holders (for example, insureds) on behalf of an insurer, the insurer must conduct a review of the TPA's operations at least semiannually. The act eliminates prior law's requirement that at least one review be an on-site audit.

§ 17 — CASUALTY CLAIMS ADJUSTERS CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Allows the commissioner to make regulations to establish continuing education requirements for licensed casualty claims adjusters

The act allows the commissioner to make regulations under the UAPA to establish continuing education requirements for licensed casualty claims adjusters.

Under existing law, casualty claims adjusters generally investigate, negotiate, and settle losses for an insurance carrier by establishing the facts of the insured's claim during investigation. (They do not adjust claims for life, accident, health, and fire insurance.)

§§ 18-21 — CONNECTICUT INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION

Makes changes to CIGA (which generally protects insureds in the state if certain property and casualty insurers fail) to include cybersecurity insurance policies, increase first-party real property coverage and unearned premium maximum claim amounts, and allow certain guaranty association powers and protections, among other things

Cybersecurity Insurance Coverage

The act expands Connecticut Insurance Guarantee Association (CIGA) authority to include coverage under a cybersecurity insurance policy or endorsement. "Cybersecurity insurance" generally covers losses from data privacy breaches, identity theft, computer viruses, ransomware attacks, cyber extortion, unauthorized information network security intrusions, and similar issues.

Under existing law, CIGA also covers automobile, homeowners, workers' compensation, and other property and casualty policies. (Separately, the Connecticut Life and Health Guaranty Association covers life and health insurance policies, among other things.)

Covered Claims and Insolvent Insurers

Under CIGA, a covered claim is generally an unpaid claim under an insurance policy issued by an insurer that becomes insolvent. The act specifies that a covered claim includes a claim under a policy that is later made the responsibility of

another insurer (it is allocated, transferred, merged, novated, or assumed) that may or may not be a CIGA member. However, these claims are covered only when:

1. the original insurer does not owe anything on the policy following a transfer;
2. the insurer who assumed the policy is found to be insolvent by a court in their jurisdiction;
3. the claim would have been covered if it had remained the original insurer's responsibility; and
4. if a member insurer transferred the policy to a non-member, the transaction received prior regulatory or judicial approval.

Generally, member insurers are (1) Connecticut-licensed insurers that issue the types of insurance CIGA covers and (2) assessed certain amounts to cover CIGA's claim obligations.

Under the act, an insolvent insurer is an insurer that (1) was licensed in Connecticut either when the policy was issued or when the covered event occurred and (2) received a final order of liquidation with a finding of insolvency from a court in the insurer's state. Under prior law, an insolvent insurer could additionally be the legal successor to the original insurer because of a merger or company division. Prior law also stated that an insolvent insurer could not have been found to be insolvent before October 1, 1971.

Maximum Claim Payments

Generally, under prior law, CIGA covered claims for most types of losses between \$100 and \$500,000 arising under policies of insurers determined to be insolvent on or after October 1, 2015 (or up to \$400,000 for insurers insolvent before October 1, 2015, and \$300,000 for insurers insolvent before October 1, 2007).

The act removes the \$100 minimum and, for first-party real property claims for insurers insolvent after June 1, 2026, requires CIGA to pay up to \$1,000,000 for a single occurrence under a commercial or residential policy.

The act also caps CIGA's payment at \$500,000 for all claims under a cybersecurity insurance policy or endorsement related to a single insured event.

Under existing law, CIGA pays covered claims for certain unearned premiums (the premium paid for a portion of a policy period for which coverage was not received). The act sets the maximum amount of coverage at \$50,000 per policy. Under prior law, the maximum was 50% of a policyholder's unearned premium, up to \$2,000 per policy.

Association Powers

The act specifies that CIGA has authority to salvage and subrogate covered claim obligations, as long as it is not named as the insolvent insurer when conferring jurisdiction. (Subrogation is the legal doctrine that allows an insurer that has paid a loss under an insurance policy to "step into the shoes of" its insured and pursue recovery from the at-fault party.) The law already deems CIGA to be the insolvent insurer, allowing it to pay covered claims and receive all the rights of the insurer as if it had not become insolvent.

Additionally, the act specifically allows CIGA to appoint and direct (1) legal counsel retained under liability insurance policies to defend covered claims and (2) other service providers as needed.

Insurance Guaranty Coverage for Assumption Reinsurance (§§ 19 & 21)

The act provides guaranty association coverage for policyholders whose policies were assumed by an insurer not licensed in Connecticut when the policies were originally written, with insurance commissioner discretion (see §§ 23 & 24 below).

§§ 22-23 & 25 — NAIC'S ASSUMPTION REINSURANCE MODEL LAW

Implements the NAIC Assumption Reinsurance Model Law, including (1) notice requirements for assumption reinsurance transactions; (2) policyholder rights under assumption reinsurance agreements, including the right to reject the transfer; and (3) the insurance commissioner's discretion when an insurer is in a hazardous financial condition

Assumption Reinsurance

The act repeals Connecticut's prior assumption reinsurance law and replaces it with a National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) model law. Under the act, an "assumption reinsurance agreement" completely transfers obligations or risks, or both, of existing in-force insurance contracts from a transferring insurer to an assuming insurer. The assuming insurer becomes directly liable to the policyholders, and the transferring insurer's insurance obligations are extinguished.

Conditions for Transfer

For a transfer to take place under the act, the state insurance commissioner must approve it and generally both insurers must be licensed in Connecticut. (However, an insurer in Connecticut can assume insurance obligations and risks under a policy issued to policyholders in another state if it is licensed in the other state or that state's regulatory authority approved the assumption.)

In reviewing requests for approval, the commissioner must consider the following factors:

1. the financial condition of the transferring and assuming insurers and the transaction's effect on their financial conditions;
2. the competence, experience, and integrity of the people who control the assuming insurer;
3. the assuming party's plans or proposals for administering the policies subject to the proposed transfer;
4. whether the transfer is fair and reasonable to the policyholders of both companies;
5. whether the notice of transfer to be issued by the insurer (see below) is fair, adequate, and not misleading; and
6. anything else the commissioner deems appropriate.

Insurers domiciled in other states entering into an assumption reinsurance agreement covering Connecticut policyholders must file certain documents with the commissioner, including (1) an assumption certificate and (2) a copy of the notice of transfer and an affidavit that the transaction is subject to substantially similar requirements (as determined by the insurance commissioner) in the state of domicile of both the transferring and assuming insurer. If the other states do not have these requirements, then the insurer must get the Connecticut insurance commissioner's prior approval and generally comply with the act's requirements.

Under the act, the commissioner may approve a transfer apart from the normal requirements if the transferring insurer is in a hazardous financial condition and the transfer is deemed to be in the best interest of the policyholders. (Under state regulations, the commissioner may consider several factors when determining a hazardous financial condition, such as adverse findings in audit reports, operating losses over the past 12 months, and contingent liabilities.)

Notice Requirement

Under the act, a transferring insurer must send each policyholder notice by first class mail (or personal delivery with acknowledged receipt if the business is a "home service business" for which the insurer's agent collects premiums weekly or monthly). The insurer must also send the notice to its agents or brokers of record for the affected policies.

The notice, which must be filed with the commissioner for prior approval, must include the following:

1. the proposed transfer date;
2. the name, address, and phone number of both the assuming and transferring insurer;
3. the policyholder's right to either consent to or reject the transfer and the procedure and time limit for doing so;
4. a summary of any effect that consenting to or rejecting the transfer will have on the policyholder's rights;
5. a statement that the assuming insurer is licensed in the policyholder's state or otherwise authorized to assume the business;
6. the name and address of the person at the transferring insurer to whom the policyholder may send a written statement to accept or reject the transfer;
7. the address and phone number of the insurance regulatory official in the state where the policyholder lives so that the policyholder may contact the official for further information on the assuming insurer's financial condition;
8. financial data for the transferring and assuming insurers, including ratings for the past five years, if available (and, if any year's ratings are unavailable, disclosure of the unavailability), and balance sheets for the past three years, among other things; and
9. an explanation of the reason for transfer.

The notice of transfer must include a pre-addressed, postage-paid response card that a policyholder may return as a written statement of transfer acceptance or rejection.

The act authorizes the commissioner to adopt regulations to set the notice's form.

Rejecting Transfer

Under the act, policyholders may reject transfers in writing by using the response card or other written means. However, making a premium payment to the assuming insurer within 24 months after receiving a notice of transfer indicates that the policyholder accepted the transfer if the insurer's premium billing notice states that premium payment constitutes acceptance and includes a way for the policyholder to pay the premium while reserving the right to reject the transfer.

If the policyholder has not rejected or consented within two years after the initial notice, the transferring insurer must

send the policyholder a second and final notice. If there is no policyholder response in the month following the final notice, the policyholder is deemed to consent to the transfer.

Transactions Not Subject to Requirements

The act exempts certain insurance transactions, which may include reinsurance or assumption, from its requirements. These include:

1. any reinsurance or transaction in which the transferring insurer continues to remain directly liable for any obligations or risks (or both);
2. the substitution of one insurer for another, and the issuance of a new insurance agreement by the new insurer, after the contractual or statutory expiration of insurance coverage;
3. the transfer of insurance under statutorily regulated insurer consolidations or mergers;
4. transactions where an insurer is subject to judicial liquidation or rehabilitation orders;
5. reinsurance agreements or transactions to which a state insurance guaranty association is a party (as long as policyholders do not lose any rights or claims they had under their original policies); and
6. the transfer of group health insurance liabilities from one insurer to another upon the request of the group policyholder.

Prior Law

Under prior law, Connecticut allowed for assumption reinsurance agreements (also known as “bulk reinsurance”) that the commissioner approved or denied, with no provision for notifying policyholders (CGS § 38a-66). Assumption reinsurance agreements took effect 20 days after they were filed with the commissioner, unless disapproved. The commissioner had to deny assumption reinsurance requests before that deadline if he found that the:

1. agreement was unfair and inequitable to any insurer or policyholder involved,
2. agreement would have reduced services to the policyholders of involved insurers,
3. agreement lacked adequate provisions to make the reinsurer liable to the original insured for any loss or damage that occurred under the policy’s original terms,
4. agreement did not adequately require the assuming insurer to give policyholders a certificate reflecting the assumption of liability,
5. assuming reinsurer was not authorized to transact the type of insurance in this state,
6. assuming reinsurer would not appoint the commissioner as its irrevocable attorney for service of process when policies or claims under the reinsurance are in force,
7. agreement would have decreased competition or created a monopoly, or
8. proposed reinsurance had other reasonable objections.

The commissioner had to notify the involved insurers in writing of the reasons for the denial.

§ 24 — SURPLUS LINES BROKER REPORTING

Allows the commissioner, with limited exceptions, to require surplus lines brokers to annually report information on surplus lines policies issued in the state, such as covered real property locations and premiums and the number of policies renewed in the prior year

The act allows the commissioner to require surplus lines brokers to annually report to him on the (1) number and types of surplus lines policies issued, (2) locations of any covered real property and the total premiums policyholders paid under those policies, and (3) number of policies renewed in the prior year.

The act specifies that it does not prevent the commissioner from requesting and obtaining any additional information under the state’s insurance laws.

Under existing law, the insurance commissioner must maintain, publish, and make available to surplus lines brokers a list of insurance lines that are generally unavailable from licensed insurers. The act eliminates prior law’s requirement that an insured and broker, when an insured procured or renewed an insurance line that did not appear on this list, first make a diligent effort to obtain the insurance from a licensed insurer and document specified information about the policy. Lastly, the act exempts from its requirements (1) flood insurance policies procured under the National Flood Insurance Program, (2) insurance policies procured for an “exempt commercial purchaser” as defined under federal law (see *Background — Exempt Commercial Purchaser*), and (3) insurance policies where brokers seek to procure or place them through unaffiliated wholesale surplus lines.

Background — Exempt Commercial Purchaser

Under the federal Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act (P.L. 111-203), an exempt commercial purchaser is someone that (1) employs or retains a qualified risk manager to negotiate insurance coverage; (2) has, in the preceding year, paid over \$100,000 in aggregate nationwide commercial property and casualty insurance premiums; and (3) meets at least one of the following requirements:

1. has a net worth over \$29 million;
 2. generates over \$72 million in annual revenues;
 3. employs more than 500 full-time or full-time equivalent employees per individual insured, or is a member of an affiliated group that employs more than 1,000 employees;
 4. is a nonprofit organization or public entity that generates at least \$43 million in annual budgeted expenditures; or
 5. is a municipality with a population over 50,000.
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PA 26-5—sSB 259
Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

SUMMARY: This act makes it a class D felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)) to perform female genital mutilation (FGM) on a minor.

The act establishes that a child FGM victim is qualified to testify without prior qualification, and leaves it up to the jury (or the judge in nonjury trials) to determine the weight and credibility to give to the child's testimony. It also authorizes a court to use special procedures when a child age 12 or younger is testifying in these cases, including allowing the child to be videotaped rather than testifying in open court.

The act also allows a child FGM victim to sue the person who performed FGM on her (including the victim's parent, when applicable) to recover compensatory or punitive damages or other relief the court considers appropriate. It allows the victim to bring the lawsuit, in the judicial district where she lives, at any time until her 48th birthday. Existing law generally has a three-year statute of limitations for civil torts.

Under the act, a person performs FGM when he or she knowingly circumcises, excises, or infibulates the whole or any part of the labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris of a person under age 18. But an operation is not FGM if it is:

1. necessary for the person's health, for a medical purpose, and performed by a licensed physician or another licensed health care professional acting within their profession's scope or
2. performed on someone in labor or immediately after childbirth, for a related medical purpose, and performed by a licensed physician or nurse-midwife, person in training to be a physician or nurse-midwife, or other licensed health care professional acting within their profession's scope.

An operation is not considered necessary for the person's health or for a medical purpose if it is based on a belief of the health care provider, or anyone else, that custom or ritual requires it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, and the provision on the civil statute of limitations applies to cases filed on or after that date.

§ 2 — PROCEDURES TO TAKE TESTIMONY OF CHILD VICTIM

For criminal FGM cases involving children age 12 or younger, the act applies special procedures that under existing law already apply to cases involving assault, sexual assault, or abuse of children of that same age.

Videotaped Testimony

Under these procedures, the court, upon the motion of either party's attorney, may order that the child's testimony be taken (in the judge's presence) in a room other than the courtroom. The testimony can be shown simultaneously in the courtroom via closed circuit television or videotaped for later showing before the court.

The judge and the attorneys may question the child. Generally, the only people allowed in the room with the child (other than the camera operator) are the judge, the defendant, both sides' attorneys, and any person who would contribute to the child's welfare and well-being. But the court can exclude the defendant (or order the defendant to be screened from the child's sight and hearing) if the state proves, by clear and convincing evidence, that his or her presence would intimidate or inhibit the child so much that there is a compelling need to exclude the defendant in order to ensure that the child's testimony is reliable.

If the court excludes the defendant, it must ensure that the child cannot see or hear the defendant, but that the defendant can see and hear the child testify. The defendant also must be able to consult privately and at all times with his or her attorney during the testimony.

Other Procedures

Under these procedures, the court may also take the following steps when the child is testifying, upon the motion of either party's attorney:

1. prohibit anyone from entering or leaving the courtroom during that time;
2. have an adult the child knows and is comfortable with sit close to her while she testifies, as long as that person does not screen the child from the sight of the defendant or trier of fact (judge or jury);
3. allow the child to use anatomically correct dolls; and
4. require the attorneys to ask their questions and pose objections while seated and to ask questions and pose

objections in a non-intimidating manner.

BACKGROUND

Related Federal Law

Federal law makes it a crime to knowingly perform FGM on a minor when one of certain conditions were met to establish a link to interstate or foreign commerce (for example, the victim or defendant crossed state or U.S. borders for the procedure, or payment for the procedure was sent through interstate or foreign commerce). The federal law contains a similar definition for FGM as this act and allows similar exceptions (18 U.S.C. § 116).

PA 26-10—sSB 89

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT UPDATING PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION STANDARDS

SUMMARY: This act requires the state’s executive branch agencies and political subdivisions that incarcerate or detain adult or juvenile offenders to comply, within available appropriations, with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in effect as of January 1, 2024 (see BACKGROUND). Prior law required them, within available appropriations, to adopt and comply with the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission’s recommended standards.

Prior law specified the commission’s prison rape elimination standards to prevent, detect, deter, and respond to sexual assault incidents, among other things. Under the act, these standards are substantially the same with a few changes. Among other things, the act (1) specifies that staff and facilities or agency heads must transmit a copy of any sexual assault report or complaint to the Office of the Correction Ombuds as part of their existing reporting standard, (2) adds a duty to intervene and access to immediate and ongoing sexual assault crisis services as two new standards, and (3) makes changes to how some of the other standards apply.

The act also requires the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the PREA standards by January 1, 2027. Starting by that date, the department must also annually report to the Judiciary Committee on (1) training given to DOC staff on compliance with PREA, (2) the number and types of sexual assault against incarcerated people or DOC staff that were reported, and (3) the number of reports investigated and their outcomes.

The act also expands the Office of the Correction Ombuds’ services to include receiving and reviewing sexual assault reports or complaints that are (1) transmitted to the office under the act’s reporting standard or (2) made directly to the office.

Lastly, it makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

National Standards Related to Prison Rape Elimination

Prior law required covered agencies to adopt and comply with certain PREA standards. The act expands a reporting standard, adds two new standards, and makes changes to how some of the existing standards apply. It:

1. specifies that the standard for agreements with outside public entities and community service providers includes agreements to ensure access to crisis and emotional support services and ongoing mental health support and treatments,
2. specifies that the standard for agreements with outside law enforcement agencies includes agreements for conducting investigations,
3. adds internal administrative investigations to specialized investigations training,
4. specifies that specialized training for medical and mental health care includes trauma-informed care methods for sexual abuse victims,
5. specifies that the reporting duties of staff and facilities or agency heads include mandatory transmission of a copy of any sexual assault report or complaint to the Office of the Correction Ombuds,
6. adds a standard on the duty to intervene, and
7. adds a standard on immediate and ongoing access to sexual assault crisis services.

The remaining standards are unchanged by the act, such as those related to a zero-tolerance policy, heightened protection for vulnerable detainees, assessment and use of monitoring technology, volunteer and contractor training, screenings, sexual abuse incident reviews, and audit standards, among others.

BACKGROUND

Federal PREA

PREA established a zero-tolerance standard for all acts of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities and created a set of national standards for the detection, prevention, and punishment of these acts in confinement facilities. Among other things, the PREA standards cover inmate safety, staff training, and reporting procedures (34 U.S.C. § 30301, et seq.).

PA 26-11—sSB 473

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVISOR'S TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act corrects certain statutory references and makes various other technical changes throughout the general statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-14—sSB 397

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE USE AND RETENTION OF DATA DERIVED FROM AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEMS

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[§§ 1 & 2 — ACTIONS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS](#)

Creates an individual cause of action, including against a federal or state officer or employee, for alleged civil rights violations; expands the attorney general's authority to bring actions based on alleged civil rights violations

[§§ 3-5 — INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATORY AUTHORITY](#)

Changes when there must be an investigation of a peace officer's use of physical force that results in the person's death or the death of a person in custody by (1) limiting the investigations to deaths that occur while in physical custody and (2) requiring an investigation when the officer is any federal law enforcement officer or a DCP special police officer; requires investigators to have unrestricted access to the scene and to collect evidence; requires the inspector general's post investigation report to recommend actions for the law enforcement agency involved; allows the inspector general to issue a report after a DOC custody death investigation

[§ 6 — PROHIBITED PEACE OFFICER FACIAL COVERINGS](#)

Prohibits, subject to several exceptions, peace officers from wearing a facial covering or personal disguise when interacting with the public and performing law enforcement duties; makes a violation a class D misdemeanor

[§ 6 — BADGE AND NAME TAG IDENTIFICATION](#)

Generally requires peace officers to be clearly identified by their badge and name tag when making a planned, authorized arrest or interacting with the public in an official capacity; makes an intentional violation a class D misdemeanor

[§§ 7 & 8 — TAKING INTO CUSTODY IN STATE OR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES OR "PROTECTED AREAS"](#)

Prohibits peace officers from taking someone into custody on the basis of a civil offense in a state or municipal facility or certain other locations such as schools, hospitals, and houses of worship ("protected areas") without a judicial warrant for the person; applies the definition of "civil offense" to the existing restrictions on taking people into custody on courthouse grounds

§ 9 — POST CERTIFICATION OF POLICE OFFICERS

Prohibits POST from waiving the basic training program requirements to be certified as a police officer for peace officers unless they give evidence of satisfactorily completing a substantially equivalent training or education program with at least 480 training hours

§ 10 — OFFICER INTERFERENCE WITH PHOTO OR VIDEO TAKING

Makes more enforcement agencies liable when their officers interfere with someone taking a photo, digital still, or video image of them or another officer performing their duties; removes the use of an immunity defense in a civil liability action for an intentional tort committed while interfering with the taking of the image

§ 11 — PROSECUTORIAL IMMUNITY FOR FEDERAL ACTIONS

Limits the circumstances under which a federal officer, employee, or agent has immunity when prosecuted for an offense based on an action taken under color of law

§ 12 — POLICE OFFICER HIRING PROHIBITION

Extends to all peace officers the prohibition on law enforcement agencies hiring officers who (1) were dismissed for malfeasance or serious misconduct or (2) resigned or retired during an investigation for this conduct

§§ 13-15 — AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEMS

Sets various conditions and restrictions on how law enforcement and other public agencies may use ALPR systems or associated data, including limits on (1) when they can use these systems or data or share the data and (2) how long they can keep the data; sets related requirements and restrictions for private vendors contracting with public agencies for these purposes; allows the attorney general (as to vendors) or private parties to seek related court relief and POST to discipline law enforcement officers for certain malicious conduct; requires POST to adopt a model ALPR usage policy and DESPP to adopt related regulations for law enforcement agencies; requires POST to develop a standardized form for reporting ALPR system usage and sets related reporting requirements

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to laws related to civil rights and law enforcement activities, as shown in the section-by-section analysis below. It also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the restrictions on taking someone into custody for a civil offense in certain locations take effect October 1, 2026.

§§ 1 & 2 — ACTIONS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Creates an individual cause of action, including against a federal or state officer or employee, for alleged civil rights violations; expands the attorney general's authority to bring actions based on alleged civil rights violations

Individual Cause of Action

Scope of Action. The act creates a cause of action (in court or another proper proceeding) against an individual, including a federal or state officer or employee, who deprives or causes a Connecticut citizen or someone within the state's jurisdiction to be deprived of a right, privilege, or immunity protected by the U.S. Constitution. This violation can occur by taking actions under the appearance of authority from a United States or Connecticut statute, regulation, ordinance, custom, or usage ("color of law").

The act explicitly states that it is the legislature's intent that courts, when considering this action, must be guided by other courts' interpretations of the law that allows individuals to sue state or local government officials for federal constitutional rights violations (42 U.S.C. § 1983).

Defenses. The act (1) allows the defendant in a civil action to raise any applicable immunities available under state or federal law and (2) protects federal officers and employees from civil liability to the same extent the law does for equivalent state officers or employees (such as personal immunity from civil liability for damage caused when discharging duties or within the scope of employment unless the action was wanton, reckless, or malicious). It also specifies that its provisions do not waive the state's sovereign immunity.

Damages. The act allows the court to award damages, including nominal, actual, compensatory, or punitive damages;

injunctive relief; or other equitable relief. It specifies that the damage award's purpose is to protect the peaceable exercise or enjoyment of rights provided by the U.S. Constitution.

If the defendant is found liable, the act also requires the court to award the plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and expenses, unless it determines that there are special circumstances that would make doing so unjust.

Attorney General Bringing an Action

Practice, Pattern of Conduct, Policy. Existing law authorizes the state attorney general to investigate, intervene in, and bring civil or administrative actions on behalf of the state when there is a practice or pattern of conduct that:

1. deprives persons of any rights, privileges, or immunities protected by the U.S. or Connecticut constitutions or laws or
2. interferes by threats, intimidation, or coercion, with another person's exercise or enjoyment of any rights, privileges, or immunities protected by the U.S. or Connecticut constitutions or laws, or any attempt to do so.

The act broadens his authority to take these actions on behalf of the state by also allowing it when anyone has established a policy that deprives or interferes with another person's civil rights in the ways described above.

Actions Under Color of Law or Custom. The act also expands the attorney general's authority to investigate, intervene in, or bring a civil or administrative action by allowing him to do so when someone acts under the color of a federal or state statute, regulation, ordinance, custom, or usage that:

1. deprives another person of any rights, privileges, or immunities protected by the U.S. or Connecticut constitutions or
2. interferes by physical obstruction, threats, intimidation, or coercion, with another person's exercise or enjoyment of any rights, privileges, or immunities protected by the U.S. or Connecticut constitutions.

Court Process. For the act's new actions based on acts done under the appearance of authority, the attorney general may bring the action in the Superior Court for the judicial district where the violation or alleged violation occurred. The act requires the (1) court to have a hearing on the complaint within five days after its filing and (2) attorney general to notify the interested parties of the hearing's time and location. If all parties agree, the court may reschedule the hearing. The court may order declaratory relief (a statement of rights) or a temporary injunction once the complaint is filed. After the hearing, it may order, amend, or continue the relief or injunction.

§§ 3-5 — INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATORY AUTHORITY

Changes when there must be an investigation of a peace officer's use of physical force that results in the person's death or the death of a person in custody by (1) limiting the investigations to deaths that occur while in physical custody and (2) requiring an investigation when the officer is any federal law enforcement officer or a DCP special police officer; requires investigators to have unrestricted access to the scene and to collect evidence; requires the inspector general's post investigation report to recommend actions for the law enforcement agency involved; allows the inspector general to issue a report after a DOC custody death investigation

By law, the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) must investigate whenever a peace officer, while performing his or her duties, uses physical force on someone that causes that person's death or uses deadly force (a type of physical force) on another person. The inspector general is responsible for determining whether the use of force was justifiable.

Similarly, prior law required the inspector general to investigate any death that happened while the person was in the custody of a peace officer, law enforcement agency, or the Department of Correction (DOC) to determine if physical force was used on the person and if it was justifiable. The act limits these investigations to circumstances involving the death of someone in physical custody, rather than any custody (such as the legal custody of an individual on parole). It also makes a conforming change to the statute that lists the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) duties by adding the duty to investigate the death of someone while in the physical custody of a peace officer, a law enforcement agency, or DOC.

Existing law, unchanged by the act, requires the inspector general to prosecute cases involving unjustifiable use of force by peace officers.

Broadened Authority to Include Additional Officers

The act expands the above investigatory and prosecutorial authority by applying it to the actions of any federal law enforcement officer and specially appointed Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) police officers. It does this by including a broader definition of "peace officer" within this investigatory statute than what previously applied (see *Background — Peace Officer*).

Regarding the federal officers, prior law limited the investigatory authority by applying it to the actions of marshals and deputy marshals and narcotics agents. The act expands the authority by applying it to actions of “federal law enforcement officers,” as defined under two federal laws. Specifically, they include any:

1. officer, agent, or employee who the law or a government agency authorizes to prevent, detect, investigate, or prosecute a federal crime (or to supervise these actions) (18 U.S.C. § 115(c)(1)) or
2. employee, including an Amtrak or Federal Reserve law enforcement officer, authorized by law to make arrests or apprehensions and by the employing agency to carry firearms, who mainly (a) prevents, detects, investigates, prosecutes, or assists in the incarceration of someone who violates the law (or supervises these actions) or (b) protects government officials against personal safety threats (34 U.S.C. § 50301(5)).

Correspondingly, the act applies this broader definition of “peace officer” to the law that sets the standards for determining if use of physical force is justifiable.

Access to Evidence

As part of these use of force investigations, existing law requires the inspector general to ask the appropriate law enforcement agency for any help needed to investigate and determine use of force. The act specifies that (1) the DCJ and the inspector general must have unrestricted access to the scene and to collect evidence as part of these investigations and (2) this right to access applies even if the only peace officers involved in the incident were federal government employees.

The act allows DCJ or the inspector general to bring action for injunctive relief in Superior Court against anyone who restricts their access to the scene or to collect evidence.

Under the act, the court may order declaratory relief or a temporary injunction once the complaint is filed. It must hold a hearing within five days after the complaint’s filing, and the complainant (DCJ or the inspector general) must notify the interested parties of the hearing’s time and location. The court may reschedule the hearing if all parties agree. After the hearing, the court may order, amend, or continue any declaratory relief or temporary injunction.

Subpoena Power

The act specifies that the inspector general’s authority to issue subpoenas to compel a person’s attendance and testimony in an investigation applies to investigative depositions conducted by the inspector general or his designee.

Reports and Recommendations

Existing law requires the inspector general to file a report with the chief state’s attorney after investigating a death from a peace officer’s use of force or that happens in a peace officer’s or law enforcement agency’s custody. The report must include (1) the incident’s circumstances, (2) a determination on the use of force (whether it was justifiable), and (3) recommended future actions. The act requires the inspector general’s recommendations to be for the involved law enforcement agency rather than OIG, as under prior law. Relatedly, it allows the inspector general to issue a report on the death of someone in DOC’s physical custody, which may include any recommended actions for DOC to take.

Background — Peace Officer

For the state’s Penal Code and associated statutes, the following were designated as peace officers under prior law: state and local police, DCJ inspectors, state marshals exercising statutory powers, judicial marshals performing their duties, conservation or special conservation officers, constables who have criminal law enforcement duties, appointed special police officers, adult probation officers, DOC officials authorized to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, investigators in the State Treasurer’s Office, certified Department of Motor Vehicles inspectors, U.S. marshals and deputy marshals, U.S. special agents authorized to enforce federal food and drug laws, and certified police officers of a law enforcement unit created and governed under a state-tribal memorandum (CGS § 53a-3(9)).

§ 6 — PROHIBITED PEACE OFFICER FACIAL COVERINGS

Prohibits, subject to several exceptions, peace officers from wearing a facial covering or personal disguise when interacting with the public and performing law enforcement duties; makes a violation a class D misdemeanor

Prohibited Wearing

The act prohibits, subject to several exceptions, peace officers engaged in law enforcement activities from wearing a facial covering or personal disguise when interacting with the public and performing their duties. Peace officers are those subject to use of force investigations under the act (see §§ 3-5 above). Existing law prohibits wearing masks or facial coverings while engaged in law enforcement on courthouse grounds unless it is medically necessary and a judicial authority has authorized it.

A violation of the act's ban on using a facial covering or personal disguise is a class D misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)). Additionally, an officer who intentionally abuses process or intentionally assaults, batters, falsely imprisons or arrests, or maliciously prosecutes someone (under state or federal law), while knowingly and willfully violating the ban, may not use a privilege or immunity defense against a civil liability claim about the officer's actions.

Under the act, a "facial covering" is an item that conceals or obscures an officer's facial identity, such as opaque masks, garments, helmets, or headgear. Specific examples include balaclavas, tactical masks, gators, and ski masks. "Personal disguise" is undefined.

Exempted Coverings and Uses

The act allows peace officers to use a medical grade facial covering designed to protect their health and safety, but it specifies that this does not include protecting an officer's identity. It also allows them to use facial coverings designed to (1) prevent airborne disease transmission or (2) protect against smoke exposure during a fire. Other exempt facial coverings are those:

1. needed for a water rescue operation,
2. that protect against biological or chemical agent exposure during an incident where there may be an agent,
3. that protect against freezing temperatures during an activity that does not require communicating orally with the public or someone who will be placed in custody, or
4. needed for an active undercover operation or other assignment for which supervising personnel or a court order allow them to be worn.

The act also allows officers working on a bomb squad, motorcycle unit, or specialized weapons and tactics team to use gear necessary to protect their face and head from physical harm while performing their official duties.

§ 6 — BADGE AND NAME TAG IDENTIFICATION

Generally requires peace officers to be clearly identified by their badge and name tag when making a planned, authorized arrest or interacting with the public in an official capacity; makes an intentional violation a class D misdemeanor

The act generally requires peace officers (as defined for use of force investigations, see §§ 3-5 above) to be clearly identified by their badge and name tag. The badge and tag must be (1) on the officer's uniform whenever the officer is authorized to make arrests and is making a planned arrest or interacting with the public in his or her official capacity and (2) worn following existing model policy badge and name tag requirements for police officers.

By law, police officers must already affix and prominently display their badge and name tag on their uniform's outermost garment, unless exempt under the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESPP) model policy, such as for undercover assignments. The act similarly exempts a peace officer from the badge and name tag requirement when (1) the officer is working an active undercover assignment, (2) a court order or DESPP's model policy excuses it, or (3) weather-related events or traffic safety issues prevent having the badge or name tag on the outer garment.

Intentionally violating the act's ban is a class D misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

§§ 7 & 8 — TAKING INTO CUSTODY IN STATE OR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES OR “PROTECTED AREAS”

Prohibits peace officers from taking someone into custody on the basis of a civil offense in a state or municipal facility or certain other locations such as schools, hospitals, and houses of worship (“protected areas”) without a judicial warrant for the person; applies the definition of “civil offense” to the existing restrictions on taking people into custody on courthouse grounds

The act prohibits peace officers from detaining, arresting, or taking someone into custody based on a civil offense in certain locations unless the officer (1) is acting in his or her official capacity and (2) has a judicial warrant for the person. Officers subject to the prohibition are those covered by the act’s expanded definition of “peace officer” for use of force investigations, which includes broader applicability to federal law enforcement (see §§ 3-5 above).

For these restrictions and the existing ones on taking people into custody on courthouse grounds (see *Background — Detention on Courthouse Grounds*), a “civil offense” is an offense for which there is a local, state, or federal civil proceeding for the charged person to present a defense. It does not include an offense that is a state law infraction, a motor vehicle violation, or an arrest allowed for any of the following:

1. an alleged criminal violation of a (a) state law or that of any other jurisdiction in the United States that could result in imprisonment as part of the sentence or (b) federal law that could result in imprisonment as part of the sentence and would require an initial appearance before a federal judge, magistrate, or judicial officer;
2. contempt of court, a judge-issued *capias* (warrant), or a warrant for a parole or probation violation; or
3. an emergency commitment or an arrest under the psychiatric disability-related statutes.

The act allows someone aggrieved by a violation of the ban to bring a civil action in Superior Court and an action seeking damages to be triable by jury. The court may award a plaintiff appropriate legal and equitable relief, such as a temporary or permanent injunction, punitive damages, and attorney’s fees and court costs.

Prohibited Custody Locations

State or Municipal Facilities. State or municipal facilities are buildings owned, leased, occupied, controlled, or used for business by an executive department office or agency or municipal government, and entities that provide direct services on their behalf. This includes the grounds and garages or parking lots that are used as part of the facilities’ operation, regardless of whether they are contiguous (in contact with one another), but not state-owned property leased to a federal entity.

Protected Areas. The act’s protection from being taken into custody in certain areas applies to the following buildings or locations, including their grounds and garages or parking lots that are used as part of their operation, regardless of whether they are contiguous:

1. schools, ranging from preschools to colleges or universities;
2. playgrounds, recreation or child care centers, before- or after-school care centers, foster care facilities, group homes for children, or school bus stops when children are there;
3. licensed hospitals or urgent care centers;
4. places of worship or religious study;
5. cemeteries or other internment locations;
6. social services establishments, such as crisis centers, domestic violence or homeless shelters, supervised visitation or family justice centers, victims services or child advocacy centers, food banks or pantries, or substance counseling and treatment facilities; and
7. places of disaster or emergency response and relief, such as supply distribution sites or places to register for disaster-related assistance or to be reunited with family.

Background — Detention on Courthouse Grounds

By law, to take a person into custody on courthouse grounds based on a civil offense, a state, local, or federal law enforcement representative must (1) be operating in his or her official capacity and (2) first notify a judicial marshal in the courthouse. The representative must also give the marshal documentation showing that the person to be detained, arrested, or taken into custody is (1) the subject of a judicial warrant or (2) exempt from the protections of the state’s civil detainer law (because of a specified criminal conviction or possible match in a terrorist database) (CGS § 51-33b).

§ 9 — POST CERTIFICATION OF POLICE OFFICERS

Prohibits POST from waiving the basic training program requirements to be certified as a police officer for peace officers unless they give evidence of satisfactorily completing a substantially equivalent training or education program with at least 480 training hours

Existing law generally prohibits someone from being employed as a police officer by a law enforcement unit for more than one year without being certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). POST's certification process requires completing a basic training program. But POST may certify applicants who (1) show that they satisfactorily completed an equivalent program or course in another state or as part of armed forces training and (2) pass a test or evaluation. Related, state regulations allow POST to waive all or parts of the basic training requirement for these applicants under certain circumstances (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 7-294e-2).

The act prohibits POST from waiving any part of its required basic training program for an applicant who served or is serving as a peace officer (as the act defines for use of force investigations, see §§ 3-5 above) unless the applicant gives evidence of satisfactorily completing a substantially equivalent training or education program with at least 480 training hours. But it further specifies that POST is not required to waive any part of the basic training program for these peace officers.

§ 10 — OFFICER INTERFERENCE WITH PHOTO OR VIDEO TAKING

Makes more enforcement agencies liable when their officers interfere with someone taking a photo, digital still, or video image of them or another officer performing their duties; removes the use of an immunity defense in a civil liability action for an intentional tort committed while interfering with the taking of the image

By law, a peace officer's employer is liable if the officer interferes with someone taking a photo or digital still or video image of the officer or another officer performing his or her duties, subject to several exceptions. But prior law exempted federal government special agents and specified tribal law enforcement unit members.

The act generally applies its expanded definition of peace officer for inspector general use of force investigations (see §§ 3-5 above) to this provision, making the liability apply to the employers of all federal law enforcement officers and the DCP special police officers, but keeping the exemption for tribal law enforcement.

Existing law exempts an employer from liability under certain specified circumstances, including when the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the interference was to lawfully enforce a state criminal law or municipal ordinance. The act, conforming with its liability expansion to federal agencies, broadens the exemption to include lawful enforcement of a federal criminal law.

Additionally, under the act, if a peace officer intentionally abuses process or intentionally assaults, batters, falsely imprisons or arrests, or maliciously prosecutes (either under state or federal law) someone while interfering with anyone taking a photo, digital still, or video of any peace officer, the officer cannot use a privilege or immunity defense against a civil tort liability claim about the actions.

§ 11 — PROSECUTORIAL IMMUNITY FOR FEDERAL ACTIONS

Limits the circumstances under which a federal officer, employee, or agent has immunity when prosecuted for an offense based on an action taken under color of law

The act limits the circumstances under which a federal officer, employee, or agent has immunity when prosecuted for an offense based on an action taken under color of law (the appearance of authority from federal law). Specifically, the immunity applies when federal law authorized the action, and it was necessary and proper to execute official duties.

§ 12 — POLICE OFFICER HIRING PROHIBITION

Extends to all peace officers the prohibition on law enforcement agencies hiring officers who (1) were dismissed for malfeasance or serious misconduct or (2) resigned or retired during an investigation for this conduct

The act broadens the prohibition on a law enforcement unit (generally state or local police) hiring a police officer who was previously employed by the unit or in another jurisdiction and (1) was dismissed for malfeasance or serious misconduct calling into question their fitness to serve as an officer or (2) resigned or retired during an investigation for this conduct.

It does this by replacing the term “police officer” with “peace officer” and in doing so broadens the hiring prohibition to peace officers. Under the act, as is the case for the inspector general’s expanded investigatory authority, peace officers include all federal law enforcement officers and other state employees like state or judicial marshals and certain correctional employees (see §§ 3-5 above). Previously, the prohibition covered hiring sworn members of organized local police departments, appointed constables with criminal law enforcement duties, special policemen appointed for state property or utility or transportation companies or to investigate public assistance fraud, and any member of a law enforcement unit who performs police duties.

As under existing law, the hiring prohibition does not apply to an officer exonerated of all malfeasance or serious misconduct allegations.

Under the law and the act, (1) “malfeasance” has its common meaning (wrongdoing), and (2) “serious misconduct” is an officer’s improper or illegal actions connected with official duties that could cause a miscarriage of justice or discrimination, such as a felony conviction, evidence fabrication, repeated use of excessive force, bribe acceptance, or fraud.

§§ 13-15 — AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEMS

Sets various conditions and restrictions on how law enforcement and other public agencies may use ALPR systems or associated data, including limits on (1) when they can use these systems or data or share the data and (2) how long they can keep the data; sets related requirements and restrictions for private vendors contracting with public agencies for these purposes; allows the attorney general (as to vendors) or private parties to seek related court relief and POST to discipline law enforcement officers for certain malicious conduct; requires POST to adopt a model ALPR usage policy and DESPP to adopt related regulations for law enforcement agencies; requires POST to develop a standardized form for reporting ALPR system usage and sets related reporting requirements

Starting October 1, 2026, the act restricts law enforcement agencies (such as municipal police departments or the State Police), other public agencies, and private vendors under contract with them from using automated license plate reader (ALPR) systems or ALPR data, except for specified reasons. Among other things, it:

1. sets a 21-day limit on how long agencies can keep this data unless certain conditions are met (such as its use in an active criminal investigation);
2. specifically prohibits several uses of ALPR systems or data, such as for investigating suspected immigration violations;
3. establishes requirements and restrictions for ALPR contracts between agencies and private vendors;
4. allows the attorney general or private parties to go to court to enforce specified violations and POST to take disciplinary action against law enforcement officers for certain malicious conduct;
5. requires POST to adopt a model ALPR usage policy and DESPP to adopt related regulations for implementation by law enforcement agencies;
6. requires POST, in consultation with UConn’s Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP), to develop a standardized form for reporting ALPR system usage; and
7. sets related reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies, other public agencies, and UConn’s IMRP.

Under the act, an “ALPR system” is a mobile or fixed electronic image recording device that, in combination with computer programs or algorithms, can convert images of license plates or vehicle descriptors into computer-readable data. But it does not include an image recording device that provides evidence used to enforce an offense specified in a state statute or municipal ordinance, including an automated traffic enforcement safety device (speed or red light camera), or those used as part of a work zone speed control system or a municipal school bus violation enforcement system.

“ALPR data” is any data that an ALPR system captures, records, holds or stores, or processes, or that is derived from the system. This includes license plate characters, vehicles’ still or video images, vehicle attributes, location data, time stamps, and metadata.

Permissible Uses (§ 13(b))

Starting October 1, 2026, the act prohibits public agencies (see *Background — Public Agencies*), or private vendors under contract with them, from operating ALPR systems or using ALPR data, except under certain conditions.

Public Agency or Vendor Uses. Under the act, public agencies or private vendors under contract with them may operate these systems or use this data to:

1. perform weigh station duties;
2. monitor or maintain their own vehicles or equipment;
3. help control access to secured areas;

4. analyze traffic;
5. enforce parking regulations and collect associated fines, including (a) by a municipal parking authority or (b) on the grounds of a facility owned or operated by any other public agency and any garages or parking lots the facilities use (next to the facility or otherwise);
6. enforce motor vehicle property tax compliance; and
7. monitor and secure state facilities.

For these purposes, a “state facility” is any building (or part of one) owned, leased, occupied, controlled by, or used for business by an office or agency of the state executive, legislative, or judicial branch. This includes entities providing direct services on their behalf, but not state-owned property leased to a federal entity. It also includes these facilities’ grounds and any garages or parking lots the facilities use (next to the facility or otherwise).

Law Enforcement or Vendor Uses. The act allows law enforcement agencies or private vendors under contract with them to operate ALPR systems or use ALPR data to compare with data in:

1. a hotlist (a list of registration numbers on license plates, kept for this comparison) or internal hotlist addendum (see below);
2. the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing (COLLECT) system;
3. the FBI’s Kidnapping and Missing Persons list;
4. the Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System;
5. the federal Terrorist Screening Database;
6. the National Crime Information Center database; or
7. the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children database.

Under the act, an “internal hotlist addendum” is a hotlist that (1) is kept for use only at a specific state facility or facilities for which the list was made and by the public agency that made it and (2) may contain registration numbers shown on a vehicle license plate registered to a person identified as a potential threat to someone in the facility, the facility itself, or the agency operating it. A potential threat may be shown by a previous conviction for an offense involving threats of violence or harassment, or documented conduct involving threatened or attempted violence, harassment, or incitement to violence, against someone in the facility, the facility, or the agency. But an addendum item cannot be based on an arrest for, or conduct that is, solely constitutionally protected speech, conduct, or association (under the state or federal constitution).

The act also allows law enforcement agencies and their private vendors to enter license plate numbers into an ALPR system if an officer determined that system data may:

1. help apprehend someone with an outstanding warrant,
2. help locate a missing or endangered person or recover a stolen vehicle, or
3. be relevant and material to a specific active criminal investigation.

For criminal investigations, the act allows this use only if there is a reasonable suspicion that the offense was or is being committed. The agency must keep a record of (1) the reason for accessing the data and (2) any associated case number for the complaint or incident.

Retention Duration Limit. The act generally limits how long public agencies or private vendors under contract with them may keep ALPR data (regardless of how it was acquired) to only 21 days. But a shorter period applies if the contract between the agency and a private vendor that accesses the system or holds or stores the data requires it.

These periods do not apply to data being kept:

1. under a state or federal judicial warrant or court order;
2. under court rules on preserving evidence;
3. for collecting highway use fees (if they exist), but it must be deleted within 30 days after the fee is collected;
4. for analyzing traffic, if it is held, stored, or managed as de-identified, aggregated, or summarized data; or
5. as evidence in an active criminal investigation or prosecution.

For this last reason, a supervisory law enforcement officer must approve the longer retention period, and the agency must keep a record of the purpose for keeping the data and any associated case number. Unless a warrant, court order, or evidence rules require otherwise, the data must be deleted upon (1) the investigation’s conclusion, if no charges are filed; (2) if there is a conviction without a prison sentence, the case’s final disposition, including exhaustion of all direct appeals; or (3) if there is a conviction with a prison sentence, the release of the last person imprisoned for a conviction to which the data relates.

The act also allows public agencies or their private vendors to keep ALPR data for more than 21 days if it may be needed to establish that a potential future offense, motor vehicle violation, or infraction (under an ordinance, statute, or regulation) is a subsequent one with a higher penalty than the previous one.

Additionally, if ALPR data is collected to enforce motor vehicle property tax compliance, it may be kept for longer than 21 days if the data is (1) kept expressly for that purpose; (2) not shared with anyone other than the municipality’s tax

assessor or the vehicle's registered owner; and (3) deleted after 90 days or following the tax assessor's determination of compliance, whichever occurs first.

Use as Evidence (§ 13(c))

Under the act, ALPR data is admissible as evidence in Connecticut courts, as long as it was collected or otherwise acquired, held, or stored in line with the act or obtained under a warrant issued by a Superior Court judge.

Specifically Prohibited Uses and Exceptions (§ 13(d) & (l))

The act prohibits public agencies from operating an ALPR system or using ALPR data for various purposes, starting October 1, 2026.

Various Prohibitions. Specifically, the act bars them from using or helping in the use of ALPR data to monitor or investigate someone based on their (1) actual or perceived race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, sex, pregnancy status, disability, citizenship, nationality, or income or (2) perceived criminal history (except during an investigation of a potential crime for which an element of the offense is a prior conviction).

It also bars them from using or helping in the use of an ALPR system or ALPR data to:

1. identify someone engaged in an activity protected by the First Amendment;
2. investigate a suspected immigration violation or otherwise help in civil or criminal immigration enforcement; or
3. investigate or prosecute someone who sought, received, or provided reproductive or gender-affirming health care services that are legal under state law.

Collection Near Gender-Affirming Care Facilities or Facilities Serving Immigrants. The act also generally bars the agencies from collecting ALPR data from a fixed ALPR system at or near a (1) reproductive or sexual health facility that primarily provides gender-affirming health care services that are legal under state law or (2) nonprofit or community organization that primarily serves immigrant communities.

Under the act, POST must establish the distance for these prohibitions (see its model policy below), and the facility or organization must notify POST about its location for the prohibitions to apply. The prohibitions do not apply (1) if collecting the data is allowed under the law on police body and dashboard cameras or (2) to properties under federal jurisdiction.

Information Sharing. The act also restricts when these agencies can share or provide access to ALPR data. It allows them to do so only if the requesting person or entity is:

1. an individual requesting data for a vehicle registered in his or her own name (if a vehicle has multiple owners, lessors, or regular users, they all must be individuals and join in the request);
2. another Connecticut public agency; or
3. under certain conditions, a law enforcement agency from another jurisdiction or multi-jurisdictional task force.

Under the act, public agencies can share ALPR data with a state or municipal law enforcement agency from Massachusetts, New York, or Rhode Island, or a multi-jurisdictional task force of which a Connecticut agency is a member, but only if the requesting agency or task force affirms in writing that in using the data, it will comply with the act's prohibitions and will not:

1. use it for immigration investigations or enforcement,
2. use it for investigations or prosecutions relating to reproductive or gender-affirming health care services that are legal under Connecticut law, or
3. further disclose it except as Connecticut law allows.

Additionally, for a task force, the group's head or designee must have approved the specific data request, and the data must be directly and reasonably relevant to a specific investigation.

The act also allows Connecticut agencies to share data with other law enforcement agencies (including federal ones), but only if the requesting agency (1) has a judicially issued probable cause warrant for the requested data or (2) seeks specific data on a possible match in the federal Terrorist Screening Database.

Under the act, a Connecticut law enforcement agency must notify POST if, after sharing ALPR data with another state's or a federal law enforcement agency, it suspects that the other agency may have used the data in a way the act prohibits. POST must determine whether this occurred and, if so, direct each Connecticut law enforcement agency to stop sharing ALPR data with, or giving ALPR data access to, that agency.

Network Participation. Unless certain conditions are met, the act bars public agencies from (1) participating in a system or network that shares ALPR data or (2) giving data to or accessing it through a multi-state, intrastate, or national data-sharing system or network. This is allowed only if the system or network requires participants to execute a written declaration affirming that the shared, accessed, or otherwise acquired data will be used solely in line with the act and other Connecticut law and that they will not share or use the data except as the act allows.

Bulk or Automatic Access. The act also bars these agencies from allowing a public agency to have real-time, bulk, or automatic access to ALPR data, unless (1) it is in response to a documented, case-specific request and (2) the act does not otherwise prohibit the data sharing.

Limits on Data Disclosure Under FOIA and Exceptions (§ 13(e))

The act makes ALPR data confidential and prohibits it from being deemed a public record under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). But it deems the following as public records, making them generally disclosable under FOIA:

1. locations of ALPR recording devices (of video or still images), unless the U.S. Department of Homeland Security funded the device's purchase (in whole or part) and the funding was conditioned on the device's location being confidential; and
2. data derived from an ALPR system audit, system usage logs, and data access logs, as long as ALPR data is redacted.

The act allows people to get, from the contracting public agency, ALPR data about vehicles registered in their name. But if a vehicle is also registered in someone else's name, that person also must consent to the disclosure.

Required Policies for Non-Police Public Agencies (§ 13(f))

The act requires public agencies (other than law enforcement agencies) that operate ALPR systems or use ALPR data to adopt and publicize a written usage and privacy policy. They must do this by January 1, 2027, and before using or acquiring a system or data. The policy must (1) comply with the act's applicable provisions and (2) have standards and safeguards substantially equivalent to those required under POST's model policy (see below).

Contracts With Private Vendors; Attorney General Enforcement (§ 13(g)-(i))

The act prohibits public agencies from entering or renewing contracts with private vendors related to ALPR system usage or data unless the contract bars the vendor from engaging in certain activities involving ALPR data collected in the state. This applies despite any contrary terms of service (such as conditions of use or vendor policies) that are incorporated by reference or other means.

Specifically, the contract must bar the vendor from:

1. selling the ALPR data;
2. sharing or transferring it with or to a third party without the contracting agency's express prior written authorization to do so for a specific purpose;
3. allowing anyone other than the contracting agency to access the ALPR data, unless the vendor must allow it due to a Connecticut or federal warrant or court order (but not a subpoena or demand of a grand jury investigation); or
4. holding or storing the contracting agency's ALPR data (a) with ALPR data it holds or stores under a contract with a different agency or other person or (b) in a way that does not align with industry-recognized data security practices, such as using encryption when sending or storing it. (PA 26-76, § 46, removes the provision barring vendors from holding or storing the agency's ALPR data with ALPR data it has under a different contract.)

The contract also must bar the vendor from sharing or transferring ALPR data, or allowing access to it, if the vendor reasonably believes that it will be used to:

1. investigate a suspected immigration violation or otherwise help in immigration enforcement;
2. investigate or prosecute anyone for allegedly (a) seeking, providing, or receiving reproductive or gender-affirming health care services that are legal under Connecticut law or (b) helping someone else to do so (for example, by giving information, transportation, lodging, or material support for these activities); or
3. identify or impose civil or criminal liability on someone solely for an activity the state or federal constitution protects, including someone exercising the right to free speech, peaceable assembly, or petition the government for a redress of grievances, except as otherwise provided by state or federal law.

The act also prohibits public agencies from entering or renewing ALPR-related contracts with private vendors unless the contract requires (1) the vendor to consent to personal jurisdiction in Connecticut for legal proceedings and (2) Connecticut law to govern the contract.

Under the act, if a private vendor under contract with a public agency engages in any of the above prohibited conduct involving ALPR data collected in the state, the attorney general may bring an action against the vendor. In these cases, the court may grant appropriate relief, including injunctive or declaratory relief, damages, and any other relief the law allows. If the attorney general prevails, the court must order that any awarded damages are given to the injured person. The court may also award civil penalties against each defendant, up to \$2,500 per violation, to be deposited in the General Fund.

Private Enforcement (§ 13(j))

Starting October 1, 2026, the act allows an aggrieved individual to bring an action against a public agency for injunctive or declaratory relief, including a determination of past violations. This applies if the agency's officer, employee, or agent violates any of the act's provisions on permissible or prohibited uses or data sharing (including under FOIA). If a private vendor committed the violation, or it engaged in any of the conduct prohibited under these contracts (see above) for ALPR data collected in the state, the vendor itself (and not the agency) is liable.

Under the act, an aggrieved individual can bring the case in the judicial district where he or she lives. If the individual prevails and is granted injunctive relief, the individual may be entitled to recover court costs and reasonable attorney's fees (but only for the case, or part of it, related to the injunction).

These cases must be privileged (prioritized) for trial assignment.

POST Disciplinary Action (§ 13(k))

Under the act, if a law enforcement officer is found to have knowingly accessed, used, or disseminated ALPR data with malicious intent for purposes beyond the act's allowable uses, the officer is subject to disciplinary action, such as suspension, cancellation, or revocation of his or her POST certification.

POST Policy and Law Enforcement Adoption (§ 14(a) & (b))

By December 1, 2026, the act requires POST to adopt a model policy on law enforcement agencies' acquisition and use of ALPR systems and data. The policy must direct these agencies to comply with the act's ALPR provisions, including allowed and prohibited uses of ALPR systems and data (whether collected by the system or acquired otherwise). It must also set:

1. standards for using a hotlist (including permissible sources) and supervisory approval requirements for using hotlist data, and managing, accessing, and validating the data (including time limits to include data on a hotlist);
2. data retention limits in line with the act's requirements (see above);
3. data access and sharing requirements in line with the act, including internal access controls and supervisory review and conditions under which the data may be shared with other public agencies or law enforcement agencies;
4. training requirements, including for officers and employees authorized to access the system or data;
5. audit and logging requirements, including for access logs (see below), with audits done at least quarterly;
6. public transparency standards and requirements, including for publishing agency-specific ALPR system usage policies and annual statistical reports on this usage; and
7. the distance for the general prohibition on collecting ALPR data from a fixed system near (a) facilities that primarily provide gender-affirming health care or (b) nonprofits or organizations that primarily serve immigrant communities (see above).

The model policy's provisions on access logs must ensure compliance and facilitate independent review. The logs must document the access and retention of ALPR data, including how often the data is kept and for how long.

Additionally, the model policy must (1) specify a supervisory responsibility and accountability structure, including designating an officer or unit responsible for overseeing ALPR system use and policy compliance, and (2) have provisions on complying with the act's private vendor-related provisions (see above).

The act requires each law enforcement agency, by January 1, 2027, to adopt and implement either POST's model policy or another policy with greater privacy protections than the model policy. Law enforcement agency policies are in effect until DESPP's regulations are adopted (see below), at which time the regulations supersede the policies.

DESPP Regulations (§ 14(c))

By January 1, 2028, the act requires the DESPP commissioner, in consultation with POST, to adopt regulations setting a policy that at least meets the requirements for POST's model policy and the act's other ALPR provisions. By January 1, 2033, and at least every five years after, the commissioner, in consultation with POST, must update the regulations based on any changes in law, technology, or best practices. The updated regulations must not reduce or limit the act's protections or minimum standards.

These regulations are binding on all law enforcement agencies.

ALPR System Usage Reporting (§ 15)

Standardized Form. The act requires POST, by January 1, 2027, and in consultation with DESPP and UConn's IMRP, to develop a standardized form for reporting ALPR system usage.

The form must be used to report the number of:

1. license plates scanned;
2. searches done by the law enforcement agency due to ALPR system use and the reasons why;
3. times ALPR data was shared with or accessed by other entities, their identities, and the reasons why;
4. times ALPR data was shared or accessed under a judicial warrant;
5. any instances when the data was kept longer than the act allows;
6. any instances when the data was requested to be collected at (a) facilities that primarily provide gender-affirming health care or (b) nonprofits or organizations that primarily serve immigrant communities; and
7. times the data was accessed or requested on the 14th day or later after its collection.

The form also must report any changes to the law enforcement agency's data collection, retention, or sharing policies that affect ALPR data privacy.

Agency Reports. Under the act, if a law enforcement agency uses an ALPR system, it must annually report to UConn's IMRP, using the standard form, and publish the report on the agency's website. If another public agency uses an ALPR system, it must post an annual report on its website about that usage, with the applicable information from the standard form. In either case, the reporting or posting is due by January 31 following any year when the agency uses an ALPR system.

IMRP Consolidated Report. The act requires UConn's IMRP to annually compile, analyze, and summarize the submitted reports and prepare a consolidated report on ALPR usage along with any legislative recommendations. The report must be sent to the governor and the Judiciary and Public Safety and Security committees, with the first report due by July 30, 2027.

Background — Public Agencies

Under FOIA and the act, a public agency generally includes any:

1. executive, administrative, or legislative office of the state or any political subdivision of the state and any state or town agency;
2. department, board, commission, authority, or official of the state or of any municipality, school district, or other district or other political subdivision;
3. committee of, or created by, any of these offices or officials;
4. judicial office, official, or body or committee, but only for administrative functions; and
5. person to the extent they are the functional equivalent of a public agency (CGS § 1-200(1)).

PA 26-32—HB 5311

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONISSUANCE OF A STANDING CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER IN THE CASE OF A FAMILY VIOLENCE CRIME

SUMMARY: This act requires any Superior Court that does not issue a standing criminal protective order against someone convicted, or found not guilty due to mental disease or defect, of a family violence crime, to state its reasons for not doing so on the record.

By law, the court may independently issue a standing criminal protective order on a victim's behalf if the (1) defendant is convicted or found not guilty due to mental disease or defect of certain specified crimes or a crime that constitutes a family violence crime and (2) court determines that the criminal conduct indicates that the order will best serve the victim's and public's interest. The order stays in place for the period the court sets, unless the court modifies or revokes it. The law also allows the court to issue this order for other crimes if there is good cause shown.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Family Violence Crime

By law, a “family violence crime” is a crime, but not a delinquent act, which has among its elements a family violence act to a family or household member, including a (1) 1st or 2nd degree violation of conditions of release or (2) criminal violation of a protective order, a standing criminal protective order, or a restraining order. It does not include acts by parents or guardians disciplining minor children unless they constitute abuse.

“Family violence” is an incident causing physical harm, bodily injury, or assault, or an act of threatened violence that creates fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault, including stalking or a pattern of threatening, between family or household members. Verbal abuse or argument is not family violence unless there is present danger and the likelihood of physical violence (CGS § 46b-38a).

PA 26-40—sHB 5567

Judiciary Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION FACILITIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

§ 1 — CORRECTION OMBUDS

Requires the correction ombuds to hire a correction mental health care clinician; makes certain changes related to the ombuds’ investigation process, such as (1) removing the condition that incarcerated people must have pursued an internal grievance procedure before the ombuds may discuss an incident with them and (2) exempting from FOIA complaints that the ombuds determined did not warrant an investigation; allows the ombuds to use state-issued cell phones while performing official duties at correctional facilities

§ 2 — DOC HEALTH CARE SERVICES, NOTICES, RECORDS, AND RELATED MATTERS

Requires DOC to (1) provide health care to incarcerated people for free and cancel any outstanding fees or other costs; (2) generally provide medically necessary procedures (in some cases, at DPH-licensed facilities) in a timely way; (3) post notices in English and Spanish about the right to access care; (4) upon intake, verify the person’s prescriptions and ask them to identify their primary care provider and to sign a related form; and (5) implement an electronic health records system, including to allow for care requests to be made electronically

§ 3 — DOC HEALTH CARE SERVICES PLAN

Requires the DOC commissioner to (1) update the department’s health care services plan to ensure continuity of care regarding medications upon incarcerated people’s intake and that there is an available same-day medication delivery service and (2) annually report on the plan’s implementation status

§ 4 — TIME-CRITICAL MEDICATION LIST

Requires DOC and the Correction Medical and Health Commission, in consultation with DPH, to create a list of time-critical medications, with timing windows, related protocols, and documentation requirements

§ 4 — MEDICAL STAFFING SCORECARD AND CONTINGENCY PLAN

Requires DOC and the Correction Medical and Health Commission to (1) publish a quarterly scorecard with medical staffing-related information and (2) develop a health services staffing shortage contingency plan for each correctional facility

§ 5 — PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION REPORTS

Requires probation officers to include an appendix about the defendant’s medical and prescription history in certain pre-sentence investigation reports; sets documentation requirements if the defendant refuses to give that history

§ 6 — DOC NURSE AND SOCIAL WORKER STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Creates a program to give student loan reimbursement grants, within available bond authorizations, to nurses and LCSWs who work at DOC

§ 7 — FOOD SERVICE AND COMMISSARY PROGRAM AUDITS

Requires (1) APA to conduct or contract for an audit of DOC's nutrition and food service and commissary programs and (2) DOC to submit a corrective action plan in response

§ 8 — PILOT PROGRAMS

Requires DOC to begin two pilot programs, one allowing incarcerated people to keep and self-administer certain medications for chronic disease management at a minimum security facility and another to help with discharge planning and related care coordination at York Correctional Institution

§ 9 — CORRECTION MEDICAL AND HEALTH COMMISSION

Creates a Correction Medical and Health Commission to, among other duties, (1) make recommendations to improve medical, nutrition, behavioral health, and health care services for incarcerated people and (2) develop a related 10-year plan

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to laws on (1) health care services for people incarcerated in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities, (2) the Office of Correction Ombudsman, and (3) related matters, as discussed in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various; see below.

§ 1 — CORRECTION OMBUDS

Requires the correction ombuds to hire a correction mental health care clinician; makes certain changes related to the ombuds' investigation process, such as (1) removing the condition that incarcerated people must have pursued an internal grievance procedure before the ombuds may discuss an incident with them and (2) exempting from FOIA complaints that the ombuds determined did not warrant an investigation; allows the ombuds to use state-issued cell phones while performing official duties at correctional facilities

Mental Health Care Clinician (§ 1(s))

Starting by January 1, 2027, the act creates the position of correction mental health care clinician within the ombuds' office. This clinician must have (1) a clinical psychology doctorate or psychologist license or (2) an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license and specialize in mental health care. He or she must also have experience in clinical mental health care, forensic psychology, correctional health, or a related field. The clinician's role is to help incarcerated people with matters relating to mental health care, including access to services, medication management, continuity of care, treatment planning, and patient rights.

Ombuds Investigations, Decision Process, Subpoenas, and Complaint Confidentiality (§ 1(e) & (i))

By law, when investigating a complaint involving a particular incident, the ombuds must try to rely on communications from incarcerated people. The act removes the condition that these people have first reasonably tried to get the complaint resolved through any existing DOC internal grievance procedures.

By law, after an investigation, the ombuds must issue a public decision on the merits of each complaint, including any findings of DOC or employee violations and recommendations for how DOC should address the issue. Before issuing a decision criticizing DOC or one of its employees, the ombuds must consult with DOC, or the employee or the employee's union representative, as applicable. The act requires this to occur at least three business days before he issues the decision, instead of at least 96 hours before as under prior law.

The act also generally requires the Hartford Superior Court, if it fully overrules someone's written objection to a subpoena from the ombuds, to order DOC to reimburse the ombuds' office for its reasonable costs in serving the subpoena.

This does not apply if the court finds that the objection was substantially justified.

By law, the ombuds can choose not to investigate a complaint if he determines that the investigation is unwarranted and, in that case, he must inform the complainant of that determination in writing. The act requires these complaints and decisions not to investigate to be confidential and exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and it prohibits them from being disclosed without the complainant's consent. Existing law exempts from FOIA the identity of complainants and the ombuds' findings, with limited exceptions, such as the ombuds' duty to disclose threats. (PA 26-130, § 17, requires the ombuds to annually report to the Judiciary Committee on complaints for which he determined an investigation was unwarranted.)

Cell Phone Use (§ 1(t))

The act allows the ombuds to possess and use state-issued electronic communication devices (including cell phones) while performing official duties at DOC correctional facilities, and bars this cell phone use from being restricted or these devices from being deemed as contraband. This applies despite any contrary law or DOC administrative directive.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 2 — DOC HEALTH CARE SERVICES, NOTICES, RECORDS, AND RELATED MATTERS

Requires DOC to (1) provide health care to incarcerated people for free and cancel any outstanding fees or other costs; (2) generally provide medically necessary procedures (in some cases, at DPH-licensed facilities) in a timely way; (3) post notices in English and Spanish about the right to access care; (4) upon intake, verify the person's prescriptions and ask them to identify their primary care provider and to sign a related form; and (5) implement an electronic health records system, including to allow for care requests to be made electronically

Free Health Care Services (§ 2(e))

Starting by July 1, 2026, the act prohibits DOC from assessing any fine, fee, cost, or surcharge against people in DOC custody for health care services of any kind. (Under prior practice, DOC generally charged a \$3 copay for certain medical services.) DOC must also cancel any outstanding liability for these fines, fees, costs, or surcharges.

These provisions apply to medical, dental, mental health, or optometric services; specialty or emergency care; scheduled follow-up treatment; medical, dental, or optometric devices, including eyeglasses; and laboratory testing.

General Right to Medically Necessary Procedures (§ 2(g))

The act requires DOC to ensure that medically necessary procedures (see below) for incarcerated people are provided in a timely and clinically appropriate way. Under the act, DOC may provide routine or emergent procedures within a correctional facility when it is safe to do so. Procedures must be provided by a Department of Public Health (DPH)-licensed health care institution when they require specialized equipment or a higher level of care or cannot be safely performed within a correctional facility.

Under the act, a clinical determination that a procedure is medically necessary generally may not be overridden for nonclinical reasons. But the DOC commissioner or her designee may delay or override the procedure upon a determination that there is a specific and clearly definable safety or security risk that cannot be reasonably mitigated.

The act requires DOC to (1) document and track any delay, denial, or refusal of medically necessary care, including the reason for it, and (2) use this information to identify and address barriers to care. It specifically requires that documentation of the reason why a medically necessary procedure was denied or delayed be included in the department's electronic health records system (see below).

Definition. Under the act, a "medically necessary procedure" is one performed by a medical professional, in a location such as a hospital, clinic, or outpatient center, and is required to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat, rehabilitate, or ameliorate someone's medical condition, including mental illness, or its effects, to attain or maintain the person's achievable health and independent functioning.

To be considered medically necessary, a procedure must be consistent with generally accepted medical practice standards that are based on (1) credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature that is generally recognized by the relevant medical community, (2) physician-specialty society recommendations, (3) the views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and (4) any other relevant factors. In addition, the procedure must be:

1. clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, timing, site, extent, and duration and considered effective for the person's illness, injury, or disease;

2. not primarily for the convenience of the person, the person's health care provider, or other providers;
3. not more costly than therapeutically equivalent alternatives; and
4. based on an assessment of the person and the person's medical condition.

Posting of Right to Medical Care (§ 2(a))

The act requires DOC to post notices in all correctional facilities, in plain language and in both English and Spanish, on incarcerated people's right to access medical care. The notices must be posted in conspicuous places, including any medical units, and must:

1. describe these people's right to receive prescribed medications and how they may report missing or delayed doses,
2. explain how they may request medical and mental health care, and
3. have contact information for the ombuds' office's correction mental health care clinician.

DOC must also make the notice available on any portable electronic devices that incarcerated people may access.

Intake Procedures (§ 2(b) & (c))

Under the act, during someone's intake to a correctional institution, DOC must verify what medications the person takes. DOC may ask the person directly or check with the statewide health information exchange or the person's pharmacy or prescribing provider. If the person has any prescription medication in his or her possession upon intake, DOC must accept that medication to be stored and administered (as prescribed) by appropriate DOC staff. (PA 26-130, § 6, specifies that DOC must accept and store this medication to possibly administer it (as prescribed) and do so in line with the department's written policies and procedures to ensure patient safety.)

The act also requires DOC, upon intake, to ask the person to (1) identify their primary care provider and (2) sign a release form authorizing the sharing of medical information with that provider and a family member or health care proxy. Additionally, within five days after a person's intake, DOC must give the person the opportunity to authorize the sharing of medical information with the ombuds' office.

The act makes related conforming changes to DOC's required posting of information about the medical release form process. It removes specific requirements on how DOC must make the release forms available.

Electronic Health Records System (§ 2(f))

The act requires DOC, within available bond authorizations, to (1) develop, implement, and maintain an electronic health record (EHR) system or (2) contract for one. The system must allow incarcerated people to digitally request medical care through a secure messaging system from within DOC facilities, in addition to existing written and verbal ways to do so. This may be through a phone system or a portable or stationary electronic device.

The EHR system also must allow incarcerated people to access records on their current medications, medication schedules and doses given, and missed or delayed doses.

The system must include a digital, time-stamped log of medical care requests, with the log integrated into the system's other records for the incarcerated person. That person and the medical staff must be able to review the log, as must the ombuds' office if the person grants them access. Each DOC medical unit must have an access point allowing incarcerated people to access the EHR system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 3 — DOC HEALTH CARE SERVICES PLAN

Requires the DOC commissioner to (1) update the department's health care services plan to ensure continuity of care regarding medications upon incarcerated people's intake and that there is an available same-day medication delivery service and (2) annually report on the plan's implementation status

The act requires the DOC commissioner, by January 1, 2027, to amend the department's plan for providing health care services to incarcerated people (see below) to ensure that there is (1) no interruption in clinically necessary medications upon a person's intake, to provide continuity of care, and (2) an available same-day delivery service for medication when needed.

Starting by December 31, 2026, it also requires the DOC commissioner to annually report to the Judiciary and Public Health committees on (1) any updates on the plan's implementation status, (2) the timeline to implement it, and (3) recommendations for any necessary related legislation.

The act also makes a technical correction.

By law, the DOC commissioner must develop a plan for providing health care services to incarcerated people at DOC correctional institutions. The plan must ensure that requirements are met in a number of areas, such as initial health assessments, annual physical examinations when clinically indicated, mental health provider staffing, discharge planning, vaccinations, dental services, drug and alcohol use treatment, and specific services for incarcerated women who are pregnant.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 4 — TIME-CRITICAL MEDICATION LIST

Requires DOC and the Correction Medical and Health Commission, in consultation with DPH, to create a list of time-critical medications, with timing windows, related protocols, and documentation requirements

The act requires DOC and the Correction Medical and Health Commission (which this act establishes, see § 9 below), in consultation with DPH, to create and maintain a list of time-critical medications, at least including medications for diabetes, seizure disorders, cardiac conditions, serious mental illness, and other medication-assisted treatment. The list must have strict timing windows and escalation protocols for administering these medications and a detailed protocol for how DOC must administer them during a facility lockdown.

Under the act, DOC must document when these medications are given outside of the timing window or not in line with the required protocols, including the justification for the missed or delayed dose. Incarcerated people who refuse to take a medication must do so in writing with their signature. All of this required documentation is subject to a supervisor's review.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 4 — MEDICAL STAFFING SCORECARD AND CONTINGENCY PLAN

Requires DOC and the Correction Medical and Health Commission to (1) publish a quarterly scorecard with medical staffing-related information and (2) develop a health services staffing shortage contingency plan for each correctional facility

Scorecard and Reporting

Starting in 2027, the act requires DOC and the Correction Medical and Health Commission to publish a quarterly scorecard that lists the following for each correctional facility:

1. medical staffing levels,
2. vacancy rates for these positions and the average time to fill them,
3. the use of temporary or agency staff to perform duties they would not otherwise perform due to these vacancies, and
4. any medical staff suspensions or terminations.

DOC and the commission must report each medical scorecard to the ombuds' office and the Judiciary Committee.

Contingency Staffing Plans

Under the act, DOC and the commission also must develop a written contingency staffing plan for each correctional facility for whenever the vacancy rate for health services positions reaches 20%. In developing these plans, DOC and the commission must consult with health services professionals and representatives from each of the bargaining units representing employees who would fill these positions or who are affected by these vacancies. The plans must prioritize voluntary coverage by permanent health services staff and may include the use of additional compensation or other incentives to maintain continuity of care. Within 30 days after developing a contingency staffing plan, DOC and the commission must report the plan to the Appropriations and Judiciary committees.

The act requires DOC to implement the plan for a given facility when its health services position vacancy rate reaches 20%. DOC must not implement the plan in a way that results in health services staffing levels below those necessary to ensure safe and adequate service delivery.

Under the act, the plan must not be a substitute for the timely recruitment and hiring of permanent staff. DOC must take all reasonable steps to fill vacancies as expeditiously as practicable and must not rely on contingency staffing plans in place of sustained recruitment and retention efforts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 5 — PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION REPORTS

Requires probation officers to include an appendix about the defendant's medical and prescription history in certain pre-sentence investigation reports; sets documentation requirements if the defendant refuses to give that history

Except for murder with special circumstances, existing law generally requires a probation officer to conduct a pre-sentence investigation for anyone convicted of a (1) felony for the first time in Connecticut or (2) family violence felony. For other criminal convictions, the court may order a pre-sentence investigation at its discretion.

The act requires certain pre-sentence investigation reports to include information on the defendant's medical and prescription history. This applies to cases where (1) the defendant has entered into a plea agreement for which there is a sentencing recommendation of a prison term or (2) there is any other information indicating that the defendant may be sentenced to prison. In these cases, the probation officer must inquire into the defendant's medical and prescription history for the past five years, with that information included in an appendix to the report. The probation officer must notify DOC and the ombuds' office by email no later than five days before the defendant's sentencing. If the defendant refuses to supply information to compile the history, the probation officer must document his or her attempts to get the information and sign a sworn statement attesting to that refusal.

Under the act, the appendix and any refusal documentation and sworn statements must be recorded in DOC's EHR system (see above) and available for the defendant's review in the same way as other health records are reviewable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 6 — DOC NURSE AND SOCIAL WORKER STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Creates a program to give student loan reimbursement grants, within available bond authorizations, to nurses and LCSWs who work at DOC

The act creates a program to give student loan reimbursement grants, within available bond authorizations, to licensed nurses and clinical social workers (LCSWs) who work for DOC in positions requiring this licensure. The Office of Higher Education (OHE) must administer the program.

The maximum annual grants are \$5,000, and the cumulative total for any person is \$20,000. To receive the grants, eligible people must apply to OHE and be employed in a qualifying position when they apply. Applicants may request reimbursement for qualifying employment from previous years if they did not already receive reimbursement for those payments under this or another program.

Under the act, any unspent funds appropriated for the program do not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and are available for the next fiscal year. In any fiscal year in which funds are appropriated for the program, OHE may spend up to 5% of the funds for program administration, promotion, and recruitment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — FOOD SERVICE AND COMMISSARY PROGRAM AUDITS

Requires (1) APA to conduct or contract for an audit of DOC's nutrition and food service and commissary programs and (2) DOC to submit a corrective action plan in response

By July 1, 2027, the act requires the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA) to audit DOC's nutrition and food service and commissary programs. Within available appropriations, APA may contract with an independent auditor with relevant expertise to complete the audit.

The audit must evaluate:

1. DOC's compliance with the statutory requirement to provide palatable and nutritious meals (and to not serve punitive diets) to people in its custody, by examining the nutritional adequacy of meals and quality of food served in DOC facilities;
2. DOC's compliance with incarcerated people's therapeutic diet needs;
3. the nutrition food service program's cost efficiency;
4. any commissary program irregularities; and
5. any patterns of incarcerated people's grievances about compliance with the statutory requirement described above or other issues concerning these programs.

APA must submit a report on the audit to the DOC commissioner, correction ombuds, and Judiciary Committee by July 15, 2027.

By January 11, 2028, the DOC commissioner, in consultation with the Correction Medical and Health Commission, must submit to the ombuds' office and Judiciary Committee a (1) corrective action plan that addresses any concerns or issues in the audit report and (2) determination of whether the department should hire a nutritionist and a dietician to work together to comply with the statutory requirement for food service and to address any concerns or issues in the audit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 8 — PILOT PROGRAMS

Requires DOC to begin two pilot programs, one allowing incarcerated people to keep and self-administer certain medications for chronic disease management at a minimum security facility and another to help with discharge planning and related care coordination at York Correctional Institution

Medication Self-Administration Pilot

The act requires DOC, by October 1, 2026, to begin a pilot program at a minimum security facility, to allow incarcerated people to keep and self-administer certain medications for chronic disease management. A DPH-licensed DOC medical staff member must administer the program and determine which people and medications are eligible. Program participation is voluntary and may be revoked for documented medication misuse or if the person or medication poses a safety risk to anyone.

DOC must report on the program's results to the Judiciary Committee by January 1, 2028.

Discharge Planning and Care Coordination Pilot

By October 1, 2027, and within available appropriations, the act requires DOC, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to begin a pilot program to help with discharge planning and care coordination for people being released from York Correctional Institution (the state's only correctional institution for female offenders) (PA 26-130, § 7, instead requires these agencies to begin the program by October 1, 2026). Specifically, the program must help with discharge planning for patients with chronic disease and behavioral health needs (including mental health and substance abuse disorders) and coordinate specialty care referrals upon release. The program must be administered by DOC health services and behavioral health employees and must expand internal capacity for discharge planning and care coordination (including coordinating with DMHAS) to facilitate access to programs and services upon release.

Under the act, the agencies must contract with an in-state federally qualified health center (FQHC) to work with these DOC employees to provide community-based care for people upon release for at least two years. The FQHC must work with DOC employees to improve DOC's continuity of care and community health care standards. The act specifies that it does not allow DOC to contract out work that department employees typically perform.

By January 15, 2029, and then annually while the program is running, the DOC health services and behavioral health employees, DMHAS, DSS, OPM, and the FQHC must report on it to the Human Services, Judiciary, and Public Health committees (PA 26-130, § 7, moves up the deadline for the first report to January 15, 2028). The reports must evaluate the:

1. effectiveness of discharge planning and reentry care coordination for program participants;
2. chronic disease management and continuity of care for program participants;
3. coordination, timeliness, and completion of specialty care referrals for program participants;
4. extent to which participants successfully access community-based health care services following release; and
5. program's costs compared to other care delivery models in use when the program began.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 9 — CORRECTION MEDICAL AND HEALTH COMMISSION

Creates a Correction Medical and Health Commission to, among other duties, (1) make recommendations to improve medical, nutrition, behavioral health, and health care services for incarcerated people and (2) develop a related 10-year plan

The act creates a 21-member Correction Medical and Health Commission and charges it with (1) making recommendations to improve medical, nutrition, behavioral health, and health care services and outcomes for incarcerated people and (2) developing a 10-year plan to improve health care and food services in correctional facilities. It allows the commission to update the plan as it deems necessary.

The commission must report the 10-year plan, and any related legislative recommendations, to the Judiciary Committee by January 1, 2027. After that, within 30 days after any plan update, the commission must report the update and related recommendations to the committee.

The commission also must carry out the other duties the act requires of it (see §§ 4 & 7 above) and any other duties set by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Membership and Administration

The commission includes the Judiciary Committee chairpersons, UConn Health Center's chief executive officer (CEO), OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division undersecretary, DSS's Medicaid director, and the correction ombuds, or their designees. It also includes 15 appointed members (none of whom can be legislators) as shown in the table below.

Correction Medical and Health Commission Appointed Members

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Appointee Qualifications</i>
House speaker	Physician experienced in correctional, emergency, or internal medicine
Senate president pro tempore	Public health expert or epidemiologist experienced in population health or correctional health systems
House majority leader	Expert in correctional policy, reentry services, or criminal justice reform and experienced working with formerly incarcerated people
Senate majority leader	Behavioral health professional, who may be a psychiatrist, psychologist, or LCSW experienced in forensic or correctional mental health
House minority leader	In-state nonprofit hospital CEO or hospital association CEO or executive member
Senate minority leader	Expert in health care finance
Judiciary Committee House ranking member	Clinical pharmacist
Judiciary Committee Senate ranking member	Registered nurse, APRN, or physician assistant experienced in institutional or community health care
Governor (three appointments)	Person with nutrition doctorate
	Formerly incarcerated person experienced in navigating health care services while incarcerated in a DOC facility
	In-state FQHC representative
Judiciary Committee chairpersons (four joint appointments)	Representatives of each of the four bargaining units representing DOC employees whose job duties include directly interacting with incarcerated people

Under the act, appointing authorities must make their initial appointments by June 25, 2026, and must fill any vacancy for the rest of the unexpired term. Generally, appointed members serve a term that coincides with the appointing authority's term. A member who misses three consecutive commission meetings is deemed to have resigned.

The Judiciary Committee chairpersons or their designees serve as the commission's chairpersons, and they must schedule and hold the first meeting by 60 days after the act's passage. Two-thirds of the membership is a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a quorum is required for all commission actions. Commission members are not paid but, within available funding, must be reimbursed for necessary expenses.

The Judiciary Committee's administrative staff serves in that capacity for the commission.

BACKGROUND

Related Acts

PA 26-76, § 60, provides that up to \$100,000 of DOC's appropriated FY 27 funding is available to the Office of the Healthcare Advocate to undertake a study on DOC facilities attaining accreditation for health services, including mental health services, from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

PA 26-117 authorizes DOC to arrange for breast cancer screening, diagnostic, and treatment services for women in DOC custody to occur at health care institutions that are closer to the correctional facility than is the UConn Health Center.

PA 26-41—sHB 5043

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS, UNFINISHED FRAMES OR UNFINISHED LOWER RECEIVERS, VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENT OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION AND REFUNDABILITY OF PERMITS FOR SALE AT RETAIL OF FIREARMS AND FOR CARRYING OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[§§ 1-4 — CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS AND RATE OF FIRE ENHANCEMENTS](#)

Generally makes it a class D felony to knowingly import into Connecticut or knowingly advertise, sell, offer, or expose for sale any convertible pistol manufactured on or after October 1, 2026; expands “rate of fire enhancement” to include a pistol converter or certain other devices, parts, or accessories that generally increase the pistol’s rate of fire, and subjects them to existing law’s penalty for rate of fire enhancement-related violations; specifies that under some circumstances, convertible pistols are considered machine guns

[§§ 5-9 — UNFINISHED FRAME OR UNFINISHED LOWER RECEIVER](#)

Clarifies that “unfinished frame or lower receiver” refers to “unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver,” redefines the term, and makes corresponding changes throughout; prohibits anyone without a local dealer permit from (1) advertising, selling, or delivering them; (2) offering or exposing them for sale or delivery; or (3) possessing them with the intent to deliver them or sell them at retail

[§§ 10 & 11 — VOLUNTARY DELIVERY OR SURRENDER OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION TO POLICE FOR HOLDING](#)

Allows anyone to deliver or surrender any firearm or ammunition they possess to DESPP or a local police department for holding for at least 14 days, and establishes a process for returning these items to transferors and destroying those that are not returned after a period of time

[§ 12 — PISTOL PERMIT FEE REQUIRED REFUND](#)

Requires local handgun permitting authorities to refund \$70 to applicants if the authorities do not act within statutorily set timeframes

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to firearms-related laws, including those on convertible pistols, rate of fire enhancements, unfinished frames or unfinished lower receivers, the voluntary delivery or surrender of firearms or ammunition to police, and pistol permit fee refunds. It also makes conforming changes. A section-by-section analysis appears below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, unless stated otherwise.

§§ 1-4 — CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS AND RATE OF FIRE ENHANCEMENTS

Generally makes it a class D felony to knowingly import into Connecticut or knowingly advertise, sell, offer, or expose for sale any convertible pistol manufactured on or after October 1, 2026; expands “rate of fire enhancement” to include a pistol converter or certain other devices, parts, or accessories that generally increase the pistol’s rate of fire, and subjects them to existing law’s penalty for rate of fire enhancement-related violations; specifies that under some circumstances, convertible pistols are considered machine guns

Prohibition Related to Certain Convertible Pistols (§ 3)

The act generally makes it a class D felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)) for anyone or any legal entity (firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, or other similar entity) to knowingly import into Connecticut or knowingly advertise, sell, offer, or expose for sale any convertible pistol manufactured on or after October 1, 2026. The act specifies that this provision does not apply to the retail sale or other lawful transfer of a convertible pistol by someone who is not a licensed gun dealer to another person who is not a licensed gun dealer.

Under the act, a “convertible pistol” is any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar (see below) that can be readily altered by hand or with a common household tool (such as a knife, screwdriver, wrench, hacksaw, crowbar, electric drill, rotary tool, hammer, chisel, file, or pliers) so that the pistol can be readily converted into a machine gun by installing or attaching a pistol converter. It also specifies certain things that are not considered convertible pistols under the act (see below).

Convertible Pistols-Related Definitions (§ 1)

The act defines terms associated with its convertible pistols-related provisions, including adding certain convertible pistols to the definition of “machine guns” for the purpose of laws specific to offenses against public peace and safety.

Machine Gun. Under the act, any convertible pistol that is equipped with a pistol converter is a machine gun. Under existing law, a “machine gun” is (1) any loaded or unloaded weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one projectile, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger, and (2) any part or combination of parts designed to convert a weapon into a machine gun and any combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if a person possessed or controlled these parts.

Pistol Converter. Under the act, a “pistol converter” is any device or instrument that, when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol, interferes with the trigger mechanism, and in so doing enables the pistol to discharge shots or bullets rapidly or automatically with one continuous pull of the trigger.

Convertible Pistol. The act specifies that a “convertible pistol” does not include any (1) hammer-fired semiautomatic pistol or (2) semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that has a tab or other piece of material molded to the pistol’s frame that shields that bar from interference by a pistol converter unless the tab or other piece of material can be readily removed from the pistol’s frame.

Cruciform Trigger Bar. Under the act, a “cruciform trigger bar” is a component in a semiautomatic pistol that serves as a linkage between the trigger and firing pin and has its sear incorporated in a cross-shaped surface.

Rate of Fire Enhancement (§ 2)

The law generally makes it a class D felony for anyone, except a federally licensed firearms manufacturer fulfilling a military contract, to sell, offer to sell, otherwise transfer or offer to transfer, purchase, possess, use, or manufacture a “rate of fire enhancement” (such as a bump stock).

Under existing law, a “rate of fire enhancement” is any device, component, part, combination of parts, attachment, or accessory that:

1. uses energy from a firearm’s recoil to generate a reciprocating action that causes repeated function of the trigger, such as a bump stock;
2. repeatedly pulls a firearm’s trigger by using a crank, lever, or other part, such as a trigger crank; or
3. causes a semiautomatic firearm to fire more than one round per operation of the trigger, where the trigger pull and reset constitute a single operation of the trigger, such as a binary trigger system.

Under the act, this also includes any device, component, part, combination of parts, attachment, or accessory that forcibly resets the firearm’s trigger using a crank, lever, or other part, such as a forced reset trigger. The act further expands “rate of fire enhancement” to include (1) a pistol converter or (2) any other device, part, combination of parts, kit, tool, or accessory that is not needed for the pistol’s function and that, when built into, installed in, or attached to the pistol, increases

the rate of fire above the rate at which a person can otherwise fire the firearm. In doing so it subjects anyone (other than manufacturers under military contracts) who sells, offers to sell, otherwise transfers or offers to transfer, purchases, possesses, uses, or manufactures the act's additional rate of fire enhancements to existing law's penalties described above (generally a class D felony).

Machine Gun Definition Under the Penal Code (§ 4)

The act also generally requires crimes committed by someone with a convertible pistol and pistol converter to be treated as a crime committed with a machine gun.

§§ 5-9 — UNFINISHED FRAME OR UNFINISHED LOWER RECEIVER

Clarifies that “unfinished frame or lower receiver” refers to “unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver,” redefines the term, and makes corresponding changes throughout; prohibits anyone without a local dealer permit from (1) advertising, selling, or delivering them; (2) offering or exposing them for sale or delivery; or (3) possessing them with the intent to deliver them or sell them at retail

Existing law generally prohibits purchasing, receiving, selling, delivering, or otherwise transferring an unfinished frame or lower receiver (or possessing them by people ineligible to possess firearms); sets procedural requirements for doing so if allowed; requires unique serial numbers or other identification marks; and imposes penalties for violations.

Under prior law, an “unfinished frame or lower receiver” covered by the law was a blank, casting, or machined body intended to be turned into a firearm's frame or lower receiver, with additional machining, and which had been formed or machined to the point where most major machining operations had been completed to turn the blank, casting, or machined body into a firearm's frame or lower receiver, even if the fire-control cavity area of the blank, casting, or machined body was still completely solid and unmachined.

The act clarifies that “unfinished frame or lower receiver” refers to an “unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver” and makes corresponding changes throughout. It also redefines the term to mean a blank, casting, forging, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar item that (1) has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed into the frame or receiver of a functional firearm; or (2) is marketed or sold to the public as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed. It repeals a provision that previously specified that an “unfinished frame or lower receiver” is not a firearm as defined under federal law.

The act also prohibits individuals or legal entities from advertising, selling, delivering, or offering or exposing for sale or delivery, or possessing with the intent to sell at retail or deliver, any unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver in Connecticut without a local dealer permit.

§§ 10 & 11 — VOLUNTARY DELIVERY OR SURRENDER OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION TO POLICE FOR HOLDING

Allows anyone to deliver or surrender any firearm or ammunition they possess to DESPP or a local police department for holding for at least 14 days, and establishes a process for returning these items to transferors and destroying those that are not returned after a period of time

The act allows anyone to deliver or surrender any firearm or ammunition they possess to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) or a local police department for holding for at least 14 days. Departments must exercise due care in receiving and holding these firearms and ammunition. The person who delivered or surrendered the firearm or ammunition may request its return starting 15 days after and, under the act, for up to two years. A request must include a completed and signed form the act requires the DESPP commissioner to promulgate and make available on the department's website by October 1, 2027. (PA 26-68, § 163, moves up the due date for this requirement to October 1, 2026.)

When DESPP or a local police department receives a return request, the department must review the request and make the firearm or ammunition available for retrieval within five days if it confirms the requestor (1) submitted the signed DESPP form, (2) was legally entitled to possess the firearm or ammunition at the time the item was delivered or surrendered, and (3) is not otherwise disqualified from possessing the item.

Under the act, if a firearm or ammunition has not been collected within two years after it was delivered or surrendered, the department holding the item must cause it to be destroyed after giving written notice to the person who delivered or surrendered it. The notice must be made at least 90 days before the destruction.

By June 25, 2026, the act requires the DESPP commissioner to, within available appropriations, post a written notice

on the department's website about the above provisions on voluntarily delivered or surrendered firearms and ammunition. The notice must include (1) directions on how to request the return of those items and the requirements that requestors must satisfy and (2) that items not collected within two years will be destroyed.

(PA 26-68, §§ 162 & 163, reduces, from two years to one year, the maximum period that DESPP and local police departments must hold firearms and ammunition that are delivered or surrendered to them, and makes corresponding changes.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provisions on DESPP giving notice and creating a return request form are effective upon passage.

Background

In practice, before the enactment of this year's acts, DESPP has been using a form (DPS-293-C) and process by which lawful owners may surrender their firearms or ammunition to the State Police for immediate destruction or for appropriate use within the department.

Also, the processes in this year's acts are in addition to others under existing law on the (1) disposition of firearms and ammunition that are delivered or surrendered by people who become ineligible to possess them (CGS § 29-36k) and (2) relinquishment of assault weapons (CGS § 53-202e).

§ 12 — PISTOL PERMIT FEE REQUIRED REFUND

Requires local handgun permitting authorities to refund \$70 to applicants if the authorities do not act within statutorily set timeframes

The act requires local handgun permitting authorities to partially refund the applicant's fees if the authorities do not complete their duties (such as by failing to act on the application) within statutorily set timeframes.

By law, handgun permits are issued under a two-part process, requiring approval from both the local permitting authority and DESPP. The local official investigates an applicant, including through a background check, and issues a temporary state permit; the State Police conducts state and national criminal history record checks on the applicant and issues a five-year state permit.

By law, as part of the handgun permitting process, the applicant must pay a \$140 fee of which the local permitting authority retains \$70. The act requires the local authority to refund that \$70 if it does not complete its duties within certain timeframes. Under the act, issuing a refund in this way does not discharge the local permitting authority's obligation to complete its duties after the timeframe expires.

Unchanged by the act, applicants must also pay to cover the cost of an FBI national criminal history records check. As under existing law, once a temporary state permit is approved, the local permitting authority forwards \$70 to the DESPP commissioner.

Local Permitting Authority Duties

By law, the local permitting authority must inform the applicant whether the permit has been approved or denied within eight weeks after receiving an application. The local permitting authority must also take the applicant's fingerprints or use any other method of positive identification and forward the fingerprints and positive identifying information to the State Police Bureau of Identification within five business days. Existing law allows the local permitting authority to issue a temporary state permit before a national criminal history check has been received. Once the national criminal history check has been received by the local permitting authority, the local permitting authority has one week to decide on the permit and notify the applicant. If the results have not been received within eight weeks, the permitting authority must inform the applicant of the delay in writing. By law, a "local permitting authority" is the chief of police or, where there is no police chief, the municipality's chief executive officer (CEO) (or the resident state trooper or relevant state police officer designated by the municipality's CEO).

PA 26-55—sHB 5312

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CIVIL ACTION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION FOR VICTIMS OF UNLAWFUL DISSEMINATION OF A SYNTHETICALLY CREATED INTIMATE IMAGE

SUMMARY: This act creates a civil cause of action for someone harmed by the unlawful dissemination of a synthetically created intimate image.

The act allows the injured person to bring the action in Superior Court against anyone who knowingly disseminates the image, either electronically or by another method, with intent to harm the person. “Harm” includes subjecting the other person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, physical or financial injury, psychological harm, or serious emotional distress.

The act also requires covered platforms to have a process for individuals harmed by the unlawful dissemination of these images, or the attorney general, to ask for the images to be removed. A “covered platform” is generally a publicly accessible website, application, or online service that hosts user-generated content as defined in federal law (see BACKGROUND).

Under the act, when a platform receives a valid removal request, it must remove the image and make reasonable efforts to identify and remove any copies as soon as possible, but within 48 hours. The act allows the attorney general to bring an action in Superior Court against platforms that violate these requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

SYNTHETICALLY CREATED INTIMATE IMAGE

Under the act, a “synthetically created image” can be a photograph, film, videotape, or other type of image of someone. It must (1) not be wholly recorded by a camera or (2) be generated, at least in part, by a computer system. It must also depict an identifiable person and be virtually indistinguishable from what a reasonable person would believe to be an actual depiction of that person. An image is considered “intimate” when it has (1) certain body parts of another person (genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or female breasts below the top of the nipple) without a fully opaque covering or (2) another person engaged in sexual intercourse or sexually explicit conduct.

CAUSE OF ACTION FOR WRONGFUL DISSEMINATION

Under the act, the action must be brought within two years after the date of discovering the unlawful dissemination. The act specifies that it does not restrict the person’s right to seek any other civil remedies the law allows.

The act allows the court, at the request of the person bringing the action, to have the legal proceedings conducted in a way that protects the person’s identity. The person bringing the action may seek an injunction against further violations and economic and non-economic damages that are proximately caused by the dissemination (for example, emotional distress and punitive damages).

Under the act, the court may award costs and reasonable attorney’s fees to the prevailing party.

COVERED PLATFORM CONTENT REMOVAL

Removal Notice and Process

The act requires covered platforms to post a clear and conspicuous notice about their responsibilities regarding requests to remove unlawfully distributed synthetically created intimate images. The information may be provided through a link to another webpage or as a specific disclosure. It must be in plain language and easy to read and describe how to submit a notice about the image and a request for its removal.

Under the act, the process for requesting the image’s removal must include the following in writing:

1. a valid signature of the harmed person or authorized person acting on his or her behalf or the attorney general’s authorized agent or designee;
2. information that is reasonably sufficient to locate the image involved, including any digital evidence and particular uniform resource locator (URL);
3. a brief statement that the image was published without consent or otherwise violates the law; and
4. contact information for requests from the harmed person or an authorized person acting on the person’s behalf.

Court Action and Liability

The act allows the attorney general to bring a civil action against a covered platform that violates the above requirements, including for civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for a person harmed by the dissemination. The action also may be combined with another action, such as one he brings for unfair trade practices violations. But the attorney general's action does not limit a person's right to bring a private right of action for violations, as authorized by the act and existing law.

The act gives platforms immunity from civil liability for claims based on disabling access to or removal of synthetically created intimate images if they acted in good faith.

BACKGROUND

Covered Platform — Definition

Under federal law, a “covered platform” is generally a website, online service or application, or mobile application that serves the public and (1) primarily provides a forum for user-generated content such as messages, videos, images, games, and audio files or (2) whose regular course of trade or business is to publish, curate, host, or make available content of non-consensual intimate visual depictions. It does not include (1) a broadband Internet access provider; (2) email; or (3) an online service, application, or website that primarily has content that is pre-selected by the provider (not user-generated) and for which any chat, comment, or interactive functionality is incidental to, directly related to, or dependent on the provider's content (Pub. L. No. 119-12, § 4 (2025)).

PA 26-59—sHB 5431

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING COOPERATIVE CORPORATIONS

SUMMARY: This act revises the laws on cooperative associations (“co-ops”), including their organization and governance. Principally, the act:

1. refers to co-ops as cooperative corporations rather than cooperative associations and requires them to file a certificate of incorporation, rather than articles of association, with the secretary of the state to organize;
2. gives co-ops more flexibility in staggering the terms of their governing board members;
3. changes the requirements for calling a co-op's organizational meeting;
4. requires co-op bylaws to set out members' rights and qualifications; and
5. sets specific quorum requirements for voting and parameters for how actions may be taken without a meeting by written unanimous consent or by ballot.

The act makes minor and conforming changes throughout the co-op laws. It also repeals provisions that (1) capped a co-op's capital stock at \$50 million par value, (2) subjected them to the same franchise tax as other corporations, (3) required co-ops to file annual reports with the secretary of the state's office, and (4) set a \$50 penalty for failing to file an annual report.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

CO-OP ORGANIZATION

Under prior law, three or more adult Connecticut residents could organize a co-op for trade or any lawful mercantile, mechanical, manufacturing, or agricultural business in the state. The act no longer requires them to be Connecticut residents or limits them to doing business in the state. It also requires them to file a certificate of incorporation with the secretary of the state, rather than written articles of association, to organize a co-op. As under prior law for cooperative associations, cooperative corporations have the same powers and privileges and are subject to the same duties, restrictions, and liabilities as other corporations.

The act requires co-ops to distinctly state in their bylaws and certificate of incorporation, rather than their articles of association, the purpose for which they were established and where they will do business.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By law, a co-op is governed by a board of directors consisting of at least three of its members. Board members are generally elected annually and hold office until a successor is elected. Under prior law, the co-op's bylaws could require that the members' terms be staggered by dividing them into up to three classes, with annual elections and terms of up to six years.

The act instead allows the bylaws to provide for staggered terms by dividing the members into up to five groups, with an equal number of members in each group (or as near equal as possible). Under the act, the first group's term expires at the first annual meeting after being elected, the second group's term expires at the second annual meeting, and any additional groups' terms expire at the third, fourth, and fifth annual meetings, as applicable. After that, members serve terms of two to five years, depending on the length of the term of the person they are succeeding.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The act requires a majority of a co-op's incorporators to call an organizational meeting to either elect (1) directors and complete the corporation's organization or (2) a board of directors to do so. The act specifies that these actions may be taken without a meeting if the actions are evidenced by one or more written consents that describe the action taken and are signed by each incorporator.

This replaces prior law's provisions that generally required co-op members to call the organizational meeting by publishing notice in certain newspapers at least 15 days before the meeting.

BYLAWS

The act expressly requires co-op bylaws to state members' rights and qualifications, which must include holdings or subscribing for at least one share of capital stock. If the bylaws do not provide for members, the shareholders are the members and exercise the shareholders' rights, unless the co-op's certificate of incorporation says otherwise for classes or series of stock.

QUORUM AND VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Under the act, voting members may act on a matter at a meeting only if there is a quorum of members present who are entitled to vote on it. Unless the certificate of incorporation or bylaws say otherwise, the following apply when establishing a quorum for voting at a meeting:

1. if there are no members entitled to vote as a separate voting group, the members entitled to vote on the matter who are present at the meeting (in person or by proxy) constitute a quorum for action on the matter;
2. if there are members entitled to vote on a matter as a separate voting group, these members may act on the matter only if a quorum of that voting group exists for that matter; and
3. the members of a voting group entitled to vote on the matter who are present at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, constitute a quorum of that voting group for action on that matter.

Under the act, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws, directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the members in the election at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

By law, unchanged by the act, members may only be entitled to one vote per subject at any meeting.

ACTIONS WITHOUT MEETINGS

Approval by Unanimous Written Consent

The act allows any action that, by law, may be taken at a meeting to be taken without a meeting if (1) one or more written consents are put forward with the action taken or to be taken and (2) the consents are signed by all members who would be entitled to vote on the action at a meeting, or their authorized attorneys (unanimous written consents). The secretary must file with the members' meeting minutes (1) the consent (or consents) or (2) a certification of the consent's tabulation. Under the act, a unanimous written consent has the same force and effect as a vote of the members at a meeting and may be stated as such in any certificate or document filed under the state's business corporation and co-op laws.

Approval by Ballot

Under the act, the certificate of incorporation or bylaws may additionally allow any action that may be taken at any meeting of members to be taken without a meeting if the corporation delivers notice with a ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter. The ballot must be in writing, specify each proposed action, and offer an opportunity to (1) vote, or withhold a vote, for each candidate for election as a director, if any, and (2) vote for or against other proposed actions. Additionally, a ballot may not be revoked unless the certificate of incorporation or the bylaws provides otherwise.

Except for electing directors, approval by ballot is valid only when the number of (1) votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action and (2) approvals equal or exceed the number that would be required at a meeting where the same total number of votes were cast.

Signed ballots have the same force and effect as a vote of the members who signed them at a duly held meeting and may be stated as such in any certificate or document filed under the state's business corporation and co-op laws.

The act specifies that any solicitation for votes by ballot must state the:

1. number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements,
2. percentage of approvals needed for the matter (other than for an election of directors) to pass, and
3. time by which the corporation must receive a ballot for it to be counted.

Record Date

Unless otherwise set by the laws that govern business corporations' shares and shareholders, the record date for determining the members entitled to act without a meeting is the date the (1) first member signs the unanimous written consent (see above) or (2) corporation delivers the written notice with the proposed actions and the ballot.

PA 26-77—sSB 90

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE HATE CRIMES STATUTES

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SUMMARY: This act consolidates and labels as hate crimes various crimes that in prior law involved bias against a protected class. (In practice, these crimes were already commonly referred to as "hate crimes.") The act also makes related changes to these laws. A section-by-section analysis appears below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision on the Sentencing Commission's hate crime penalties review (§ 45) is effective upon passage.

§ 1 — PROTECTED SOCIAL CATEGORY

Generally, combines the various classes that were protected against bias-motivated crimes under prior law into one "protected social category" for hate crimes under the act; establishes definitions for some of the protected categories

Existing law protects various classes of people against certain crimes motivated by bias against the victim's protected class. The act generally combines the various protected classes under prior law into one protected social category. Under the act, a "protected social category" is a person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, ethnicity, disability, alienage, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age (if 60 or over), or any combination of these attributes.

In doing so, in some instances, the act adds color, alienage, national origin, and age as protected categories for some hate crimes, as specified below.

Defined Terms

The act defines the protected social categories as shown below.

"Disability" is any intellectual, mental, or physical disability or blindness. (Under the act, someone is blind if their (1) central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or (2) visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but has a limited field of vision so that its widest diameter subtends an angle that is 20 degrees or less.)

"Gender identity or expression" is a person's gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior, whether or not it is different from the gender traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth. Gender-related identity can be shown through evidence such as medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent

and uniform assertions of the gender-related identity, or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is a sincerely held part of the person's core identity or that it is not being asserted for an improper purpose.

"Race" includes ethnic traits historically associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles (for example, wigs or headwraps).

"Religion" includes denomination, creed, and any aspect of religious observance and practice as well as belief.

"Sex" includes pregnancy, child-bearing capacity, sterilization, fertility, or related medical conditions.

"Sexual orientation" is a person's identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are romantically, emotionally, or sexually attracted, including any identity that a person (1) may have previously expressed, or (2) is perceived by another person to hold.

§§ 1-21 & 25-37 — HATE CRIMES

Renames as specific hate crimes (1) certain crimes under prior law with specific penalties if bigotry- or bias-based, (2) prior law's intimidation crimes based on bigotry or bias, and (3) certain discriminatory practices under prior law

The act renames as specific hate crimes certain crimes motivated by bias against a protected class under prior law.

Physical Injury, Physical Contact, Affecting Property, or Advocacy or Urging (§§ 2-4, 6, 7, 10 & 37)

The act renames as specific hate crimes prior law's "intimidation crimes based on bigotry or bias," as shown in the table below. The act also lowers the required criminal intent for certain of these crimes, indicated below, requiring that the offender acted intentionally rather than maliciously.

Intimidation Crimes Based on Bigotry or Bias

Crime Name Under Prior law	Crime Name Under the Act	Penalties* Under the Act
1st degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime causing physical injury (§ 2)	Class C Felony (Minimum fine of \$3,000)
2nd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime causing physical contact (§ 3)	Class D felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)
2nd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime by threat of physical contact (§ 6)	Class D felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)
3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime affecting property (§ 4)	Class D felony or Class E felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)
3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime by threat to property (§ 7)	Class D felony or Class E felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)
3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime by advocacy or urging (§ 10)	Class E felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)

*See [Table on Penalties](#)

As under prior law, for the act's newly labeled hate crimes, the judge must state on the record any reason to remit or reduce the fine shown in the table above.

Under prior law, these crimes addressed certain actions that intimidate or harass another person and are motivated, in whole or in substantial part, by the person's actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. The act's new protected social category expands these hate crimes to include those actions that are motivated in whole or in substantial part by the person's actual or perceived age, color, alienage, and national origin.

Hate Crime Causing Physical Injury. Under the act, a person is guilty of a "hate crime causing physical injury" when he or she (1) acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, (2) is motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person's protected social category, and (3) intentionally causes that person or another person physical injury.

Under prior law, this was punishable as 1st degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias if the person acted maliciously. Under the act and prior law, this is a class C felony.

Hate Crime Causing Physical Contact. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime causing physical contact” when he or she (1) acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, (2) is motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category, and (3) intentionally causes physical contact with him or her.

Prior law penalized this behavior as 2nd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias if done maliciously. Under the act, and prior law, this is a class D felony.

Hate Crime by Threat of Physical Contact. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by threat of physical contact” when he or she (1) acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person; (2) is motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category; and (3) threatens, by word or act, to cause physical contact with the other person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that the act will occur.

Under prior law, this was another form of 2nd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias if done maliciously. Under the act and prior law, this is a class D felony.

Hate Crime Affecting Property. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime affecting property” when he or she acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category, and (1) intentionally damages, destroys, or defaces the other person’s real or personal property or (2) damages, destroys, or defaces a third person’s real or personal property.

Under prior law, this was punishable as 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias, a class E felony with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine. The act increases the penalty to a class D felony with the same mandatory minimum fine when the offender intentionally damages the victim’s property. It maintains the E felony penalty, with the mandatory minimum fine, when the offender’s actions damage a third person’s property.

Hate Crime by Threat to Property. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by threat to property” when he or she (1) acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person; (2) is motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category; and (3) threatens, by word or act, to damage, destroy, or deface real or personal property of the other person or a third person, and there is reasonable cause to believe it will happen.

Under prior law, this was punishable as 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias, a class E felony with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine. The act increases the penalty to a class D felony, with the mandatory minimum fine, when the victim’s property is threatened. It maintains the E felony penalty, with the mandatory minimum fine, when the threat involves a third person’s property.

Hate Crime by Advocacy or Urging. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by advocacy or urging” if he or she (1) acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person; (2) is motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category; and (3) advocates or urges another person to damage, destroy, or deface any real or personal property of a third person, and there is reasonable cause to believe it will happen.

Under prior law, this was punishable as 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias. Under the act and prior law, this is a class E felony with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine.

Civil Action for Damages. By law, a person alleging injury (“the injured party”) due to the crimes listed above can sue for damages for his or her injury. The court must award triple damages if the injured party wins the case and may award equitable relief and reasonable attorney’s fees. The injured party must file the lawsuit within three years of the alleged acts. The act makes conforming changes to apply this provision to the newly labeled hate crimes under this category of crimes.

Hate Crime Affecting a House of Religious Worship (§§ 5 & 25)

Under the act, it is a “hate crime affecting a house of religious worship” when a person, having no reasonable ground to believe that he or she has a right to do so, intentionally damages, destroys, or defaces a house of religious worship.

The act applies to this crime the same penalties as prior law’s penalties for desecrating a house of religious worship. Under the act, a hate crime affecting a house of religious worship is a:

1. class D felony, with a \$1,000 minimum fine if the property damage is \$10,000 or less, or
2. class C felony, with a \$3,000 minimum fine if the property damage is more than \$10,000.

The act keeps “desecrating a house of worship” as a discriminatory practice, but it removes the specific criminal penalties described above from the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) antidiscrimination statutes.

Threatening a House of Religious Worship or Religiously Affiliated Community Center (§§ 8, 9, 30 & 31)

Under prior law, the penalties for the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree threatening were enhanced to a class C and class D felony, respectively, if the elements of the underlying crime were met and the threat had certain intended effects during certain times of the day (for example, to cause the evacuation of a house of religious worship during its operational hours) or involved certain buildings (for example, a religiously-affiliated community center).

The act classifies these enhanced penalties as two hate crime-specific threatening crimes but maintains prior law's elements and penalties. The act specifically labels these crimes as:

1. hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center in the first degree, a class C felony, and
2. hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center in the second degree, a class D felony.

Under the act, a "religiously-affiliated community center" is real property (1) used for recreational, social, or educational services and (2) owned or leased by a nonprofit organization that holds the property out as being affiliated with a religion. Unlike prior law, the act does not specify that the affiliation is with an organized religion.

1st Degree. Under the act, a person is guilty of a "hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center in the first degree" if the person commits 1st degree threatening (see below) with the intent to cause an evacuation of a building or the grounds of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center during operational hours or when the building or grounds are being used for religious or community services or activities sponsored by the house of worship or community center. As under prior law, this is a class C felony.

By law, 1st degree threatening includes threatening to commit a violent crime or a crime using a hazardous substance with intent to cause, or with reckless disregard of the risk of causing (1) the evacuation of a building, place of assembly, or public transportation facility; (2) serious public inconvenience; or (3) for hazardous substance crimes, a person to be terrorized.

2nd Degree. Under the act a person is guilty of a "hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center in the second degree" if the person commits 2nd degree threatening (see below) and the person threatened is in a building or on the grounds during operational hours, religious or community services, or activities sponsored by the house of worship or community center. As under prior law, this is a class D felony.

By law, 2nd degree threatening consists of (1) intentionally causing, or attempting to cause, someone to fear imminent serious physical injury by physical threat or (2) threatening to commit a violent crime with intent to terrorize someone or with reckless disregard for the risk of doing so.

Deprivation of Rights and Placing Burning Cross or Noose on Property (§§ 11-13 & 25)

The act names as specific hate crimes certain violations that, under prior law, could have been charged as crimes under the human rights statutes. These human rights violations remain discriminatory practices, but the act moves the specific criminal penalties from the antidiscrimination statutes and consolidates them with the act's other hate crimes. The elements of these new hate crimes are similar to those of the existing human rights violations but, for certain of these crimes a narrower set of classes are protected. The act also makes a minor change to some of the penalties, as summarized below.

Hate Crime by Deprivation of Civil Rights. Under the act, a person is guilty of a "hate crime by deprivation of civil rights" when he or she deprives, or causes someone else to deprive, another person of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by state or federal laws or by the Connecticut or U.S. constitutions, and is motivated wholly or substantially by that person's, or another person's, protected social category.

This is already a crime under existing law; the act specifically labels it as a hate crime. Unlike the act, prior law also included as protected classes for this crime, a person's age (including ages under 60 years, which the act's hate crimes do not cover), status as a veteran or victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking. So, under the act, violations motivated by these classes are not hate crimes and do not have a specific criminal penalty, though these remain discriminatory practices under existing human rights laws.

Hate Crime by Burning a Cross. Under existing law and the act, it is a crime to place a burning cross or simulation of one on public property, or on private property without the owner's written consent, with the intent to intimidate or harass another person. The act labels this crime "hate crime by burning a cross." It also remains a discriminatory practice under the human rights laws.

Hate Crime by Noose. Under the act, a person is guilty of a "hate crime by noose" if he or she places a noose or simulation of one on public property, or on private property without the owner's written consent, with the intent to harass someone motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social category of the other person or another person.

This is already a crime under existing law; the act reestablishes it as a hate crime. Unlike the act's hate crime, prior law also included as protected classes a person's age (including ages under 60 years) or status as a veteran, victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking. So, under the act, acts motivated by the victim's status as a veteran, domestic violence victim, sexual assault victim, human trafficking victim, or age (if under 60) are not hate crimes and do not have a specific penalty but remain discriminatory practices under existing law.

Penalties. Under the act, the offenses described above are generally class A misdemeanors (see [Table on Penalties](#)) but are class E felonies if they result in more than \$1,000 of property damage. These crimes were also class A misdemeanors

under prior law, however, if the damages were more than \$1,000, they were a class D felony. Both the act and existing law impose a minimum fine of \$1,000 whether the crime is a misdemeanor or a felony.

Commercial Advertisement (§ 14)

It was a misdemeanor under prior law for anyone, by advertisement, to ridicule or hold up to contempt a person or class of people based on their creed, religion, color, denomination, nationality, or race.

The act labels this crime “hate crime by commercial advertisement” if motivated wholly or substantially by any protected social category. By doing so, the act adds disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, alienage, and age (if age 60 or older) as protected categories. As under prior law, this is a class D misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

The act specifies that for this provision, an “advertisement” only includes commercial speech.

Housing and Public Accommodations (§§ 15, 16 & 26-29)

By law, certain discriminatory housing and public accommodations practices are illegal and subject to civil or criminal penalties under the CHRO antidiscrimination statutes. The act moves the criminal offenses from the antidiscrimination statutes, names them specific hate crimes, and consolidates them with other hate crimes under the act. (These discriminatory practices remain subject to fines and civil penalties under the antidiscrimination statutes.) As under prior law, the criminal violation is a class D misdemeanor.

However, the act changes the protected categories for these crimes by (1) adding sexual orientation and alienage; (2) limiting age to 60 or older; and (3) removing marital status, lawful source of income, and status as a veteran or domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking victim.

Hate Crime by Discriminatory Public Accommodations Practice. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by discriminatory public accommodations practice” if he or she commits any discriminatory public accommodation practice in existing law with the intent to intimidate or harass anyone motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social category of the victim or another person.

Hate Crime by Discriminatory Housing Practice. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by discriminatory housing practice” if he or she engages in any discriminatory housing practice in existing law, such as refusing to sell or rent a dwelling to someone based on a protected class status.

False Reporting (§§ 17-19 & 32-34)

Prior law enhanced the penalties for (1) falsely reporting an incident in the 1st degree; (2) falsely reporting an incident resulting in serious physical injury or death; and (3) falsely reporting an incident in the 2nd degree if done with the specific intent to falsely report another person or group of people because of their actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

The act specifically labels the crimes subject to enhanced penalties as hate crimes as described below, and adds alienage, national origin, color, and age, as protected social categories.

Hate Crime by False Report. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by false report” if he or she commits certain elements of falsely reporting an incident in the 1st degree (see below), with the specific intent to falsely report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category. Under the act, as under existing law, this is a class C felony.

By law, and the act, a person commits falsely reporting an incident in the 1st degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed, or circulated to be false or baseless, he or she:

1. starts or circulates a false report or warning about an alleged or impending fire, explosion, catastrophe, or emergency under circumstances in which it is likely that public alarm or inconvenience will result;
2. reports, by word or action, to any official or quasi-official agency or organization that deals with emergencies involving danger to life or property, an alleged or impending fire, explosion, or other catastrophe or emergency that did not happen or does not exist; or
3. violates (1) or (2) above with intent to cause a large-scale emergency response (CGS § 53a-180).

Hate Crime by False Report to Law Enforcement. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by false report to law enforcement” if he or she commits falsely reporting an incident in the 2nd degree (see below), with the specific intent to falsely report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category. As under existing law, this is a class E felony.

By law, and under the act, a person commits falsely reporting an incident in the 2nd degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed, or circulated is false or baseless, he or she gratuitously reports to a law enforcement officer or agency about (1) an alleged offense or incident that did not happen, (2) an allegedly impending offense or incident that is not about to happen, or (3) false information about an actual offense or incident or the person in the report (CGS § 53a-180c).

Hate Crime by False Report Resulting in Serious Physical Injury or Death. Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by false report resulting in serious physical injury or death” if he or she commits either of the crimes above and the false report results in another person’s serious physical injury or death. As under existing law, this is a class B felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

Hate Crime by Stalking (§§ 20 & 36)

Under the act, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by stalking” if he or she commits 2nd degree stalking (see below) and intentionally directs the conduct at the other person wholly or partially because of the other person’s protected social category.

Under prior law, this was punishable as 1st degree stalking when the conduct was intentionally directed at the other person, in whole or in part, because of the that person’s actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

The act adds alienage, national origin, color, and ages 60 and older, as protected social categories. As under existing law, this is a class D felony.

2nd Degree Stalking. By law, someone commits 2nd degree stalking when he or she:

1. knowingly engages in conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for his or her, or another person’s, physical safety; (b) suffer emotional distress; or (c) fear injury to or the death of an animal owned by or in possession and control of the specific person;
2. has already been asked to stop and intentionally, and for no legitimate purpose, engages in conduct, with the intent to harass, terrorize, or alarm, that is directed at a specific person and would cause a reasonable person to fear that his or her employment, business, or career is threatened; or
3. for no legitimate purpose and with intent to harass, terrorize, or alarm, by means of electronic communication, discloses a specific person’s personally identifiable information without the person’s consent, knowing, that under the circumstances, the disclosure would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional stress or fear for their physical safety or that of a third person (CGS § 53a-181d).

Misuse of the Emergency 9-1-1 System (§§ 21 & 35)

Under prior law, a person was guilty of misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system when he or she (1) dialed or otherwise caused 9-1-1 to be called to make a false alarm or complaint; (2) purposely reported false information that could result in dispatching emergency services; or (3) did either of these actions with specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report false information about another person or group of people because of their actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

The act instead relabels the crime’s bias-motivated component ((3) above) as “hate crime by misuse of emergency 9-1-1 system” and makes a person guilty of it if he or she misuses the system as described above, with specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report false information about another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category.

Under the act and existing law this is a class A misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

§ 22 — PERSISTENT OFFENDER

Extends persistent offender status to certain offenders who commit a hate crime under the act and lowers the enhanced penalty for those who commit subsequent class A misdemeanors

Under prior law, a persistent offender of crimes involving bigotry or bias was a person convicted of any of the following crimes after having been previously convicted of one of them: (1) intimidation based on bigotry or bias; (2) deprivation of rights, desecration of property, cross burning, or placing a noose; or (3) deprivation of rights by a person wearing a mask or hood.

Under the act, a person is a persistent offender of a hate crime if he or she:

1. is convicted of any of the hate crimes under the act and

2. was previously convicted of (a) any of the act's hate crimes; (b) a violation of the antidiscriminatory practices law in effect before October 1, 2026; or (c) a violation of the law prohibiting intimidation based on bigotry or bias in effect before October 1, 2000.

Under prior law, when a court found that someone was a persistent offender of a crime involving bigotry or bias, it had to (1) for a felony, impose the prison sentence authorized for the next more serious degree of felony or (2) for a misdemeanor, impose the prison sentence authorized for the next more serious misdemeanor, except if the persistent offense was a class A misdemeanor the court had to impose the prison sentence for a class D felony. Under the act, for a persistent offender of a hate crime that is a class A misdemeanor, the court must impose the prison sentence for a class E felony instead.

§ 23 — ACCELERATED PRETRIAL REHABILITATION

Allows courts to require those who violate the act's hate crimes to participate in a hate crimes diversion program as a condition of probation under the existing accelerated rehabilitation program

By law, a court can require an offender to participate in a hate crimes diversion program as a condition of probation under accelerated rehabilitation.

Under the law, the court may do so for people charged with (1) deprivation of rights, desecration of property, cross burning, and placing a noose; (2) deprivation of a person's civil rights by a person wearing a mask or hood; or (3) intimidation based on bigotry or bias (renamed under the act). The act expands this to include all the hate crimes under the act.

§ 24 — COURT AND CHRO JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

Specifies that its provisions do not limit (1) someone's rights to file a discrimination complaint with CHRO, (2) CHRO's jurisdiction and power, or (3) the court's authority

The act specifies that its hate crimes provisions do not:

1. limit the rights of someone claiming to be aggrieved by a discriminatory practice to file a complaint with CHRO or to bring a civil action in Superior Court,
2. limit CHRO's and the attorney general's jurisdiction and powers, or
3. affect the court's authority to order financial restitution.

§ 38 — ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AUTHORITY

Extends the attorney general's authority to investigate hate-based crimes, initiate legal action, and seek relief to apply to all hate crimes under the act

By law, the attorney general's powers include (1) investigating allegations of certain hate-based crimes and civil rights violations; (2) initiating related legal proceedings, with certain exceptions; and (3) seeking relief for the affected person. When conducting these investigations, the attorney general may issue subpoenas and interrogatories but the information obtained from these investigations may not be used in a criminal proceeding. The law also generally prohibits the attorney general from asserting a claim against a state agency, officer, or employee acting in an official capacity.

Under prior law, the above authorities and prohibitions applied to allegations of certain hate-based crimes (for example, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias) and civil rights violations. Under the act, the attorney general's authority applies to all the consolidated hate crimes. The act also makes conforming changes.

Existing law, unchanged by the act, imposes a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 for each hate crime or civil rights violation established by clear and convincing evidence (CGS §§ 3-129f & -129g).

§ 39 — HATE CRIMES INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

Expands the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit's duties to prevent and detect criminal activity involving hate crimes to apply to all hate crimes under the act

By law, there is a Hate Crimes Investigative Unit within the State Police to seek to prevent and detect certain actual or suspected bias-based criminal activity. Under the act, the unit's duties cover all of the act's hate crimes. It also makes

conforming changes.

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the unit must compile, monitor, and analyze data about these criminal activities. It must also share data and information with other law enforcement units to help with their investigations of the criminal activities listed above, and it may provide additional help with those investigations (CGS § 29-7d(a)).

§ 40 — STATEWIDE HATE CRIMES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Expands the Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council membership by adding the director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at UConn; requires the governor's appointees to also be representative of the people protected from hate crimes under the act

By law, the Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council was created to encourage and coordinate programs to increase community awareness, reporting, and combating of hate crimes. The council is within the Office of the Chief State's Attorney for administrative purposes only.

The act expands the council's membership by adding the director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at UConn. It also makes a conforming change, aligning the qualifications of the governor's appointees (organizations that represent certain groups' interests) with the act's hate crimes.

§§ 41-43 — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Makes minor, technical, and conforming changes

The act makes technical and conforming changes for consistency in references to the terms "intellectual disability" and "gender identity or expression."

§ 44 — PROBATION OR CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE

Allows the court to require offenders of any of the hate crimes under the act to participate in certain anti-bias programs as a condition of probation or conditional discharge

By law, a court may require an offender to participate in an anti-bias or diversity awareness program or community service as a condition of probation or conditional discharge. The court may do so for people convicted of (1) intimidation based on bigotry or bias, (2) deprivation of rights or property (including through cross burning or placing a noose on property), or (3) deprivation of someone's civil rights by a person wearing a mask or hood (all renamed under the act). The act expands this to include conviction for all the hate crimes under the act.

§ 45 — SENTENCING COMMISSION'S REVIEW OF HATE CRIME PENALTIES

Requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, in consultation with the Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, to review Connecticut's hate crime laws to determine appropriateness of the penalties and report the findings and recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2027

Review of Penalty Structure and Comparison to Other Laws

The act requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, in consultation with the Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, to review Connecticut's hate crime laws and the associated penalties.

The commission and council must determine whether the penalties are appropriate by considering at least the following:

1. penalty structure, including the offenses' gradation of penalties and degrees;
2. penalties for hate crimes compared to penalties for other offenses in Connecticut that are not hate crimes but have substantially similar elements; and
3. penalties in Connecticut compared with those for similar hate crimes in other jurisdictions.

Report to the Legislature

By January 1, 2027, the commission must report to the Judiciary Committee its findings and any recommendations to adjust hate crime penalties.

PA 26-80—sSB 291*Judiciary Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION, THE STATE MARSHALS ADVISORY BOARD AND STATE MARSHALS**

SUMMARY: This act makes changes in laws related to state marshals, including changes to the State Marshal Commission and the State Marshals Advisory Board.

Regarding the State Marshal Commission, the act:

1. broadens the scope of its responsibilities, specifies certain functions, and establishes what constitutes a quorum for the commission's actions;
2. creates new processes and requirements for the commission to follow when filling state marshal vacancies and examining and recruiting new state marshals in each county (Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham), including establishing an interview committee and setting candidate training and swearing in requirements; and
3. requires it to annually report certain state marshals-related information (for example, turnover data and recruitment and appointment information) to the Judiciary Committee, starting by January 1, 2027.

Regarding the State Marshals Advisory Board, the act requires the 24-member board to (1) be the judge of the county elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members and (2) include procedures for administering the county elections in its rules.

It also increases officers' (including state marshals) maximum flat rate and hourly fees for serving and executing residential and commercial evictions and foreclosure ejectments by \$50.

Finally, the act makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION

The act makes various changes to the existing eight-member State Marshal Commission by broadening the scope of its responsibilities, creating expressly stated functions, establishing what constitutes a quorum for the commission's actions, and requiring it to develop and maintain new member orientation material (see below). It does so without changing the board's composition or the requirement that it develop rules to conduct its internal affairs. The act states that its provisions and existing law on the commission's authority do not limit the commission's authority or responsibility to take actions necessary to implement provisions on the commission's policies, procedures, and duties and the appointment of state marshals.

By law, the commission is within the Department of Administrative Services. The act specifies that this is for administrative purposes only.

Stated Functions

The act explicitly states that the functions of the commission are at a minimum to:

1. promote a professional and effective state marshal system to provide competent service of process and execution throughout the state's counties;
2. establish and apply appropriate standards of conduct and competence;
3. recruit, vet, and appoint qualified and suitable people to serve as state marshals;
4. establish and oversee appropriate training and continuing education, within available appropriations;
5. support and administer state marshal-related operational, administrative, and programmatic systems; and
6. take actions necessary to maintain the proper and efficient administration of the state marshal system.

Assigning Civil Protection Orders. By law, the commission is responsible for (1) the equitable assignment of service of restraining orders to the state marshals in each county and (2) ensuring that the restraining orders are served expeditiously. To do so, the commission, in cooperation with the judicial branch, developed and adopted policies establishing a statewide

system of on-call state marshals.

The act also requires the commission to equitably assign service of civil protection orders and ensure they are served expeditiously. Existing law and the act subject any state marshal who fails to accept service for assigned orders to a removal hearing.

New Member Orientation Materials. The act requires the commission to develop and maintain orientation materials for new commission members. The materials must provide a summary and overview of the commission's role and authority and the state marshal appointment process. The act requires the commission to coordinate with the State Marshals Advisory Board to give new members opportunities to observe the actual service of process, evictions, and the restraining order duties of state marshals.

Quorum

The act specifies that a majority of the membership of the commission constitutes a quorum. For any action by the commission, the act (1) requires the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members present and voting and (2) prohibits any action from passing by a tie vote.

State Marshal Positions

The act also creates new processes and requirements for the commission in filling state marshal vacancies; interviewing, examining, and recruiting new state marshals in each county; setting candidate training; and swearing in approved candidates.

Filling Vacancies. The law requires the commission to fill state marshal vacancies with an applicant (1) who is an elector in the county where the vacancy occurs and (2) whose permanent place of abode, domicile, and residence is in the county where the vacancy occurs. The act disqualifies an applicant who (1) is a former police officer who was dismissed for malfeasance or serious misconduct or resigned or retired while under investigation and was not exonerated or (2) cannot qualify for a security service license.

The act allows the commission to give preference to applicants who can serve on a full-time basis or who demonstrate good-faith intent and ability to transition to service on a full-time basis within a reasonable period after appointment. Under the act, "full-time basis" means the ability to be regularly and consistently available on weekdays during court hours to perform a state marshal's statutory duties.

By law, applicants for any vacancy are subject to the commission's application, examination, bonding, and investigation requirements. Under the act, they are also subject to the commission's interview and training requirements.

Number of New Appointments. The act requires the commission to consult with the State Marshals Advisory Board on the need for additional state marshals in each county before starting the process to examine or recruit new ones. And before starting recruitment, it must also determine the number of state marshals to be appointed in each county during the recruitment process. The commission must vote on the number and record it in its meeting minutes. The number may be adjusted for additional vacancies occurring during the recruitment process.

Interview Committees. The act requires the commission to establish interview committees to interview the most suitable candidates for appointment. A state marshal may be a member of the interview committee. The interview committee must conduct candidate interviews; review applications, exam results, and investigation materials; and report recommendations to the full commission.

Candidate Training. The commission must approve candidates to enter a training program before they can be appointed. It must provide one statewide training program that includes (1) in-person classroom instruction developed and conducted by a commission-approved qualified vendor and (2) supervised field instruction by experienced, commission-approved state marshals. The training program must be comprehensive and cover subjects relating to the state marshals' statutory duties and responsibilities.

Swearing In. Approved candidates must be sworn into office at a public ceremony by the commission on a date it sets.

Report to the Legislature

Starting by January 1, 2027, the act requires the State Marshal Commission to annually report to the Judiciary Committee on the following regarding state marshals:

1. workforce and turnover data, including the number (a) that resigned, retired, or died in office during the preceding period and (b) on voluntary inactive status and for how long;
2. the number and age distribution of state marshals per county;
3. recruitment and appointment information, including the commission's recruitment plan, number of applicants and

- examination outcomes in the preceding period, and appointment demographics in each county;
- 4. the proportion of those serving on a full- versus part-time basis;
- 5. training and professional development information, including summaries of the training programs for new and current state marshals and any material changes made in the preceding period; and
- 6. a summary of any policies, rules, or directives adopted or modified by the commission during the preceding period.

STATE MARSHALS ADVISORY BOARD

County Elections

By law, the State Marshals Advisory Board advises and makes recommendations to the State Marshal Commission and considers matters the commission refers to it. The board consists of 24 state marshals who serve for one year but can be reelected. Election of the marshals representing each county occurs annually between November 1 and November 20.

The act requires the State Marshals Advisory Board to be the judge of the county elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members. It also requires that the board's rules include procedures for administering the county elections.

Ex-Officio Members of the Commission

Existing law requires the board to meet annually in December to select two state marshals to serve as ex-officio members of the State Marshal Commission for a one-year term. The act specifies that the ex-officio members serve for one year or until a successor is appointed and qualified.

FEES TO EXECUTE EVICTIONS AND FORECLOSURES

The act increases, from \$100 to \$150, the maximum flat rate and hourly fees an officer or person (such as state marshals) can receive to do the following:

1. serving and scheduling an execution on an eviction or a foreclosure ejectment;
2. removing a defendant or other occupant bound by an eviction judgment from residential property, and their possessions and personal effects;
3. removing and taking inventory of possessions and personal effects of a defendant or other occupant bound by an eviction judgment from commercial property; or
4. removing a defendant or other occupant bound by an ejectment on a foreclosure judgment, and their possessions and personal effects.

Unchanged by the act, serving and scheduling an execution on an eviction or foreclosure ejectment is compensated with a flat fee; while the other services are compensated hourly.

As under existing law, under the act, the officer or person is also entitled to a fee for mileage at the same rate as the Department of Administrative Services sets for state employees.

PA 26-81—sSB 294

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING TRADE NAMES, FRAUDULENT FILINGS, IMPERMISSIBLE BUSINESS SOLICITATIONS, DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATIONS, THE ISSUANCE OF AN APOSTILLE AND FEES CHARGED BY A NOTARY

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes in laws that govern certain business entities operating in the state. Primarily, it does the following:

1. revises the trade name law to, among other things, (a) require town clerks to record them and have trade name certificates issued from the Connecticut Trade Name Registry; (b) prohibit the use of specific words in trade names; (c) modify trade name renewal, amendment, and cancellation procedures; (d) set record retention requirements for town clerks; and (e) specify when a trade name record is considered presumptive evidence (§§ 1-5);
2. expands the options available to the secretary of the state (SOTS) when she is unable to verify a business entity's data in the Connecticut Business Registry (§ 6);
3. sets requirements for most individuals or entities that solicit a fee for filing a document with, or retrieving a copy of one from, SOTS, and makes a violation a deceptive act or practice (§ 7);

4. creates an exception for certain domestic corporations regarding electronic communication from SOTS on administrative dissolutions (§§ 8 & 9);
5. sets procedures for SOTS to issue an apostille or authentication (§§ 10 & 11);
6. increases the maximum fee a notary public may charge for performing notarial acts (§ 13); and
7. authorizes SOTS to adopt regulations on processes and procedures for (a) apostilles and authentications and (b) taking action on a notary's commission (§§ 11 & 12).

It also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on (1) the notary fee increases are effective July 1, 2026; (2) trade names and the Connecticut business registry are effective October 1, 2026; and (3) solicitations are effective January 1, 2027.

§§ 1-5 — TRADE NAMES

Trade Name Application and Recording (§ 1)

Prior law prohibited anyone, including business entities, from transacting business in Connecticut under a name or designation other than the person's real name, unless a trade name certificate had been issued by the town clerk in the town that is the business's principal location. The act instead allows it if the trade name has been recorded and a certificate evidencing the trade name was issued, through a substantially similar process to prior law.

As was the case for trade name certificate applications under prior law, the act requires a trade name to be recorded by submitting a trade name application, using a SOTS-prescribed form, to the town clerk's office in the town where the business is, or will be, principally transacted.

Prior law required an executed application for a trade name certificate to be acknowledged before an authority qualified to administer oaths. The act instead requires a trade name application to be acknowledged before an authority qualified to take acknowledgments under the Uniform Acknowledgment Act, which provides for acknowledgements made in Connecticut, other states, or a U.S. territory or possession, or other countries.

Business Organizations. By law, there are separate applications for natural persons and business organizations. Under the law, a "business organization" is any corporation, limited partnership (LP), limited liability partnership (LLP), or limited liability company (LLC) on record with SOTS. The act specifies that this includes all business entities, whether foreign or domestic, on record with SOTS.

The act prohibits business organizations from filing a trade name application unless the business is active and has filed all required annual reports with SOTS. Under the act, all trade names issued to the organization are deemed canceled upon the business organization's dissolution, withdrawal, forfeiture, or revocation.

Restricted Words in Trade Names (§ 5)

Existing law exempts certain SOTS-registered entities from the trade name law if they transact business under the name stated in their formation or registration document, as applicable (see § 4 below).

For others, the act prohibits filing any trade name starting October 1, 2026, with the words or abbreviations in the table below.

Prohibited Words or Abbreviations in Trade Names Under the Act

<i>Professional Corporation*</i>	<i>Limited Liability Company</i>	<i>Limited Partnership</i>	<i>Statutory Trust</i>
Incorporated*	LLC or L.L.C.	Registered Limited Liability Partnership	Limited Liability Trust
Corporation*	Professional Limited Liability Company	Limited Liability Partnership	Limited or Ltd.
Societa Per Azioni*	PLLC or P.L.L.C.	LLP or L.L.P.	LLT or L.L.T.

*Or any abbreviation

The act makes any trade name accepted by a town clerk and entered on the Connecticut Trade Name Registry void by operation of law if it contains a prohibited word and authorizes the secretary to void the record.

It also prohibits anyone from using, in printed advertising, an assumed or fictitious name to do the person's business that includes the term "company" to suggest that the business is a corporation or LLC unless the business is one.

Trade Name Certificates (§ 1)

The act specifies that when a town clerk accepts a trade name application, a trade name certificate evidencing the trade name must be issued from the Connecticut Trade Name Registry (see § 3 below). As under prior law, the trade name on the certificate is valid for five years from the date it was issued. Under the act, trade names recorded before January 1, 2025, expire on December 31, 2029 (presumably, this refers to any trade name that is the subject of a certificate issued under prior law before January 1, 2025, and indexed or entered in the CT Trade Name Registry by the town clerk). Under existing law and the act, a trade name in existence before January 1, 2025, may be renewed for another five years from the date the town clerk accepts the renewal.

Renewals, Amendments, and Cancellations (§ 2)

Prior law allowed trade name certificates to be renewed between six months before the certificate expires and the expiration date. The act removes this limitation. As under prior law for trade name certificates, a trade name renewal application must be on a SOTS-prescribed form and provide the information required in the initial application.

Upon accepting the renewal application, prior law required the town clerk to issue a new certificate, which was valid for five years from the previous certificate's expiration date. The act (1) requires that a renewal certificate be issued by the Connecticut Trade Name Registry and (2) makes the trade name valid for five years from when the renewal application was accepted. The act further specifies that when SOTS accepts the renewal application, the previous trade name is deemed canceled.

The act allows any person to apply for a new trade name at any time before the existing trade name expires. However, the town clerk must cancel any prior trade name the filer identifies as superseded by the new filing. Also, as under prior law for certificates, the filer may cancel the trade name before its expiration by filing the cancellation with the town clerk where the trade name was filed. Correspondingly, the act eliminates the filer's ability to amend any information in an original or renewal application for a certificate before its expiration.

Alphabetical Index and Connecticut Trade Name Registry (§ 3)

The act limits an existing requirement for town clerks to keep an alphabetical index of trade name certificates issued for individuals and business organizations to trade names filed on or before December 31, 2024. It also creates new retention requirements (see below).

Prior law required SOTS to create an electronic system for town clerks to process trade name certificate applications and allowed the secretary to require that town clerks use it. The act instead applies these provisions to processing trade names in the Connecticut Trade Name Registry. Relatedly, the act eliminates a provision deeming town clerks using the electronic system compliant with the index requirement.

Record Retention and Presumptive Evidence (§ 4)

The act requires town clerks to keep all trade name records received and created, regardless of the date, in keeping with the record retention periods set by the Public Records Administrator.

The act limits to trade name records received on or before December 31, 2024, an existing law making a copy of any trade name certificate that the issuing town clerk certifies presumptive evidence in all courts in the state of the facts the certificate contains. For records received after January 1, 2025, the act makes a copy of the record, as reflected on the Connecticut Trade Name Registry and bearing a facsimile of the secretary's signature, presumptive evidence in all courts in Connecticut of the facts in the trade name record.

Exemptions (§ 4)

Existing law exempts from the trade name laws, SOTS-registered domestic or foreign LLPs, corporations, and statutory trusts, limited partnerships and LLCs, if they transact business under the name stated in their formation or registration document, as applicable, filed with SOTS.

The act specifies that “the name stated in its formation or registration document” does not include any business designator required by law for professional services corporations, business corporations, or non-stock corporations; or under the Uniform LLC Act, the Uniform Partnership Act, Uniform Limited Partnership Act, or the Connecticut Statutory Trust Act; or any other state law requiring a business organization to use specific phrases, words, or abbreviations in its name registered with SOTS.

§ 6 — CONNECTICUT BUSINESS REGISTRY

The Connecticut Business Registry is the state’s centralized public website with data and the filing history of all businesses that form or register with SOTS as a corporation, LP, LLP, professional association, LLC, or statutory trust.

The law allows the secretary to verify data that is submitted to the Connecticut Business Registry and confirm whether it was authorized by the registered business entity for which it is filed. Existing law allows the secretary to administratively dissolve, forfeit, revoke, or cancel any registered business entity whose data she cannot verify. The act allows the secretary to also redact any address and name that cannot be verified from any relevant finding.

If a filing was made for a legitimate entity and the secretary cannot verify the data, the act allows her to mark each unauthorized filing for the entity to notify the public that the filing is unauthorized and restore the data that was on the registry before the unauthorized filing.

§ 7 — SOLICITATIONS RELATED TO SOTS DOCUMENTS

The act sets the requirements for any person (individuals, communities, companies, corporations, LLCs, societies, and associations) that solicits (directly advertises to a person) a fee for filing a document with, or retrieving a copy or certified copy of a certificate or public record from, SOTS and makes a violation a deceptive act or practice under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) (see BACKGROUND).

These requirements do not apply to the federal government, the state, a state agency, or a local government. They also do not apply to (1) communication initiated by a consumer or (2) advertising or marketing to a person with whom the solicitor has a current or former commercial relationship.

The act also prohibits any person from using a format, deadlines, or other language that makes the document appear to (1) be from the federal government, the state, a state agency, or a local government or (2) impose a legal duty on the person being solicited.

Solicitation Requirements

Any person who solicits under the act must do the following:

1. include a statement in the solicitation, in the same language as the solicitation, that is identical or substantially similar to the following: *“This is an advertisement. This offer is not being made by, or on behalf of, any government agency. You are not required to make any payment or take any other action in response to this offer;”*
2. if the solicitation is in writing, the above statement must be in at least 24-point type and located at the top of the physical document or the beginning of the electronic communication;
3. if a mailed solicitation, include the words “THIS IS NOT A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT” in 24-point type and all capital letters on the envelope, outside cover, or wrapper in which it is mailed; and
4. include in the solicitation (a) information on where the person can file a document directly with SOTS or retrieve a copy or certified copy of a certificate or public record and (b) the name and physical address (not a post office box) of the person making the solicitation.

§§ 8 & 9 — ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATIONS

The law allows the secretary to administratively dissolve a corporation under certain circumstances, such as when the corporation defaults on filing its required annual report.

Under existing law, when a business corporation or non-stock corporation is more than one year in default of filing its annual report, the secretary may notify the corporation of the pending dissolution by sending an email to the email address last shown on the secretary’s records. The act makes an exception for domestic corporations that have not yet filed an annual report or do not have an email address on record, in which case the notice may be sent by first class mail to any one of the incorporators listed on the certificate of incorporation.

§§ 10 & 11 — APOSTILLES AND AUTHENTICATIONS

Issuance of Apostilles and Authentications (§ 11)

The act allows SOTS to issue an apostille or authentication, as applicable, in paper or electronic format, unless otherwise prohibited by the Hague Convention or federal law.

Under the act, an “apostille” is a certificate that authenticates the signature, official position, and seal of an attesting officer under Connecticut laws, as specified by the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents when a record is to be sent to a country that is a signatory to the Hague Convention. This convention generally governs certifying documents among countries participating in the convention, which includes the United States and SOTS is a designated competent authority under it.

“Authentication” is a certificate that authenticates the signature, official position, and seal of an attesting officer under Connecticut laws when a record is to be sent to a country that is not a signatory to the Hague Convention.

Electronic Format. Under the act, an apostille or authentication issued by the secretary in an electronic format has the same force and effect as one issued on paper. Correspondingly, the fee for the electronic format is the same as for paper (see below).

Regulations. The act authorizes the secretary to adopt regulations, specifying the processes and procedures for apostilles and authentications in keeping with her authority under the act and as a competent authority under the Hague Convention.

SOTS Fees (§ 10)

The law specifies the fees that SOTS must receive for filing, recording, or furnishing copies of certain documents.

Under prior law, the secretary must receive \$40 for certifying the incumbency of a probate court judge, notary public, or other official. Under the act, \$40 is the per document fee for authenticating the incumbency of these officials or issuing an apostille as specified by the Hague Convention. When the apostille or authentication is in connection with an adoption of a child, the act requires the fee to be \$15, as is the case under prior law when certifying an official’s incumbency in connection with an adoption.

§§ 12 & 13 — NOTARIES

Regulations for Actions SOTS May Take on a Notary’s Commission (§ 12)

The law authorizes the secretary to deliver a written, official warning and reprimand to a notary, or revoke or suspend a notary’s appointment, because of (1) the notary’s official misconduct, (2) any ground for which an application for appointment as a notary may be denied, or (3) the notary’s violation of the law.

The act authorizes the secretary to adopt regulations specifying the processes and procedures the secretary uses to determine whether to warn, reprimand, suspend, or revoke a notary’s commission.

Maximum Fees (§ 13)

The act increases, from \$5 to \$10, the maximum fee a notary public may charge for performing notarial acts. It also ties the additional amount that notaries may charge for mileage to the IRS business standard mileage rate (76 cents for 2026), instead of the current 35 cents per mile rate.

BACKGROUND

CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the Department of Consumer Protection commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in certain cases, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney’s fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

PA 26-82—sSB 296*Judiciary Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION WITH RESPECT TO THE CONNECTICUT UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES ACT AND SPORTS WAGERING**

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes related to Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violations and records, the crime of cheating, and certain gaming violations.

The act expands when the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) can require restitution after finding a CUTPA violation. Previously, DCP could do so in cases involving up to \$10,000. The act expands this to cases involving up to \$25,000 per consumer.

It also changes how long DCP can withhold records about CUTPA investigations from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Previously, these records could be withheld during an ongoing investigation for the lesser of 18 months from the filing of a complaint or from the start of an investigation. The act instead permits withholding these records until the investigation closes (§ 1).

The act expands the crime of cheating in a lawful gambling game to include when a person, to gain an advantage for himself, herself, or another person:

1. intentionally attempts to change the results of a sports wager's outcome through a promise or offer of an advantage or benefit to another person or
2. solicits or accepts for himself, herself, or another person an advantage, benefit, or the promise or offer of one, with intent to change the results of a sports wager's outcome.

In both circumstances, the wager or the conduct must occur in Connecticut (§ 3). The act makes this, as with most other forms of cheating (see BACKGROUND), a class D felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

The act specifies certain actions the attorney general can take related to online gaming and sports wagering at the DCP commissioner's request. By law, the DCP commissioner can ask the attorney general to seek restraining orders and injunctions in court to stop violations of these laws. The act also allows the attorney general, at the commissioner's request, to seek (1) these court orders to stop someone from offering or advertising sports wagering services to state residents without a license and (2) other relief the court deems appropriate. However, this does not:

1. apply to newspaper, periodical, radio, or television advertising where the publisher, owner, agent, or employee did not know the advertising was false, misleading, unfair, or deceptive and did not have a direct financial interest in the advertised product or service or
2. limit the commissioner's or attorney general's other rights and remedies (§ 4).

For purposes of criminal penalties for allowing an underage person to open an account or place wagers, the act also specifies that online gaming is online casino gaming or online sports wagering (§ 2). By law, a violation is a class C misdemeanor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the CUTPA and cheating provisions are effective October 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND*CUTPA*

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the DCP commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in certain cases, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

Cheating in Lawful Gambling Games

Under existing law, cheating includes:

1. knowingly using an altered or counterfeit item, or knowingly tampering with cards or dice or substituting tampered cards or dice for ones provided by the game operator;
2. knowingly using a device or substance intending to cheat or change the random results of a game of chance; or
3. intentionally placing or changing a wager after the time permitted to place it or after the game results are known.

Cheating is a class D felony, except that placing or changing wagers after the time permitted or after results are known is a class B misdemeanor.

PA 26-87—sSB 400

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS

SUMMARY: This act makes changes in various laws governing probate court operations and related matters. It:

1. expands the types of children's matters that may be heard in regional children's probate courts (see BACKGROUND) to include name changes (§ 1);
2. allows someone under a federal firearms disability due to an in-state adjudication or commitment, if the person does not live in Connecticut and seeks to regain their firearm rights, to petition the probate court that ordered the decision (§ 2; see BACKGROUND);
3. specifically extends to cases concerning appointing a minor's guardian the same confidentiality rules that apply to various other child-related matters;
4. specifically requires that appeals of probate matters on (a) appointment of a minor's guardian, temporary guardian, or statutory parent or (b) emancipation, be filed in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters, as is already the case for other child-related matters (for example, parental rights terminations) (§ 4);
5. specifies that when someone appeals a probate court matter in Superior Court, the required mailing of a copy to the probate court must occur when filing the appeal (§ 4);
6. clarifies when notice of an involuntary conservatorship hearing must be given to certain parties;
7. requires the training program for new probate judges to include a mentorship component (codifying existing regulations) and observation of probate court hearings and proceedings, including confidential proceedings;
8. allows the probate court administrator to require an audit of a conservator of the estate's financial management generally, not just the conservator's account;
9. allows probate courts to waive filing fees or other court fees if they are no more than \$5 and the court determines that they are uncollectable (§ 8);
10. eliminates the requirement for probate courts to issue refunds for overpayments if the amount due is under \$5 (§ 9); and
11. repeals a 2025 law that created a working group to study and make recommendations on probate court guardianship proceeding laws, policies, and procedures (in practice, the group never convened) (§ 10).

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the (1) record confidentiality provision and working group repeal are effective upon passage and (2) firearms disability provision is effective January 1, 2027.

§ 3 — RECORD CONFIDENTIALITY

The act specifically extends to appointment of a minor's guardian the same record confidentiality rules that already apply to probate court cases on other specified child-related matters, such as termination of parental rights, removal of parents as guardians, and temporary guardianship. Under these rules, case records generally are not disclosable to third parties, but are available to (1) the parties and their counsel, (2) the Department of Children and Families, (3) any licensed child-placing agency involved in the case, (4) any Connecticut judge or court employee who needs access to perform his or her duties, (5) the Office of the Probate Court Administrator, and (6) other states' courts under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

§ 5 — NOTICE OF INVOLUNTARY CONSERVATORSHIP PROCEEDINGS

By law, if the probate court receives an involuntary conservatorship application, it must generally direct that notice be given, at least 10 days before the hearing, to (1) the respondent and the respondent's spouse (if the spouse was not the applicant) by personal service and (2) in some circumstances, certain other family members by certified mail. The hearing generally must be held within 30 days after the court receives the application.

Under prior law, the court generally had to notify parties about the hearing within 30 days after receiving the application. The act instead specifies that parties other than those described above must be given notice at least 10 days before the hearing.

§ 6 — TRAINING FOR NEW PROBATE JUDGES

Under existing law, the probate court administrator must establish, supervise, and fund a training program for newly elected probate judges. The act requires the program to include a mentorship component in line with regulations adopted by the administrator. Under existing regulations, (1) the probate court administrator must assign each newly elected probate judge a mentor, who must be a probate judge with at least four years of service, and (2) among other things, the new judge must observe at least eight hours of hearings before the mentor within two months after the election (this may include time spent in related discussions after the hearing).

Under the act, the training program also must specifically include observing probate court hearings and proceedings, including proceedings that are confidential under law, so new judges can meet the minimum level of proficiency.

§ 7 — AUDITS

Under prior law, the probate court administrator, within available appropriations, could audit an account of a conservator of the estate (by assigning an auditor from an approved list). The act allows these audits of conservators generally (of their financial management) and not just of their accounts. The administrator may randomly select conservatorships (rather than just accounts as under prior law) or use other criteria she deems effective in deterring and detecting fiduciary wrongdoing.

The act makes other conforming changes to apply existing law's provisions to these audits, such as the conservator's duty to cooperate. It also specifically requires the court, at the required hearing, to hear any recommendations in the audit report.

By law, a "conservator of the estate" is generally a person, municipal or state official, or entity the probate court appoints to supervise the financial affairs of someone (1) found to be incapable of managing his or her own affairs or (2) who asks the court to make such an appointment, including temporary conservators.

BACKGROUND

Regional Children's Probate Courts

There are six regional children's probate courts in the state, with services and staff focused on handling specified child-related matters. These courts cover multiple probate districts, and collectively serve about 70% of the state's municipalities.

Restoration of Firearm Rights

Federal law prohibits anyone who has been "adjudicated as a mental defective" or "committed to a mental institution" from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing firearms or ammunition, unless the person's firearm privileges are restored under a federally approved program (18 U.S.C. § 922(d)(4) & (g)(4) and 34 U.S.C. § 40915).

State law has a probate court procedure for restoring these privileges. The court must grant relief if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that (1) the petitioner will not likely act in a manner dangerous to public safety and (2) granting relief is not contrary to the public interest.

PA 26-92—sSB 475

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS

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§ 31 — OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY: PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS

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§ 32 — INMATE TRUST FUND ACCOUNT BALANCE DISBURSEMENT

Requires DOC to disburse the remaining balance in a person's Inmate Trust Fund account upon the person's release or by mail within two weeks after the release if it did not have at least two weeks' notice of the release date

SUMMARY: This act generally makes various unrelated changes in laws on court procedures and operations. It also makes associated technical and conforming changes. A section-by-section analysis follows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, unless stated otherwise below.

§§ 1 & 2 — JUDICIAL BRANCH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Increases, from \$500,000 to \$3 million, the limit on making judicial branch capital improvements without DAS prior approval

Prior law capped at \$500,000 the cost of repairs, alterations, or additions to state buildings and premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator (OCCA, which manages the judicial branch's operations), including entering into contracts for the work, that may occur without the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner's approval. The act (1) increases the expense cap to \$3 million and (2) makes a conforming change to the DAS commissioner's duties for administering capital improvements, which previously required her oversight for judicial branch improvements with consultant services costing more than \$750,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the conforming change to the commissioner's duties is effective October 1, 2026.

§ 3 — DISPOSING OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Requires the chief court administrator to establish a procedure for the judicial branch to dispose of unclaimed detainee personal property

The act requires the chief court administrator to establish a procedure for selling or disposing of unclaimed detainee property, including clothing and jewelry, after a reasonable effort is made to return it to its owner. All sale proceeds must be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, which pays for compensation services for crime victims.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 4 — TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT DEADLINE

Pushes back, from July 1 to September 30, the deadline for CBF to report to the Judiciary Committee about the temporary restraining order legal assistance program's impact

The act pushes back, from July 1 to September 30, the deadline for the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF), as administrator of the grant program that provides free legal assistance to indigent people seeking temporary restraining orders, to submit a report to the Judiciary Committee on the program's impact. By law, for each year that the program gets funding, CBF must (1) have an analysis done on its impact for the previous year, including information about procedural outcomes and the legal services provided, and (2) report the results of the analysis to the committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 5 — FAMILY VIOLENCE RESPONSE AND INTERVENTION UNITS

Requires the judicial branch to inform DCF about progress on, and compliance with, court-ordered intervention and services when there are open cases in both the branch's family violence intervention unit and DCF; consolidates and broadens authorized disclosures related to defendants' supervision and service needs

Existing law requires the judicial branch, through its Court Support Services Division (CSSD), to have a family violence intervention unit in each geographical area court to respond to family violence cases. The units prepare reports on each case for the court, provide or arrange for victim and offender services, and contract for these services.

Generally, the information the units receive is confidential, but it must be disclosed for certain purposes. One required disclosure is to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) if a defendant is a danger or threat to a child or the child's custodial parent. The act also requires disclosure to DCF about progress and compliance with court-ordered intervention and services when there are open cases in both the family violence intervention unit and DCF. But this information must only be used for child protection services and not in any other court proceeding unless another law allows it.

The act also generally consolidates four authorized disclosures. Previously, the below information could be disclosed as follows:

1. information allowed under chief court administrator-adopted guidelines could be shared with specified employees (a family relations counselor or trainee or family services supervisor);
2. information about a defendant on, or being considered for, pretrial release could be shared with a bail commissioner or a judicial branch intake, assessment, and referral specialist;

3. information about a defendant convicted and sentenced to probation in a family violence case could be shared with a probation officer to determine service needs and supervision levels; and
4. information about a defendant convicted in a family violence case could be shared with a probation officer to prepare a presentence investigation report.

Consolidating and broadening them, the act allows for disclosure of all files and reports about the defendant to another CSSD employee to (1) determine whether to recommend pretrial release; (2) prepare a presentence investigation report or a pre-dispositional study; (3) determine supervision and service needs, for both before a trial and after conviction; or (4) monitor and enforce release or probation conditions. The disclosure must be authorized by the CSSD executive director or a division designee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 6 & 7 — JUVENILE MATTERS & PROCEEDINGS

Requires the court, when placing a child or youth in a protective supervision custody arrangement, to include specific steps for the parent to keep the child or youth in the parent's custody; eliminates outdated procedural court requirements for parentage acknowledgements; makes conforming changes to reflect that a person may be related by law, instead of only by blood or marriage

By law, when the court decides in a commitment or custody proceeding that a child's or youth's care should be assigned to someone other than his or her parent, parents, or former guardian, the court must order specific steps that must be taken to help return the child or youth to the parent's custody. If the court orders placement with the parent under DCF protective supervision (meaning that DCF oversees the arrangement and the court sets conditions), the act similarly requires the order to specify steps that must be taken to keep a child or youth in the parent's custody.

By law, an alleged genetic parent in a case involving a petition for a neglected, uncared for, or abused child or youth may sign a paternity acknowledgement. The act eliminates outdated procedural requirements, specifically that the documents be executed and filed in line with an obsolete statutory chapter and sent to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for parentage registry inclusion. (In practice, the court does not participate in DPH's voluntary parentage establishment program.) It instead requires that the parent use a form that the court provides and that DPH creates.

The act also makes several conforming changes to juvenile matters provisions to reflect the state's adoption of the Connecticut Parentage Act (PA 21-15) and that a person may be related by law, instead of only by blood or marriage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 8 — JUVENILE TRANSFER TO ADULT CRIMINAL COURT

Makes a conforming change to the statute that generally prohibits children from being prosecuted in adult court

The act adds a conforming reference to the statute that generally prohibits children from being prosecuted in adult court (the regular criminal docket) to reflect an exception in existing law that allows children to be tried in adult court when the case involves a serious homicide, firearm, or sexual offender prosecution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 9 — SENTENCING HEARING TRANSCRIPTS

Eliminates the requirement that prosecutors request certain sentencing hearing transcripts on the record

Existing law requires prosecutors to request transcripts of sentencing hearings for cases with a definite, non-suspended sentence of at least two years. The act eliminates the requirement that the request be made on the record. This conforms to judicial branch practice, which requires all attorneys, unless exempt from the branch's electronic services requirements, to use the branch's online transcript ordering system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 10 — PEER SUPPORT TEAM LIABILITY

Immunizes (1) an employer for having a peer support program to benefit first responders and (2) a peer support team member from liability for performing peer support services

By law, communications between a first responder and a peer support team member are generally confidential. A “peer support team member” is someone who directs or staffs an employer-established peer support program for first responders. First responders include, among others, peace officers, firefighters, ambulance drivers, EMTs, and Department of Correction (DOC) employees.

The act immunizes employers from damages for setting up or maintaining a peer support program for their first responder employees. It also immunizes peer support team members from liability for their or their team’s acts, errors, or omissions made when performing peer support services for a first responder’s benefit (including deciding if it is appropriate to disclose confidential communications). However, this protection does not apply to wanton, reckless, or malicious conduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 11 — ANNUAL JUDICIAL CANDIDATE LIST REPORTING

Annually requires JSC to submit its list of incumbent judges and qualified candidates to the governor, six legislative leaders, and Judiciary Committee’s chairpersons and ranking members

By law, the Judicial Selection Commission (JSC) maintains a list of qualified candidates, including judges seeking appointment to a different court, for the governor’s consideration for nomination as a judge in the state’s Superior, Appellate, and Supreme courts. Candidates are placed on the list after an evaluation of their qualifications.

The act requires JSC, annually by January 1, to submit its list of incumbent judges and qualified candidates to the governor, six legislative leaders (Senate president pro tempore, House speaker, and House and Senate majority and minority leaders), and Judiciary Committee’s chairpersons and ranking members. Under the act, this list is confidential and not open to the public or subject to disclosure.

§§ 12 & 13 — PRETRIAL DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES AND CERTAIN VETERANS

Requires program applicants who live outside of Connecticut to return to the state for mental health assessment; requires classifying program participants based on risk level for supervisory and monitoring purposes; allows, instead of requires, CSSD to consult with DMHAS to develop standards, oversee treatment programs, and contract with service providers

By law, CSSD operates a supervised diversionary program for people with psychiatric disabilities and veterans with mental health conditions who are accused of crimes that are not considered serious. A prospective participant must apply to the court to participate, and the court refers the applicant to CSSD to determine eligibility and assess the person’s mental health condition. Under the act, if the applicant lives outside of Connecticut, he or she must return to the state as CSSD requires for the mental health assessment.

Existing law allows the court to grant a person’s application to participate in the program after it confirms eligibility and considers the proposed treatment plan. Participants are supervised by a probation officer. The act, for supervision and monitoring purposes, requires the participants to be classified based on the level of risk they pose to the community, using the chief court administrator’s existing system for doing this.

For the diversionary program, prior law required CSSD to develop standards and oversee treatment programs and allowed it to contract with service providers, but all of this had to be done in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). The act instead gives CSSD discretion to consult with DMHAS for this purpose.

§ 14 — JUVENILE RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Specifically allows the court to order a risk and needs assessment of an arrested child when it has probable cause that the child committed the acts alleged

By law, a child arrested for a delinquent act must generally be brought before a Superior Court judge within five business days after their arrest. At that time, if the court finds probable cause to believe that the child committed the acts

alleged, prior law allowed it to consider whether the child should be assessed for services. The act instead allows the court to order a risk and needs assessment to determine if the child could benefit from services. The assessment generally must be confidential, as the law already requires for a child's risk or mental or behavioral health screening.

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the assessment must occur within two weeks after the child's arraignment and the child has the right to counsel at the assessment. A "risk and needs assessment" is a standardized tool that (1) helps juvenile probation officers collect and synthesize information about a child's recidivism risk and identify other factors that, if treated and changed, can reduce the likelihood of reoffending and (2) serves as a guide for intervention planning.

§ 15 — REPORT ON OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

Eliminates an annual reporting requirement for CSSD on out-of-school suspensions of children living in its residential facilities

The act removes a requirement that CSSD annually report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee on its compliance with the law that prohibits CSSD-operated facilities from giving children living at the facilities out-of-school suspensions. (In practice, CSSD does not (1) provide or contract for education services at its residential centers or programs or (2) make decisions about these suspensions.) Existing law, unchanged by the act, requires DOC to report on this same information.

§ 16 — STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS

Requires DCF, instead of the judicial branch, to inform the applicable board of education when a child is placed in a juvenile residential center

The act transfers, from the judicial branch to DCF, responsibility for notifying the local or regional board of education when a child is placed in a juvenile residential center.

By law, the written notice must go to the board that would otherwise be responsible for educating the child, or if there is not one, to the board for the school district where the juvenile residential center is located. It must have all necessary information to give the child educational services, including name and birthdate, parents' or guardians' address, and placement contact information.

Prior law required the judicial branch to send the notice within one business day after the child's placement. Under the act, DCF must send the notice immediately upon placement, aligned with its existing requirements to seek the transfer of school records for students placed in juvenile justice facilities or incarcerated.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 17 — INVALIDATING FALSE LIENS

Allows the court to discharge a falsely filed lien without a hearing

Existing law sets out a process by which a person may ask the court to invalidate a lien that is falsely filed on the municipal land records.

By law, the court must review the petition and determine if there is reason to doubt the filing's validity. Prior law required the court to have a hearing, within 60 days after finding that there is reason to doubt it, to decide if the filing should be invalidated or other relief granted.

The act allows the court to decide the matter without a hearing. It specifies that the court may base its decision on documents submitted with the petition and any responses from the person who is listed as the lienor (lien holder) on the land records. And the court does not need to hear oral testimony unless the lienor offers it.

§ 18 — JUDICIAL BRANCH OFFICIAL SEAL

Restricts making or using the judicial branch's official seal and imitations of it

The act prohibits making or using the judicial branch's official seal, including imitations of it through a reproduction, imprint, or facsimile, without OCCA's direction and approval. It also generally restricts the seal's use to purposes (1) specifically authorized by the state's constitution and statutes or (2) related to the judicial branch's official business. The act allows the chief court administrator to approve other seal reproductions for educational purposes.

By law, a similar restriction applies to using the official arms and seal of Connecticut, with the secretary of the state having the authority to direct and approve of its use.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 19 & 20 — VICTIM SERVICES

Expands the circumstances under which crime victims may be compensated for emotional harm; allows the chief court administrator to designate someone to set (1) policies and procedures to implement victim services and (2) standards to uniformly pay claims

The act makes two changes to victim services-related laws.

First, it expands the circumstances under which certain crime victims may be compensated for personal injury, including emotional harm. Under prior law, eligible “emotional harm” was a mental or emotional impairment directly attributable to a threat of physical injury or death. The act broadens it to also include mental or emotional impairment caused by intentional or knowing actions that would make a reasonable person fear for their safety. By law, compensation for emotional harm is limited to medical and mental health care and security measures, generally capped at \$5,000.

Second, prior law required the chief court administrator to prescribe any necessary policies and procedures to implement victim services and allowed her to formulate standards for uniformly paying compensation claims. The act allows her to designate someone to do these tasks.

§ 21 — SUPPORT ORDERS

Specifies that a support order ends and the parties to it are jointly liable for ongoing family expenses if the parties marry

The act specifies that in cases where the parties to a preexisting child support order marry each other, the marriage ends the order, and they are jointly liable for ongoing family support, as existing law requires of all spouses to support their family. This codifies existing practice.

§§ 22 & 23 — LAW LIBRARY REGULATIONS REPEAL

Repeals obsolete regulations for state law libraries

The act (1) repeals obsolete regulations for state law libraries and (2) requires the secretary of the state to update the official compilation of state agency regulations on the eRegulations System by October 1, 2026, to reflect the repeal.

These regulations set minimum standards for the state law libraries’ three-tier system, which PA 90-234 eliminated. That act instead requires the Connecticut Supreme Court to adopt policies and procedures for maintaining the state’s law library system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 24 & 25 — ARBITRATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Requires arbitrators to be Connecticut-licensed attorneys in good standing, unless waived by the parties in writing

When an arbitration agreement includes the method for selecting an arbitrator for a proceeding in this state, the act generally requires the selected person to be a Connecticut-licensed attorney in good standing at the time of appointment and throughout the proceeding. The parties to the agreement may waive this requirement, but it must be in writing.

If a party to the arbitration believes the appointed arbitrator does not meet this requirement, the act limits how long they have to object to within 14 days after the appointment is made. Additionally, for proceedings not conducted under the Uniform Arbitration Act, the act also sets a 14-day deadline to object to an arbitrator’s continued appointment after the parties receive actual notice in writing that the arbitrator is no longer in good standing.

Under the act, a party to a proceeding pending on July 1, 2026, may file a written objection to the arbitrator’s continued service as long as an evidentiary hearing has not begun. The Superior Court has the authority to determine whether a successor arbitrator should be appointed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 26 & 27 — ELECTRONIC NOTICE TO BAIL BOND AGENTS

Allows the court to electronically notify bail bond sureties when a bond is forfeited

By law, when the court orders a bond forfeited due to an arrestee's failure to appear in court as required, it must notify the bond's surety, including an insurer, about the forfeiture. The act allows this notice to be sent electronically, instead of only in writing, and makes conforming changes to the law requiring the return of certain collateral security or other indemnity after a bond terminates.

§ 28 — BOATING FINE REMITTANCE TO LAKE AUTHORITIES

Requires the state to remit all fines issued by lake authorities for boating law violations to the authority that issued the fine

The act implements existing law's requirement that multi-town lake authorities receive revenue from the fines they issue for violations of state boating laws. Under existing law, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) must establish a schedule of retention fees that the authorities may keep. (DEEP's retention schedule for these fees has 100% of the boating fines being remitted to the issuing lake authorities.)

Specifically, the act requires the state to remit the fines collected from boating law violators to the lake authority that issued the fine. The Superior Court clerk or the chief court administrator (or an official she designates) must certify to the comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter to each lake authority served by the clerk or official. The certifications must be made quarterly by the 30th day of January, April, July, and October.

§ 29 — JUDICIAL MARSHAL APPLICANT SUITABILITY

Requires the judicial branch to determine the suitability of a judicial marshal applicant

Under existing law, the chief court administrator must require anyone seeking employment as a judicial marshal to have a criminal background check done by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the FBI. The act makes the judicial branch responsible for determining the applicant's suitability for employment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 30 — HABEAS CORPUS TASK FORCE REPORT DEADLINE EXTENSION

Extends, by one year, the deadline for the habeas corpus procedures task force to submit its report to the Judiciary Committee

The act extends by one year, from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2028, the deadline for the habeas corpus procedures task force to submit its report to the Judiciary Committee. By law, this task force must (1) review the habeas corpus procedures the federal government and other states use and (2) make recommendations that include best practices to, among other things, ensure timely review and adjudication of claims and set standards for repeated claims.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 31 — OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY: PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS

Expands the list of people who may ask OIP to take steps to have personal information removed from an agency's website to include certain federal judges who live in Connecticut

PA 25-91 created an Office of Information Privacy (OIP) within the judicial branch and authorized it to direct a public agency, at the request of a "protected individual," to remove any specific personal information (home address or phone number, personal email address, or driver's license numbers, for example) from the agency's website, social media, or a social network, or not to publish it.

Previously, the individuals who could ask OIP for this action included state justices, judges, and senior judges; state referees; family support magistrates and family support referees; and their spouse, children, and dependents living in the same household. The act adds the following federal judges who are Connecticut residents, and the same category of household family members, to the list: district judges, court of appeals judges, bankruptcy judges, and magistrate judges.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 32 — INMATE TRUST FUND ACCOUNT BALANCE DISBURSEMENT

Requires DOC to disburse the remaining balance in a person's Inmate Trust Fund account upon the person's release or by mail within two weeks after the release if it did not have at least two weeks' notice of the release date

The act requires DOC to disburse the remaining balance in a person's Inmate Trust Fund account to the person upon their release and allows it to do so by cash, a check, or a prepaid device (a card, code, or other means of access to a consumer's account held by a financial institution or other financial service provider). But DOC may only disburse funds by a prepaid device if it offers at least one alternative option of receiving the funds (cash or check). If DOC disburses funds by a prepaid device, the act prohibits it and the prepaid device issuer from charging the formerly incarcerated person a fee or causing a fee to be charged.

In situations where DOC cannot make the disbursement upon a person's release because it was not told about the release date at least two weeks beforehand, DOC must ask the person for a mailing address before, or at the time of, their release and mail the disbursement to them. The mailing must occur within two weeks after the person's release by U.S. mail to the provided address.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-95—sSB 508

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF AN OPERATOR'S LICENSE FOR REPEATEDLY FAILING TO STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS

SUMMARY: This act requires the motor vehicles commissioner, without a hearing, to issue a six-month suspension of the driver's license or operating privilege of someone who, for the third or subsequent time, violates the law on failing to stop for a school bus. Specifically, this applies if the person is convicted, forfeited a bond taken, or received a suspended judgment or sentence for the violation.

By law, drivers generally must (1) stop their vehicles at least 10 feet from the front or rear of a school bus that is displaying its flashing red signal lights and (2) stay there until the bus no longer displays them. Violators of this law face a (1) \$450 fine for the first offense and (2) fine of \$500 to \$1,000, up to 30 days in prison, or both, for a subsequent offense (CGS § 14-279).

A separate law authorizes municipalities to (1) adopt ordinances for using camera systems to enforce this law and (2) set a \$250 fine for violations, separate from the state law penalties (CGS § 14-279c). The act does not apply to violations of these ordinances.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-96—sSB 509

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING ADDRESS VERIFICATION REFORMS FOR REGISTRANTS

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to sex offender registration laws, including those related to registration violations and address verification.

First, the act creates an affirmative defense for when circumstances beyond the person's control generally prevent him or her from complying with registration requirements.

The act changes the address verification requirements by, among other things, (1) requiring registrants to submit proof of residency to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) within a specified time frame, (2) allowing the verification form to be returned in person, (3) specifying the documents that may be used for this purpose, and (4) requiring DESPP to mail the verification form to registrants who do not submit proof of residency.

The act also modifies the types of "sexually violent offenses" subject to the sex offender registry law as it relates to 3rd degree sexual assault. Specifically, it excludes engaging in sexual intercourse with certain relatives and instead includes subjecting a person to sexual contact when the person is mentally incapacitated or impaired due to mental disability or

disease and unable to consent (§ 1).

Lastly, the act makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE FOR VIOLATING REGISTRATION LAW

By law, certain offenders must register as sex offenders for a specified period, and they generally must do so within three days after release, as directed by the Department of Correction commissioner if still in her custody, or without undue delay after moving to Connecticut (see BACKGROUND). By law, these offenders:

1. must register their name, identifying factors (including a photograph and fingerprints), criminal history record, residential address, and email and instant message addresses and other similar Internet communication identifiers, and
2. are subject to (a) address verification (see below) and the retaking of photographs and (b) the notification provisions that apply to victims and certain students and employees.

For those prosecuted for failure to comply with the registration requirements, the act creates an affirmative defense that:

1. circumstances beyond the person's control prevented him or her from complying,
2. the person played no part in creating the circumstances, and
3. the person became compliant within 20 business days after the circumstances no longer existed.

By law, unchanged by the act, a violation of the sex offender registration requirements is generally a class D felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

ADDRESS VERIFICATION

Proof of Residency

Prior law generally required DESPP to verify each registrant's residential address every 90 days after his or her initial registration by mailing a non-forwardable verification form ("address verification form" under the act) to the registrant's last reported address.

The act instead requires (1) registrants to submit proof of residency by mail, fax, email, or in person to DESPP within at least 75 days, but no more than 90 days, after the initial registration date and (2) DESPP to mail the address verification form only to the registrants who fail to submit the proof of residency within this time frame. It applies these same requirements to subsequent address verifications which, by law, are required every 90 days.

Documents That Prove Residency

Under the act, DESPP must accept any of the following documents as proof of residency, if they contain the registrant's residence address and are dated within 30 days before their submission to the department:

1. a utility bill, such as for electricity, gas, water, or Internet service;
2. a financial statement, such as a bank or credit card statement;
3. a homeowner's, renter's, or motor vehicle insurance bill or statement;
4. official correspondence from a state or federal government agency; and
5. any other document the department deems sufficient for this purpose.

As under existing law, if the registrant lives at an address with no residential mail delivery, the local police department or state police troop in whose jurisdiction the registrant resides must verify the registrant's residential address in person.

Address Verification Form

Form Return Method and Deadline. Under prior law, the address verification form required the registrant to (1) sign a statement that he or she continues to live at the last reported address and (2) return the form by fax, email, or mail by 10 days after the form's mailing date. The act (1) gives the registrant the added option to return the form in person and (2) specifies that the 10-day deadline is measured from the form's postmark date.

Form Content. Prior law required that the form have a statement that failure to return it or giving false information is a violation of the applicable sex offender registration requirement. The act additionally requires the form to have a statement in bold (1) explaining that it may be returned to the department by mail, fax, email, or in person and (2) showing the respective addresses and fax number for its return.

Failure to Return Form or Provide Proof of Residency

Under existing law, if a registrant fails to return the address verification form, DESPP must notify the local or appropriate state police troop, and that agency must, in turn, apply for an arrest warrant. The act specifies that DESPP and the police must take these actions if the registrant fails to return an address verification form or submit proof of residency as described above.

BACKGROUND*Sex Offender Required Registration*

Connecticut law recognizes the following four categories of sex crimes for sex offender registration purposes: criminal offenses against minor victims, non-violent sexual offenses, sexually violent offenses, and felonies committed for sexual purposes. Those convicted of crimes in the first three categories must register as sex offenders; courts may require registration of those in the fourth. The law also requires registration for people convicted of a sexual offense in another jurisdiction. Registration is with DESPP, which maintains an online, searchable registry.

PA 26-117—SB 391*Judiciary Committee***AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF BREAST CANCER SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR WOMEN COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

SUMMARY: This act authorizes the Department of Correction (DOC) to arrange for breast cancer screening, diagnostic, and treatment services for women in DOC custody to occur at licensed health care institutions that are closer to the correctional facility than is the UConn Health Center. (York Correctional Institution in Niantic is currently the state's only correctional institution for female offenders.)

The act also allows DOC, if it cannot provide on-site mammograms, to arrange for them at licensed health care institutions that are closer than UConn Health Center.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

BACKGROUND*Related Act*

PA 26-40, as amended by PA 26-130, §§ 6, 7 & 17, makes several changes related to DOC's delivery of health care services, staffing, and related matters, such as creating a pilot program to help with discharge planning and related care coordination for people being released from York Correctional Institution.

PA 26-119—sSB 483*Judiciary Committee***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF DIGITAL DEFRAUDING**

SUMMARY: This act makes someone guilty of larceny if they, with intent to financially injure someone else, make and disseminate a visual representation or audio recording that they know or should have known is a digitally forged likeness. The act refers to this form of larceny as "digital defrauding." By law, the penalty for larceny depends on the value of the property taken, generally ranging from a class C misdemeanor when the property value is up to \$500, to a class B felony when the property value exceeds \$20,000 (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

Under the act, a "digitally forged likeness" is visual representation (like a photo, film, or videotape) or an audio recording, created without consent from the person whose image or voice is included, that is (1) not entirely recorded by a camera or audio recorder or (2) generated, at least in part, by a computer system. It appears the same as what a reasonable person would think is the actual image or sound of the person involved.

Under the act, a defendant to this larceny crime has an affirmative defense if they took reasonable steps to inform viewers or listeners that the representation or recording is a digitally forged likeness. (In general, an affirmative defense allows a defendant to introduce evidence, which, if found to be credible, will negate the defendant's liability, even if the defendant committed the alleged acts.)

Lastly, the act specifies that it does not make interactive computer, information, or telecommunication services providers liable for creating content at someone's request or disseminating content from someone unless they knew that doing so violated the act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-120—SB 484

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING DISTRACTED DRIVING AND THE SAFE OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN A HIGHWAY WORK ZONE

SUMMARY: This act makes it a per se (by its very nature) reckless driving violation to drive in a highway work zone while engaged in any activity prohibited under the state's distracted driving law.

Existing law prohibits driving recklessly for the surroundings and conditions (such as road layout or weather) and specifies certain circumstances that constitute reckless driving per se, including driving faster than 85 mph. The act expands these per se reckless driving violations to include driving a motor vehicle in a highway work zone while engaging in any activity prohibited under the state's distracted driving law.

Under the act, a person cannot be prosecuted for both a reckless driving violation and distracted driving violation for the same offense. By law, distracted driving violations are processed by the Centralized Infractions Bureau and fines may be paid by mail or online; reckless driving is an unclassified misdemeanor, subject to a fine, up to 30 days (first violation) or up to 364 days (subsequent violations) imprisonment, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Related Act

PA 26-63, §§ 31-34, revises and updates the state's distracted driving law, including explicitly prohibiting driving while (1) a video or moving image is visible to the driver on an installed screen or similar device, with certain exceptions and (2) holding or supporting a mobile electronic device with any part of the body.

PA 26-130—HB 5563

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROPOSALS, CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL FOR AIRPORTS, HELIPORTS, VERTIPOINTS, RESTRICTED LANDING AREAS AND OTHER AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES, POLICE COLLABORATION WITH SOCIAL WORKERS, SURVEILLANCE PRICING, EDUCATION COST SHARING AND WITHHOLDING OF TAXES FROM LUMP SUM PAYMENTS

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[§ 1 — ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT](#)

Expands the crime of organized retail theft by lengthening the time period, from 180 to 365 days, within which the \$2,000 threshold element of the crime must be reached; specifies that a person is guilty of being an accessory to organized retail theft by using certain online and electronic tools to receive, control, and dispose of the stolen property

§ 2 — NEW FORMS OF LARCENY: FOSTERING THE SALE OF STOLEN PROPERTY AND GIFT CARD CRIME

Establishes two new crimes as forms of larceny: (1) fostering the sale of stolen property and (2) gift card crimes, such as altering or tampering with a gift card

§ 3 — LIABILITY FOR SHOPLIFTING

Increases the maximum civil liability for punitive damages, from \$300 to \$1,000, for shoplifting certain goods or merchandise from a store or agricultural produce from real property; in cases where the plaintiff loses, eliminates the court's ability to award defendants up to \$300 in damages

§ 4 — ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARENTAGE

Adds an authorized DCF representative to the list of people and entities that DPH may give information to about an acknowledgement of parentage

§ 5 — REGISTRATION FOR CERTAIN AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES

Establishes a statutory registration process for smaller air navigation facilities; makes it a class C misdemeanor to operate these facilities in violation of the registration requirement and applies this penalty to existing law's prohibition on operating a larger facility without CAA first approving and licensing it; increases the air navigation facility licensure or renewal fee from \$150 to \$300

§ 6 — DOC INTAKE PROCEDURES AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Makes minor, clarifying changes to provisions in PA 26-40 on DOC's required actions after accepting prescription medications at a person's intake

§ 7 — DOC DISCHARGE PLANNING AND CARE COORDINATION PILOT

Moves up the start date of a DOC pilot program on discharge planning and care coordination at York Correctional Institution

§ 8 — POST-CONVICTION DNA TESTING

Expands the timeframe in which people sentenced to prison may file post-conviction petitions for DNA testing of evidence and explicitly allows petition denials to be appealed

§ 9 — VICTIM STATEMENT AND NOTIFICATION

Requires the court, before any proceeding to dismiss or nolle certain sexual and family violence-related charges, to allow the crime victim to state their opinion about the charge; requires victims to give a state's attorney their contact information to be notified of the hearing

§ 10 — ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON POLICE OFFICER COLLABORATION WITH SOCIAL WORKERS

Requires POST to expand its guidance on police officer collaboration with social workers to include (1) the potential impact of this collaboration and (2) instances where it may or may not be feasible

§§ 11 & 19 — SURVEILLANCE PRICING

Expands the prohibition under PA 26-64, § 11, as amended by PA 26-100, § 44, to include all retail transactions, not just in-person ones

§§ 12-16 — LOCAL BUDGET AND TAX ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO INCREASED AID

Adds certain conditions to municipalities' and regional school boards' ability to amend their adopted budgets and adjust tax levies if they receive more state aid for FY 27 than projected; eliminates the prohibition on using the supplemental state aid to supplant local funding; and excludes Bridgeport from these provisions

§ 17 — CORRECTION OMBUDS REPORTING ON DECISIONS NOT TO INVESTIGATE

Requires the correction ombuds to annually report on how many complaints he chose not to investigate with a summary of the reason why for each one

§ 18 — INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING FOR CERTAIN RETIREMENT INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS

Extends, by one year, the suspension of the income tax withholding requirement on lump sum distributions from pensions, annuities, and other specified sources

SUMMARY: This act makes changes to laws on retail theft and larceny, acknowledgement of parentage, navigation facility oversight, correctional institution prescription medication procedures, a corrections pilot program on discharge planning and care coordination, post-conviction DNA testing, crime victim statements, guidance for law enforcement on working with social workers, surveillance pricing, municipal budgeting for education, correction ombuds reporting, and income tax withholding. The changes are described in the following section-by-section analysis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various; see below.

§ 1 — ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT

Expands the crime of organized retail theft by lengthening the time period, from 180 to 365 days, within which the \$2,000 threshold element of the crime must be reached; specifies that a person is guilty of being an accessory to organized retail theft by using certain online and electronic tools to receive, control, and dispose of the stolen property

By law, a person commits organized retail theft when, for financial gain, he or she works with at least one other person to shoplift retail property that has an aggregate value of more than \$2,000 and (1) does it within a specified time frame or (2) sells, delivers, or otherwise transfers it to a retail property fence. A fence is someone who buys retail property that he or she knows or should know is stolen with the intent to unlawfully distribute it or to promote, manage, carry on, or facilitate organized retail theft.

The act lengthens, from 180 to 365 days, the time period within which the person who shoplifts the property is guilty of this crime.

Under existing law, a person is an accessory to organized retail theft if he or she receives, possesses, conceals, stores, barter, sells, or otherwise disposes of the stolen property intending to (1) distribute the proceeds or (2) promote, manage, carry on, or facilitate organized retail theft. The act specifies this includes doing so through an online platform, Internet website, or electronic device.

By law, organized retail theft and accessory to organized theft are both class D felonies (see [Table on Penalties](#)). But if the financial benefit is \$10,000 or more, then it is a class C felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 2 — NEW FORMS OF LARCENY: FOSTERING THE SALE OF STOLEN PROPERTY AND GIFT CARD CRIME

Establishes two new crimes as forms of larceny: (1) fostering the sale of stolen property and (2) gift card crimes, such as altering or tampering with a gift card

The act establishes the following two new crimes as forms of larceny (see *Background — Larceny*): (1) fostering the sale of stolen property and (2) gift card crimes, such as altering or tampering with a gift card.

Under the act, a person is guilty of “fostering the sale of stolen property” when he or she (1) hosts, advertises, or otherwise helps sell stolen property, including through an online platform, and (2) knows or believes that the property was stolen. This crime does not apply if the property is received, retained, or disposed of in order to give it back to the owner.

For a “a gift card crime,” a person is guilty under the act when, with intent to defraud, the person:

1. acquires or keeps a gift card or gift card redemption information without the consent of the cardholder or the gift card’s issuer or seller;
2. alters or tampers with a gift card or its packaging; or
3. devises a scheme to get a gift card or gift card information from a cardholder or gift card issuer or seller by false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises.

For this purpose, gift cards are physical or digital, closed-loop or open-loop gift cards that are activated or inactivated. Closed-loop gift cards are cards, codes, or devices on which consumers prepay a specified amount, but can only redeem at

the specific merchant or group of affiliated merchants who issued it. Open-loop gift cards are redeemable at multiple unaffiliated merchants within a payment card network (Visa, for example).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Larceny

By law, the punishment for larceny depends on the value of the property taken, generally ranging from a class C misdemeanor (see [Table on Penalties](#)) when the property value is up to \$500, to a class B felony (see [Table on Penalties](#)) when the property value exceeds \$20,000 (CGS §§ 53a-122 to -125b).

§ 3 — LIABILITY FOR SHOPLIFTING

Increases the maximum civil liability for punitive damages, from \$300 to \$1,000, for shoplifting certain goods or merchandise from a store or agricultural produce from real property; in cases where the plaintiff loses, eliminates the court's ability to award defendants up to \$300 in damages

The act increases the maximum civil liability for punitive damages, from \$300 to \$1,000, for an adult or emancipated minor who shoplifts, without the owner's consent and with the intent of not paying for them or altering their price, (1) goods or merchandise a store displays or (2) certain agricultural produce. As under existing law, the person taking the goods or merchandise is also liable for the actual and reasonable costs of (1) maintaining the civil action, including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees, and (2) the retail value of the goods, merchandise, or produce taken. Additionally, a larceny criminal conviction is not needed to maintain this civil action, but all actions must be brought within two years of the initial complaint. The act also eliminates the court's ability to award damages of up to \$300 to the defendant if the plaintiff loses. But as under existing law, the court may award the defendant costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 4 — ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARENTAGE

Adds an authorized DCF representative to the list of people and entities that DPH may give information to about an acknowledgement of parentage

The act adds an authorized Department of Children and Families (DCF) representative to the existing list of people and entities that the Department of Public Health (DPH) may give information to about an acknowledgement of parentage. But the information may only be given when it is requested for work on a matter pending in Superior Court for juvenile matters and the child's parentage is outstanding. (PA 26-26, § 21, also allows an authorized DCF representative to receive this information, but without the limitation.)

By law, DPH keeps a parentage registry of completed acknowledgement of parentage forms. By law, this information may also be released to a court, a federal agency, an authorized representative of the Department of Social Services, or a child support agency, among others.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 5 — REGISTRATION FOR CERTAIN AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES

Establishes a statutory registration process for smaller air navigation facilities; makes it a class C misdemeanor to operate these facilities in violation of the registration requirement and applies this penalty to existing law's prohibition on operating a larger facility without CAA first approving and licensing it; increases the air navigation facility licensure or renewal fee from \$150 to \$300

The act establishes a statutory registration process for smaller air navigation facilities by:

1. specifying that existing law's licensing requirements for airports, heliports, vertiports, restricted landing areas, and other air navigation facilities only apply to those where more than 36 combined aircraft landings and takeoffs are expected in any year (see *Background — Air Navigation Facility Licensing*);
2. explicitly authorizing the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) to register (and renew registrations for) facilities below this landings-takeoffs threshold; and
3. requiring that these facilities be registered with CAA before they are used or operated.

The act sets a \$100 registration or renewal fee for these smaller facilities and makes registrations effective for three years. Under the act, municipally owned or operated airports are not subject to registration fees. The act requires registrants to certify, on a CAA-provided form, that (1) the facility will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations during the registration period and (2) there will be 36 or fewer combined aircraft landings and takeoffs at the facility in any year during the registration period.

Under the act, it is a class C misdemeanor to operate a facility in violation of the registration requirement (see [Table on Penalties](#)). The act also applies this penalty to existing law's prohibition on operating a facility (that is above the landings-takeoffs threshold) without CAA first approving and licensing it. (As under existing law, these provisions do not apply to federally owned facilities.)

Additionally, beginning October 1, 2026, the act increases the air navigation facility licensure or renewal fee (for facilities above the landings-takeoffs threshold) from \$150 to \$300. As under existing law, licenses are effective for three years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Air Navigation Facility Licensing

Under existing law, any proposed air navigation facility (for example, airports and heliports) where more than 36 combined aircraft landings and takeoffs are expected in any year must be approved by CAA before the authority licenses it according to specified criteria demonstrating the facility will provide or currently provides for safe aircraft operations. In practice, facilities below this threshold have voluntarily registered with CAA.

§ 6 — DOC INTAKE PROCEDURES AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Makes minor, clarifying changes to provisions in PA 26-40 on DOC's required actions after accepting prescription medications at a person's intake

PA 26-40, § 2 sets medication-related procedures that the Department of Correction (DOC) must follow during someone's intake to a correctional institution. Under that act, if the person has prescription medication in their possession, DOC must accept that medication to be stored and administered by appropriate department staff as prescribed.

This act specifies that DOC must accept, store, and possibly administer this medication (as prescribed), in line with the department's written policies and procedures to ensure patient safety.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 7 — DOC DISCHARGE PLANNING AND CARE COORDINATION PILOT

Moves up the start date of a DOC pilot program on discharge planning and care coordination at York Correctional Institution

PA 26-40, § 8, requires DOC and certain other agencies, within available appropriations, to begin a pilot program by October 1, 2027, to help with discharge planning and care coordination for people being released from York Correctional Institution.

This act moves up by one year the deadline for the agencies to begin the program, setting it at October 1, 2026. It correspondingly advances by one year the due date for the first required program report, making it now due January 15, 2028.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 8 — POST-CONVICTION DNA TESTING

Expands the timeframe in which people sentenced to prison may file post-conviction petitions for DNA testing of evidence and explicitly allows petition denials to be appealed

By law, anyone convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison may file a petition with the sentencing court requesting DNA testing of evidence (see *Background — Post-Conviction DNA Testing*). The act eliminates the requirement that these petitions be filed only while the person is incarcerated, also allowing them while the person is on probation or parole or otherwise under correctional jurisdiction or supervision after the prison term ends.

The act also codifies existing practice by specifying that the denial of this kind of petition is a final judgment that can be appealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Post-Conviction DNA Testing

By law, a sentenced defendant can file a petition requesting DNA testing of evidence that is in the possession or control of the Division of Criminal Justice, a law enforcement agency, a laboratory, or the Superior Court. The petitioner must state under penalties of perjury that the testing is related to the underlying investigation or prosecution and that the evidence they want tested contains biological evidence.

The court must notify the prosecutor and hold a hearing. If it finds, among other things, that the evidence still exists and can be tested, the court:

1. must order testing if a reasonable probability exists that the petitioner would not have been prosecuted or convicted if exculpatory results (evidence raising doubt about the defendant's guilt) had been obtained through DNA testing and
2. may order testing if a reasonable probability exists that it will produce DNA results that would have altered the verdict or reduced the petitioner's sentence.

§ 9 — VICTIM STATEMENT AND NOTIFICATION

Requires the court, before any proceeding to dismiss or nolle certain sexual and family violence-related charges, to allow the crime victim to state their opinion about the charge; requires victims to give a state's attorney their contact information to be notified of the hearing

Victim Statement

Similar to what existing law requires for cases involving plea agreements, the act requires a court, before any proceeding to dismiss or nolle (the prosecutor chooses not to prosecute) a charge against the defendant for any of the offenses below, to allow the crime victim to state on the record his or her opinion about the charge being dismissed or nolle. As under existing law for this victim statement-related provision, a "victim" is a person who is a crime victim, his or her legal representative, a deceased victim's immediate family member, or a decision maker designated by a deceased victim, with certain rights and obligations under the law.

Under the act, the court must allow the victim to make a statement related to the following offenses:

1. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th degree sexual assault; 1st degree aggravated sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault of a minor; commercial sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a minor; incest; or impairing the morals of a child through sexual contact or transferring or receiving the custody of a child for payment;
2. 1st degree promotion of prostitution, enticing a minor or misrepresenting age to entice a minor, or human trafficking;
3. voyeurism, obscenity as to a minor, using or promoting a minor in an obscene performance, or harmful communication with a minor;
4. unlawful dissemination of an intimate image; importing child sexual abuse material; 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree possession of child sexual abuse material; possessing or transmitting child sexual abuse material by a minor; or
5. any other offense that is (a) a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent offense (these add a few crimes to those already listed, plus attempt, conspiracy, and accomplice liability for certain crimes) or (b) designated as a family violence crime (generally any crime that includes an element of family violence or violation of protective orders related to family violence).

Victim Notification

Existing law allows all crime victims to make a statement for the record before sentencing and on any plea agreement before its acceptance by the court. Previously, if the victim wished to make or submit a statement, he or she had to give a stamped, self-addressed postcard for the notification, in compliance with the state's attorney's request. The act instead requires the victim to give the state's attorney, assistant state's attorney, or deputy assistant state's attorney up-to-date contact information to be notified of the hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 10 — ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON POLICE OFFICER COLLABORATION WITH SOCIAL WORKERS

Requires POST to expand its guidance on police officer collaboration with social workers to include (1) the potential impact of this collaboration and (2) instances where it may or may not be feasible

The act requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to add to its guidance to law enforcement units on police officer collaboration with social workers. (This guidance is currently published as part of POST General Notice 25-01.) Beginning October 1, 2026, the guidance must include (1) the potential impact of this collaboration and (2) instances where it may or may not be feasible, including when a social worker may respond to a call for assistance or accompany a police officer on certain calls for assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 11 & 19 — SURVEILLANCE PRICING

Expands the prohibition under PA 26-64, § 11, as amended by PA 26-100, § 44, to include all retail transactions, not just in-person ones

PA 26-64, § 11, as amended by PA 26-100, § 44, generally prohibits the use of surveillance pricing by third-party delivery services and retailers making in-person sales of tangible personal property. This act replaces those provisions with identical provisions except it expands the prohibition by eliminating the “in-person” limitation, applying it to all retail sales of tangible personal property.

Additionally, the act delays the effective date from February 1, 2027, to July 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, except the repeal of provisions in PA 26-100, § 44, is effective upon passage.

§§ 12-16 — LOCAL BUDGET AND TAX ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO INCREASED AID

Adds certain conditions to municipalities' and regional school boards' ability to amend their adopted budgets and adjust tax levies if they receive more state aid for FY 27 than projected; eliminates the prohibition on using the supplemental state aid to supplant local funding; and excludes Bridgeport from these provisions

Conditions for Modifying Budgets (§§ 12 & 15)

The act modifies a provision in PA 26-68, § 178, to place additional constraints on certain towns' and regional school boards' ability to change their budgets and tax levies if the state's budget provides more state aid than the board or municipality had projected. It also creates a second, similar mechanism to allow towns and boards who increased their local share of education funding from FY 26 to FY 27 to modify their adopted budgets or tax levies.

PA 26-68, § 178, allows municipalities (by vote of their legislative body or selectmen) and school boards to (1) amend their budget, in an amount not exceeding the increase in state aid to the board or municipality, and (2) by July 1, 2026, adjust tax levies and any remaining tax installments. The act amends this by prohibiting these local budget amendments from reducing the funding the municipality provided for education below the greater of the (1) amount of local funding provided for education in the original budget or (2) town or region's FY 27 minimum budget requirement for education plus the amount of supplemental education funds provided to the town or region in PA 26-68, §§ 391 & 394. Generally, the minimum budget requirement law prohibits a town or regional board from decreasing its education budget from one year to the next, with limited exceptions.

The act adds a second option to amend local budgets that (1) applies to any town or regional school board that increased its local share in its FY 27 education budget and (2) unlike the method provided under PA 26-68, does not set a July 1, 2026, deadline to adjust tax levies. A town or board that increased its local share for its FY 27 budget over the previous year can adjust its adopted budget or tax levies to reduce the local share for FY 27. However, the resulting local share may not be less than the greater of (1) the amount of education funding in the town or region's adopted budget or (2) its FY 26 education budget amount plus the supplemental education funding provided in PA 26-68, §§ 391 & 394.

Repealing the Nonsupplant Provisions (§§ 13 & 14)

Generally state education aid to towns, such as the Education Cost Sharing grant, comes with the requirement that the state dollars cannot be used to replace (supplant) local tax dollars that would have supported education. In PA 26-68, the

supplemental education funding for towns included a provision preventing the funds from being used to supplant local dollars. This act eliminates this provision.

Bridgeport Exclusion (§ 16)

The act excludes Bridgeport from the provisions that (1) place constraints on the provisions of PA 26-68, § 178, that allow towns and regional boards of education to modify their budgets; (2) create a second mechanism to allow towns to modify their education budgets; (3) exempt the supplemental funds from a town's minimum budget requirement; and (4) repeal the nonsupplant requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 17 — CORRECTION OMBUDS REPORTING ON DECISIONS NOT TO INVESTIGATE

Requires the correction ombuds to annually report on how many complaints he chose not to investigate with a summary of the reason why for each one

By law, the correction ombuds can choose not to investigate a complaint if he determines that the investigation is unwarranted and, in that case, he must inform the complainant of his determination in writing. PA 26-40, § 1, requires these complaints and decisions not to investigate to be confidential and exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

This act requires the ombuds, starting by December 31, 2026, to annually report to the Judiciary Committee on the number of complaints for which he determined an investigation was unwarranted, with a summary of the reason why in each case. The act specifies that this report is a public record under FOIA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 18 — INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING FOR CERTAIN RETIREMENT INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS

Extends, by one year, the suspension of the income tax withholding requirement on lump sum distributions from pensions, annuities, and other specified sources

Prior law suspended the income tax withholding requirement on lump sum distributions from pensions, annuities, and other specified sources from July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. The act extends this suspension through December 31, 2027. As under existing law, payers (for example, retirement plan servicers) must still withhold taxes from these distributions if the payee has requested it.

By law, a "lump sum distribution" is a payment greater than \$5,000 or more than 50% of the payee's entire account balance, whichever is less, excluding any other tax withholding and any administrative charges and fees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-12—sHB 5003

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE STATE

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[§§ 1 & 75 — ENHANCED WORKERS’ COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND TEACHERS ASSAULTED AT WORK](#)

Allows certain teachers, health care providers, and related employees to receive enhanced workers’ compensation benefits if they are unable to work due to being assaulted at work

[§ 2 — DISCLOSURE OF WAGE RANGES AND BENEFITS IN PUBLIC AND INTERNAL JOB ADVERTISEMENTS](#)

Requires an employer to include a position’s wage or wage range, and a general description of the position’s benefits, in public and internal job advertisements; removes a court’s ability to award punitive damages against employers in wage disclosure violation cases

[§ 3 — PATIENT VIOLENCE REPORTING WORKING GROUP](#)

Establishes a working group to study implementing a system (1) for certain health care providers to report incidents of patient violence to the statewide health information exchange and (2) to notify these providers about patients with a documented history of these incidents

[§ 4 — EMPLOYMENT PROMISSORY NOTES](#)

Brings all employers under a law that generally prohibits requiring employees to sign an agreement that requires the employee to repay the employer if he or she does not stay at the job for a certain duration

[§ 5 — SUB-MINIMUM WAGE TASK FORCE](#)

Creates a task force to study additional services, funding, and benefits that may support people with disabilities who earn less than the minimum wage

[§ 6 — MINIMUM WAGE AT CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS](#)

Prohibits the labor commissioner from counting tips as part of the state’s minimum wage requirement for employees of cannabis establishments, dispensaries, or producers

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Sets a standard of review for when a tenured public school teacher is terminated; changes who makes the final decision when a tenured teacher is under consideration for termination and requests a hearing; changes the court’s review standards for appeals of tenured teacher termination decisions

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Requires entities that take over certain service contracts at covered locations, contract out services, or receive property in a sale or transfer to retain the terminated contractor’s employees for at least 90 days; establishes steps for the entities to extend offers of continued employment; permits workforce reductions in certain situations; and permits displaced or terminated employees to file a complaint with the labor commissioner or sue in court for damages

§ 10 — EXPANSION OF THE FALLEN HERO FUND

Allows surviving family members of state correction officers and investigators killed in the line of duty to receive benefits from the Fallen Hero Fund

§ 11 — NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPTROLLER'S HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP PLANS

Requires nonstate public employers to provide partnership plan coverage to survivors of certain unpaid volunteer firefighters; requires nonstate public employers to apply for partnership plan coverage regardless of whether the first responder or unpaid volunteer firefighter was an employee at their time of death

§ 12 — STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN COVERAGE FOR SURVIVORS OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, STATE MARSHALS, CORRECTION OFFICERS, AND INVESTIGATORS

Generally allows the surviving spouse and dependent children of state marshals, correction officers, investigators, or unpaid volunteer firefighters who died performing their duties to participate in the state employee health insurance plan

§ 13 — PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER PAYROLL DEDUCTION OF UNION DUES

Allows union dues or service fees to be paid through payroll deduction at the teacher's choice, rather than required, under their CBAs

§ 14 — CRISIS INITIATIVE EXPANSION

Expands the CRISIS Initiative throughout Connecticut

§ 15 — DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN FOR NON-CMERS MUNICIPALITIES

Allows municipalities that do not participate in CMERS to create a deferred retirement option plan for their employees

§ 16 — DIRECT CARE SERVICES EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO VIRTUAL MONITORING EVIDENCE

Generally allows employees in programs administered by DDS and DSS to access evidence from virtual monitoring if it will be used in a disciplinary action against the employees and they meet certain conditions

§ 17 — PCA FISCAL INTERMEDIARY REPORTS

Requires DSS to file quarterly reports on the fiscal intermediary that provides payroll and other services for DSS's self-directed home care programs

§§ 18-24 — CRANES AND HOISTING EQUIPMENT

Expands the size of the Examining Board for Crane Operators, eliminates licensure and registration exemptions for people engaged in arboriculture, and changes the investigative and enforcement authority of the board and DAS

§ 25 — RESC AND CTECS REPORTS ON WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS

Requires each RESC and the CTECS executive director to annually report on their high school work-based learning programs

§ 26 — PRIVATE SECTOR EDUCATOR EXTERNSHIPS

Requires the creation of a pilot program for educator externships with private sector employers to align classroom instruction with current industry standards and workforce needs

§ 27 — REGIONAL WORKFORCE NAVIGATOR

Requires each of the state's regional workforce development boards to include a regional workforce navigator to help connect people in adult education programs with workforce opportunities

§ 28 — TRAINING ON ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Requires the (1) chief workforce officer to develop a training on adult education programs and (2) regional workforce navigators to take this training by the end of 2026

§ 29 — WORKING GROUP TO STUDY CO-INSTRUCTION TEACHING MODELS

Creates a working group to study the effectiveness and benefits of co-instruction teaching models used by public schools

§§ 30 & 31 — FEDERAL ADA INFORMATION

Requires DOL to post information about the federal ADA and how it relates to reasonable accommodations in the workplace; requires employers to give their employees written notice about this information

§ 32 — BREASTFEEDING AND EXPRESSING MILK IN THE WORKPLACE

Requires employers to provide reasonable break times for an employee to express breast milk for the employee's nursing child or to breastfeed in the workplace

§ 33 — HOSPITAL STAFFING COMMITTEES AND NURSE STAFFING PLANS

Requires the DPH commissioner to create a report on the number of times hospitals varied from the nurse staffing plans the law requires them to develop

§ 34 — CNA TRAINING PROGRAM GRANT

Requires DPH, within available appropriations, to administer a grant program for CNA training programs in the Hartford area and rural communities in the state

§ 35 — STUDY ON TECHNOLOGY USE FOR MILITARY EMPLOYMENT

Requires the DOL commissioner to study certain models that use technology to connect current and former armed forces members with prospective employers

§ 35 — DOL INFORMATIONAL WEBPAGE

Requires the DOL commissioner to update its employment information website for veterans; requires the DVA commissioner to send a periodic email newsletter to interested people

§ 36 — MILITARY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD & ANNUAL JOB FAIR

Requires the adjutant general to promote and periodically improve the Military Department's employment assistance program for current and former National Guard members; requires the Military Department to hold an annual job fair

§ 37 — LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MILITARY EMPLOYMENT

Requires the DECD commissioner to develop legislative recommendations for promoting in-state employment of current and former armed forces members

§ 38 — PAYCHECK TRANSPARENCY

Requires certain employers to create a guide for employees on pay codes for overtime and pay differentials

§ 39 — GRANTS FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMS

Creates a grant program for junior firefighter programs run by volunteer fire departments

§ 40 — MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS

Exempts minor league baseball players from state minimum wage and overtime laws

§§ 41-43 — UCONN SPECIAL POLICE FORCES AND FIRE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Requires UConn's president to establish a recruitment and retention program for the UConn special police forces and fire department and submit annual reports on it; expands the objective job-based criteria she must use to establish classifications for UConn's special police forces

§§ 44-47 — DOUBLE UTILITY POLES

Generally creates a process for public utility pole users and owners to transfer their wires and equipment from existing poles to replacement poles and then remove double utility poles

§ 48 — POSTING INFORMATION ON VETERANS' BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Requires the DOL commissioner and the chief manufacturing officer to post information about veterans' benefits and services on the DOL and the Office of Manufacturing websites

§ 49 — DAS JOB CLASSIFICATION FOR PART-TIME FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS

Requires the DAS commissioner to create a job classification for part-time fire service instructors in DESPP's Division of Fire Services Administration

§ 50 — STUDY OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER HEALTH INSURANCE

Requires the state comptroller to study health insurance coverage for retired police officers and firefighters in the state

§ 51 — "REASONABLE ASSURANCE" OF RETURNING TO WORK FOR PARAEDUCATORS

Requires school districts, before regular school sessions end, to notify DOL about which of their paraeducators have reasonable assurance of returning to work when school sessions resume

§ 52 — SCHOOL PARAEDUCATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

Adjusts paraeducator representation on the School Paraeducator Advisory Council

§ 53 — SALARIES FOR STATE POLICE AT DOT HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Requires State Police assigned to a DOT highway construction project to be paid at a rate set under a DOT-DESPP agreement instead of amounts set by the DAS commissioner

§ 54 — PREVAILING WAGE LAW

Requires employers on prevailing wage projects to keep daily attendance records of the workers on a covered project and submit them weekly to the agency overseeing the project; requires the labor commissioner, when determining the prevailing wages required on a public works project, to determine the portion that covers payments, contributions, and member benefits at the journeyman rate

§§ 55 & 56 — CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR LIABILITY FOR UNPAID WAGES

Makes certain construction contractors jointly and severally liable for any unpaid wages owed to a subcontractor's employees

§§ 57-61 — INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TRAINING AND RELATED REPORTS

Requires the UConn Board of Trustees and BOR to jointly identify the qualities and best practices of a high-quality internship program and create a syllabus for employers' online training using them; sets internship-related reporting requirements

§ 62 — MUNICIPAL TAX ABATEMENT FOR SURVIVING DOMESTIC PARTNERS OF FIRST RESPONDERS

Expands an optional municipal property tax abatement for the spouses of first responders who died in the line of duty to also cover domestic partners

§ 63 — WORKING GROUP ON TAX INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Creates a working group to review and make recommendations for tax incentives and credits for volunteer firefighters

§ 64 — LOBSTER SALES

Allows (1) food service establishments to sell consumers lobsters with sizes outside of LMA 6 minimum and maximum length requirements under certain conditions and (2) licensed seafood dealers to sell food service establishments these lobsters

§§ 65-70 & 72 — TUITION WAIVERS AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Requires (1) CT State and CSCU to waive tuition for eligible police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel (first responders); (2) CHFA to develop and administer a mortgage assistance program for these first responders; and (3) POST, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, and DPH to establish eligibility requirements for these programs

§§ 69-71 — FEE WAIVERS FOR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS

Expands the current tuition waiver for active National Guard members enrolled at CT State, CSCU, or UConn to include all mandatory fees

§ 73 — PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE

Establishes a task force to study recruitment and retention issues for public safety personnel

§ 74 — POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER CAREER PIPELINE PROGRAM

Requires the chief workforce officer to develop a plan to establish a police officer and firefighter career pipeline program

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various; see below.

§§ 1 & 75 — ENHANCED WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND TEACHERS ASSAULTED AT WORK

Allows certain teachers, health care providers, and related employees to receive enhanced workers' compensation benefits if they are unable to work due to being assaulted at work

The act allows certain teachers, health care providers, and related employees to receive enhanced workers' compensation benefits if they are unable to work (totally or partially) due to a physical or negligent assault upon them while performing their duties within the scope of their employment. (The act does not define "physical or negligent assault.") For teachers and other education employees, this replaces a similar benefit (which the act repeals) that was outside of workers' compensation.

More specifically, the act requires these teachers, health care providers, and employees to receive a workers' compensation benefit that equals 100% of their average weekly earnings as of the date of the injury (calculated using the same process that applies to other workers' compensation claimants), with no cap on the benefit amount, plus their expenses reasonably incurred for medical or other services needed due to the assault, and any lost wages due to an absence for a court appearance connected to the assault.

Under existing law unchanged by the act, an injured employee's workers' compensation benefit otherwise generally equals 75% of their after-tax average weekly earnings, subject to a cap set at the average weekly earnings of all workers in the state. It covers related medical expenses, but not other out-of-pocket expenses or lost wages for court appearances.

Under the act, a teacher, health care provider, or employee must continue to be paid their salary or contracted wage if they miss work due to an injury sustained during an assault or for a court appearance connected to the assault. However, their workers' compensation benefits may be deducted from these wages during the absence. In addition, the absence cannot be charged against their sick leave, vacation time, or personal leave.

Under prior law, repealed by the act, if a teacher, board member, or other employee of a school district or certain state institutions or agencies was assaulted while performing their duties and suffered a financial loss or expense, then the employer generally had to cover those losses and expenses. These included the person's reasonable medical or other service expenses that were not covered by insurance, workers' compensation, or another outside source. Prior law also prohibited any absence due to an assault from being charged against the teacher, member, or other employee's sick leave, vacation time, or personal leave (§ 75).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Covered Health Care Providers and Employees

Under the act, the enhanced workers' compensation benefits are available to a health care provider or other employee of a health care facility or institution. A "health care provider" is someone directly or indirectly employed by, or volunteering for, a health care facility or institution, and who (1) is involved in direct patient care or (2) has direct contact with the patient or the patient's family when (a) collecting or processing information for patient forms and records or (b) escorting or directing the patient or family on the health care employer's premises.

A "health care facility or institution" is a hospital, nursing home, rest home, home health care agency, home health aide agency, emergency medical services organization, assisted living services agency, outpatient clinic, outpatient surgical facility, community health center, urgent care facility, medical office owned or operated exclusively by certain licensed medical doctors or homeopaths, dental office, or infirmary operated by an education institution for its students, faculty, and employees. However, it does not include any state-operated facility or institution except for the UConn Health Center.

Covered Teachers and Educational Employees

The act's enhanced workers' compensation benefits are also available to any (1) member of a board of education, the State Board of Education (SBE), the Board of Regents of Higher Education (BOR), or the UConn Board of Trustees, and (2) teacher or other employee employed by those boards. The act further specifies that a "teacher" or "other employee" also includes (1) any student completing a student teaching experience under the direction of a teacher employed by (a) a local or regional board of education, (b) SBE, or (c) BOR and (2) any member of the faculty or staff of, or any student employed by, the UConn Health Center or health services.

§ 2 — DISCLOSURE OF WAGE RANGES AND BENEFITS IN PUBLIC AND INTERNAL JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

Requires an employer to include a position's wage or wage range, and a general description of the position's benefits, in public and internal job advertisements; removes a court's ability to award punitive damages against employers in wage disclosure violation cases

The act expands the wage disclosure law to require an employer to include a position's wage or wage range and a general description of the position's benefits in its public and internal job advertisements. The act defines benefits as (1) health insurance; (2) retirement; (3) fringe; (4) paid leave; and (5) any other compensation, other than wages, offered with a position.

Under the act, an employer is required to set a wage range for a position in good faith, instead of setting the range the employer anticipates relying on. In setting the range, existing law allows the employer to refer to a number of items.

The act also:

1. requires employers to give job applicants and employees this benefit information when the law requires them to give wage information (with one change on the timing of providing information, see below);
2. prohibits employers from retaliating or discriminating against a job applicant or employee for exercising their rights under the wage disclosure law, including by (a) refusing to hire or interview an applicant or (b) refusing to promote or terminating an employee (the law already prohibits adverse job actions against an employee who asks about the wages of other employees or discloses or discusses their own or other employees' wages);
3. specifies that the wage disclosure law applies to positions with duties in the state or when the duties are performed out of state but the employee reports directly to a supervisor, office, or work site in the state; and
4. makes conforming changes.

The wage disclosure law generally (1) requires employers, including the state and municipalities, to give job applicants and employees the wage range for their positions upon request and (2) prohibits employers from taking certain steps to limit their employees' ability to share information about their wages. An employer who violates the existing wage disclosure law may be found liable in a lawsuit for compensatory damages, attorney's fees and costs, and other court-awarded legal and equitable relief. The act removes a court's ability to impose punitive damages in these cases.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Disclosure to Applicants and Employees

Prior law required an employer to provide wage information (1) when an applicant requests it or (2) before making an offer to an applicant, whichever came first. The act instead requires disclosure of wage and benefit information if the information has not already been disclosed in the position's public or internal job ad, the earlier of (1) when the applicant

requests it or (2) before there is a discussion or an offer of compensation. Similarly, existing law requires employers to provide wage information when (1) hiring an employee, (2) an employee changes positions, and (3) an employee first requests it. The act requires employers to also give a description of benefits when providing wage information under this provision.

§ 3 — PATIENT VIOLENCE REPORTING WORKING GROUP

Establishes a working group to study implementing a system (1) for certain health care providers to report incidents of patient violence to the statewide health information exchange and (2) to notify these providers about patients with a documented history of these incidents

The act establishes a working group to study the feasibility of and considerations needed to implement a system (1) for health care providers to report incidents of violence by a patient against a provider to the Statewide Health Information Exchange (known as “Connie”) and (2) that alerts providers when they accept a new patient or have a scheduled visit with an existing patient who has a documented history of any of those incidents. Under the act, the information exchange applies to health care providers with an electronic health record system able to connect to and participate in Connie.

Under the act, the Public Health Committee’s chairpersons must each appoint three members to the working group, and the committee’s ranking members must each appoint two members. The committee’s chairpersons must appoint the working group’s chairpersons from among its members. The working group must report its findings to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 4 — EMPLOYMENT PROMISSORY NOTES

Brings all employers under a law that generally prohibits requiring employees to sign an agreement that requires the employee to repay the employer if he or she does not stay at the job for a certain duration

The act brings all employers under a law that generally prohibits requiring employees to execute an agreement that requires the employee to repay the employer if he or she does not stay at the job for a certain duration, including when the repayment is reimbursement for training. Prior law applied this prohibition to employers with at least 26 employees. The act expands it to cover all employers, regardless of size, for instruments or agreements executed on or after October 1, 2026.

More specifically, the law prohibits the covered employers from requiring an employee or prospective employee to execute an employment promissory note as a condition of employment. An “employment promissory note” is an instrument or agreement that requires an employee to pay the employer, or its agent or assignee, if the employee leaves employment before a set amount of time. This includes instruments or agreements stating that the payment is reimbursement for employee training. However, the law specifically exempts contract provisions (1) requiring the employee to repay to the employer for any sums advanced to the employee, (2) requiring the employee to pay the employer for any property it sold or leased to the employee, (3) requiring educational personnel to comply with any terms or conditions of employer-granted sabbatical leaves, or (4) entered into as part of a collectively bargained program.

For employers brought under the law by the act, as with those already covered by the law, an employment promissory note executed as a condition of employment is void, but if the note is part of an employment agreement its invalidity does not affect the agreement’s other provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Related Act

PA 26-122, § 5, creates an exception to the employment promissory note ban that allows employers to require an employee to sign a promissory note to fully or partially repay any fee related to the federal H-1B visa the employer paid on the employee’s behalf.

§ 5 — SUB-MINIMUM WAGE TASK FORCE

Creates a task force to study additional services, funding, and benefits that may support people with disabilities who earn less than the minimum wage

The act creates a task force to study additional services, funding, and benefits that may support people with disabilities who earn less than the minimum wage, as allowed under a federal “14(c) certificate” (see *Background — Federal 14(c) Certificates*). The task force must (1) examine the potential benefits and existing impediments to the state’s use of those additional services and (2) make recommendations on funding sources and benefits the state can provide.

Under the act, the task force consists of the following officials or their designees: (1) the Labor and Public Employees and Human Services committees’ chairpersons and ranking members and (2) the commissioners of aging and disability services, labor, developmental services, and administrative services. It also has six appointed members, as shown in the table below, at least two of whom must be a parent of someone with disabilities who earns less than the minimum wage under a federal 14(c) certificate. Any of the appointed members may be state legislators. Initial appointments to the task force must be made within 30 days after the act takes effect (by June 10, 2026), and any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority.

Appointed Members

Appointing Authority	Appointee’s Qualifications
House speaker	Expertise in hiring people with disabilities
Senate president pro tempore	Member of an organization that advocates for people with disabilities
House majority leader	None specified
Senate majority leader	
House minority leader	
Senate minority leader	

Under the act, the Labor and Public Employees Committee’s chairpersons, or their designees, serve as the task force’s chairpersons, and must schedule and hold its first meeting within 60 days after the act takes effect (by July 10, 2026). The committee’s administrative staff also serves in that capacity for the task force.

The act requires the task force to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Labor and Public Employees and Human Services committees by January 1, 2028. The task force ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Federal 14(c) Certificates

Section 14(c) of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act allows employers to pay wages below the federal minimum wage to workers with disabilities for the work being performed, but only after receiving a certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division.

§ 6 — MINIMUM WAGE AT CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS

Prohibits the labor commissioner from counting tips as part of the state’s minimum wage requirement for employees of cannabis establishments, dispensaries, or producers

The act explicitly prohibits the labor commissioner from counting tips as part of the state’s minimum wage requirement for employees of cannabis establishments, dispensaries, or producers. It also specifies that any cannabis establishment, dispensary, or producer that pays an employee less than the state minimum wage violates the minimum wage law.

The state’s “tip credit” law, unchanged by the act, generally allows employers to pay less than the minimum wage to bartenders and hotel and restaurant staff who customarily and regularly receive tips, as long as their tips make up the difference.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 7 — PORTAL-TO-PORTAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

Extends “portal-to-portal” workers’ compensation coverage to public works department employees under certain circumstances, such as when they are responding to a direct order to appear at work when nonessential employees are excused from working

The act extends “portal-to-portal” workers’ compensation coverage to public works department employees in three situations: (1) when they are subject to emergency calls while off duty by the terms of their employment, (2) when they are responding to a direct order to appear at their work assignment when nonessential employees are excused from working, or (3) after working two or more mandatory overtime shifts on consecutive days.

With “portal-to-portal” coverage, an injury that occurs while the employee is traveling directly between his or her home and workplace is deemed to have occurred in the course of employment, making him or her eligible to receive workers’ compensation benefits for the injury. Under the act, a “public works department” is a state or municipal department responsible for building, regulating, or maintaining all things in the nature of public works and improvements.

Existing law gives 9-1-1 emergency dispatchers portal-to-portal coverage under the same conditions the act applies to public works department employees. The law also gives this coverage to (1) Department of Correction employees when they are responding to a direct order to appear at their work assignment when nonessential employees are excused from working or after they have worked two or more mandatory overtime shifts on consecutive days and (2) police officers and firefighters whenever they are traveling directly between home and work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 8 — TEACHER TERMINATIONS

Sets a standard of review for when a tenured public school teacher is terminated; changes who makes the final decision when a tenured teacher is under consideration for termination and requests a hearing; changes the court’s review standards for appeals of tenured teacher termination decisions

The act makes changes to the process for terminating public school teachers. It sets a standard of review for when a tenured public school teacher is terminated for the reasons allowed by existing law (inefficiency, incompetence, insubordination, moral misconduct, disability, loss of a position to another teacher, or other due and sufficient reasons). Prior law did not specify a standard of review for these terminations. The act requires the standard of review to be the same standard applied in other disciplinary actions under the teacher’s collective bargaining agreement. This means the standard is determined through the collective bargaining process.

The act also changes who makes the final decision when a tenured teacher is under consideration for termination and requests a hearing. Prior law generally allowed the teacher to request a hearing, which could be conducted by the board of education (BOE), a BOE-formed subcommittee, or an impartial hearing officer. The act eliminates the options for the hearing before a board subcommittee or the BOE.

Under prior law, the BOE made the final decision on the termination. The act instead requires the hearing officer to make the final decision (referred to as a “disposition” in the act) and makes it binding on the parties.

Prior law allowed teachers aggrieved by a board’s termination decision to appeal to the Superior Court and requires the court to review the proceedings under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act’s (UAPA) standards for reviewing appeals of agency decisions. The act instead allows tenured teachers or boards aggrieved by a hearing officer’s decision to apply to the court to confirm, vacate, or modify the decision under the laws for court consideration of arbitration awards. It also makes various minor and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Court Review Standards for Appeals

Prior law generally required a court considering an appeal of a teacher’s termination under the UAPA standards to affirm the decision unless it found that substantial rights of the teacher were prejudiced because the findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions (1) violate constitutional or statutory provisions; (2) exceed statutory authority; or (3) were (a) made using an unlawful procedure, (b) affected by another error of law, (c) clearly erroneous, or (d) arbitrary or capricious.

The act instead requires a court to consider an appeal from either a tenured teacher or the school board under the statutory standards for appeals of arbitration awards. Under these standards, a court must confirm an award unless it vacates or modifies it (CGS § 52-417). The court generally must vacate an award if (1) it was made through corruption, fraud or undue means; (2) it was evident the arbitrator was partial or corrupt; (3) the arbitrator was guilty of misconduct by refusing

to postpone the hearing or in refusing to hear pertinent and material evidence; or (4) the arbitrator exceeded his or her powers, or so imperfectly executed them that a mutual, final, and definite award was not made (CGS § 52-418).

Under these same standards, a court must modify an award if (1) there was an evident material miscalculation of figures or an evident material mistake in the description of something referred to in the award; (2) the arbitrator awarded for a matter not submitted for arbitration, unless it does not affect the merits of the decision; or (3) the award is imperfect in matter of form not affecting the merits of the controversy (CGS § 52-419).

Prior law prohibited a court from awarding costs to a teacher appealing his or her termination unless it found that the board acted with gross negligence, in bad faith, or with malice in its original decision. The act removes this limitation for tenured teachers, and the arbitration standards used under the act do not explicitly allow costs to be awarded to either party.

§ 9 — RETENTION OF SERVICE CONTRACT WORKERS

Requires entities that take over certain service contracts at covered locations, contract out services, or receive property in a sale or transfer to retain the terminated contractor's employees for at least 90 days; establishes steps for the entities to extend offers of continued employment; permits workforce reductions in certain situations; and permits displaced or terminated employees to file a complaint with the labor commissioner or sue in court for damages

The act requires entities that (1) take over certain service contracts at covered locations, (2) contract out certain services, or (3) receive property in a sale or transfer, to retain employees from a prior contractor for at least 90 days if the employees worked during the previous 90 days. After 90 days, the successor employer must give employees performance evaluations. If their performance is satisfactory during this period, the successor employer must extend an offer of continued employment either under terms and conditions the successor employer creates or by law.

The act also requires advance notice to (1) a contractor whose contract will be terminated or not renewed, (2) employees, and (3) the union representing employees.

The act allows employees who are displaced or terminated in violation of the act to file a complaint with the labor commissioner or sue in Superior Court. The commissioner or court can award an employee back pay, benefits, reinstatement to the employee's former position at his or her most recent salary and benefit level, compensatory damages, attorney's fees, and costs. The labor commissioner may also ask the attorney general to bring suit in Superior Court for damages and any injunctive or equitable relief on behalf of an aggrieved employee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027

Scope of the Act

The act gives these job protections to covered employees at covered locations. Under the act, an "employee" is a person working at least 16 hours per week and performing certain services at a covered location for at least 60 days, including:

1. care or maintenance services, including a security guard, front desk worker, janitor, housekeeper, maintenance employee, concierge, door attendant, building superintendent, grounds maintenance worker, stationary fireman, elevator operator, or window cleaner, and
2. passenger-related security services, cargo and ramp services, in-terminal passenger and baggage handling, and cleaning services at an airport.

Under the act, an employee is not a person who is (1) a managerial, supervisory, or confidential employee under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act or (2) engaged to perform services related to a project that requires a permit from a municipality, such as a building, mechanical, plumbing, structural, or electrical project.

The services must be provided at "covered locations," which are:

1. multi-family residential buildings or complexes with 50 or more units;
2. commercial centers or complexes over 75,000 square feet;
3. municipal facilities;
4. public or nonpublic schools;
5. cultural centers or complexes, such as museums, convention centers, arenas, or performance halls;
6. shopping malls or bank branches;
7. industrial sites;
8. pharmaceutical labs;
9. airports;
10. train stations;
11. warehouses, distribution centers, or other facilities that store or distribute general merchandise, refrigerated goods, or other products; and

12. private higher education institutions.

Awarding Authority

Under the act, an awarding authority is a person who (1) awards or enters into a contract at a covered location or (2) sells or transfers control of a property where employees were employed during the 90-day period before the sale or transfer. The act specifies that the Connecticut Airport Authority (which includes Bradley International Airport and five smaller general aviation airports) and the state and federal government are not awarding authorities. (The act's provisions are similar to those under existing law for Bradley International Airport food and beverage workers.)

Contractor and Terminated Contractor

Under the act, a "contractor" is (1) a person who enters into a service contract with the awarding authority and (2) any subcontractors to a service contract at any tier that employ two or more people.

A "terminated contractor" is a contractor whose service contract expires without renewal or is terminated, and includes the awarding authority when (1) work previously completed by their employees is subject to a successor service contract or (2) the awarding authority sells or transfers a property if employees were employed there within the 90 days prior to the sale or transfer.

Employer and Successor Employer

The act applies to any person that employs at least two people, except for the state and federal government and the Connecticut Airport Authority.

Under the act, a "successor employer" is an (1) employer awarded a successor service contract, (2) employer that purchased or acquired control of a property where employees were employed at any time during the 90 days before the sale or transfer, or (3) awarding authority that hired employees to perform services that are substantially the same as those previously performed under a terminated or non-renewed service contract.

Awarding Authority's Responsibilities

The act requires an awarding authority to give advance notice to a contractor whose contract will be terminated or not renewed, the employees, and the union representing them. It must do this at least 15 days before (1) termination or nonrenewal of the service contract, (2) contracting out of services previously performed by the authority, or (3) selling or transferring the property (if employees were employed there within the 90 days prior to the sale or transfer).

Under the act, the authority must give the contractor, employees, and union the name, address, and telephone number of the successor employer or employers, if known. The authority must give this notice to employees in writing and post it in a conspicuous place.

Terminated Contractor's Responsibilities

Within three days after receiving the notice described above, the act requires a terminated contractor to give a successor employer the name, hiring date, and job classification of each employee at the site covered by the service contract or contract to sell or transfer the property. On the date the contract terminates, contracted out services begin, or the property is sold or transferred, the terminated contractor must update this information for the successor employer.

If the notice described above does not identify the successor employer, the (1) terminated contractor must give the initial list of employees to the awarding authority within three days of receiving notice and (2) awarding authority must give the information to the successor employer when it is selected.

Successor Employer's Responsibilities

Employment Offer. The act requires a successor employer to hand deliver a written employment offer to the employees in a language the employee understands. Under the act, an offer notice must be delivered by the later of five days before the termination of the original service contract or 15 days before the new contractor begins to provide service. The act also requires this notice five days prior to the termination of the original contract or 15 days before providing services following the sale or transfer of a covered location.

Employment Notice Content. The notice must detail how the successor will be providing services similar to those of the terminated contractor and that the employee is being offered a job to continue doing the same type of work for a 90-day transition period. In the notice the employer must inform the employee about the pay rate, hours (per shift and per week), and benefits it offers. The notice must also:

1. include the employer's name, address, and telephone number;
2. state that the employee has 10 days to respond and if they do not respond, the employee will not be hired and will lose their job; and
3. describe the employee's rights under the act, including that they may sue the successor contractor or file a complaint with the labor commissioner if they believe they were fired or laid off in violation of the act.

Trial Period and Potential Offer of Continued Employment. The act requires successor employers to retain employees from a prior contractor for at least 90 days if the employees worked during the previous 90 days. After 90 days, the successor must give employees performance evaluations. If their work performance is satisfactory, the successor employer must extend an offer of continued employment either under terms and conditions the successor employer creates or by law. Under the act, an employee who was employed during the prior 90 days cannot be fired during the 90-day period without just cause, which is determined solely by the particular employee's performance or conduct.

Limits on Successor Employer Responsibilities. The act specifies that it does not require a successor employer to retain employees whose attendance and performance records, while working for the terminated contractor, would lead a reasonably prudent employer to terminate the employee. (PA 26-68, § 247, eliminates this provision and specifies that terminated contractors can take disciplinary action against an employee (such as termination) if the employee's attendance or performance records, while working under the terminated contractor, would lead a reasonably prudent employer to take similar disciplinary action. These actions must be consistent with state law or an employee's collective bargaining agreement and occur before the (1) start of the successor service contract or (2) successor employer gets control of the site or sites covered by the contract to sell or transfer property.)

Under the act, the contractor may determine at any time that it needs fewer employees than the terminated contractor had or at the purchased or acquired property and can lay them off. In doing so, it must retain employees by seniority within each job class, based on an employee's total length of service at the affected site.

Under the act, a successor employer who purchased or acquired property must only retain employees (who worked on the property in the 90 days before the sale or transfer) if the services to be performed at that site are substantially the same as the services previously provided by the terminated contractor's employees.

Hiring List of Those Not Initially Retained. The act requires contractors, during the 90-day period, to keep a preferential hiring list of employees eligible for retention whom it did not initially retain. (It is not clear which employees would be affected by this provision.) The contractor must hire additional employees, if needed, from this list.

Successor Contractor Terminated. Under the act, if a successor service contract is terminated before the 90-day period ends, then any successor employer awarded a subsequent successor service contract must retain (for a new 90-day period starting with the beginning of the subsequent successor service contract) all of the employees previously employed by any terminated contractors at the site or sites covered by the service contract or contract to sell or transfer property continuously (during the 90-day period immediately before the date of the most recently terminated service contract, including any periods of layoff or leave with recall rights).

Remedies for a Displaced or Terminated Employee

Under the act, an employee or group of employees displaced or terminated in violation of the act's provisions, or their collective bargaining representative, can file a complaint with the labor commissioner or file a lawsuit against the awarding authority, terminated contractor, or successor employer to recover damages for violations of the act. The act prohibits employees, groups of employees, or the union from filing a complaint with the commissioner if they have already sued in Superior Court based on the same facts and circumstances (unless the suit has been withdrawn or dismissed without prejudice). The act specifies that it does not require employees, groups of employees, or the union to use all administrative remedies before they can sue.

If the commissioner or court decides that the awarding authority, terminated contractor, or successor employer violated the act's provisions, employees can receive back pay, benefits, reinstatement to their former position at their most recent salary and benefit level, compensatory damages, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs.

The act requires that back pay be based on the higher of calculations based on either the employee's (1) regular pay rate for the employee's last year on the job (a different calculation applies if employed for less than one year), or (2) final regular rate of pay on the last day. It requires that the court or the labor commissioner determine the rate of interest to be applied in the calculation of back pay.

Under the act, an aggrieved party may appeal the labor commissioner's decision to the Superior Court.

The act permits the labor commissioner to request that the attorney general bring suit in the Superior Court, on behalf of aggrieved employees, for damages and injunctive or equitable relief.

Under the act, a successor employer who violates the act's provisions on retention or discharge of workers must pay a penalty of between \$500 and \$1,000 per employee for each day the violation continues. A violation of the notice provisions by an awarding authority or terminated contractor is subject to a penalty of between \$50 and \$200 per employee for each day the violation continues.

§ 10 — EXPANSION OF THE FALLEN HERO FUND

Allows surviving family members of state correction officers and investigators killed in the line of duty to receive benefits from the Fallen Hero Fund

The act allows the surviving family members of correction officers and investigators killed in the line of duty to receive benefits from the Fallen Hero Fund (prior law only covered the family members and beneficiaries of first responders). Under the act, a "correction officer" is anyone employed by the Department of Correction, and an "investigator" is anyone employed as an investigator by the Judicial Department's Court Support Services Division, the Division of Criminal Justice, or the Office of the Chief Public Defender.

By law, the Fallen Hero Fund, within available appropriations, gives a lump sum death benefit totaling \$100,000 to a surviving family member or beneficiary of certain public employees killed in the line of duty or who sustained injuries that were the direct or proximate cause of their death. Prior law limited these benefits to family members or beneficiaries of first responders (police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics).

As under existing law for first responders' surviving family members, when the comptroller receives notice from a correction officer's or investigator's surviving family member, he must pay the family a \$100,000 lump sum death benefit from the fund, within available appropriations. Each surviving family is limited to one lump sum death benefit, and payments must be made in the order in which he receives notices until the amount in the fund is depleted.

As under existing law, the benefit payment from the fund (1) is in addition to any other benefits the surviving family members qualify for (see *Background — State Employees Benefits*), (2) is exempt from the state income tax, and (3) must not be reduced or offset due to other benefits that may be awarded (such as workers' compensation).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — State Employees Benefits

By law, surviving family members of a state employee who dies acting within the scope of employment may be entitled to equal monthly payments for at least 10 years in the total amount of:

1. \$100,000 for a surviving spouse with a dependent child under age 18, plus \$50 per month for each child under 18 (until the spouse dies or remarries);
2. \$50,000 for a surviving spouse without children under age 18 (until the spouse dies or remarries); and
3. \$50,000 for a dependent parent or parents if there is no surviving spouse or child under age 18 (until both parents die) (CGS § 5-144).

§ 11 — NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPTROLLER'S HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP PLANS

Requires nonstate public employers to provide partnership plan coverage to survivors of certain unpaid volunteer firefighters; requires nonstate public employers to apply for partnership plan coverage regardless of whether the first responder or unpaid volunteer firefighter was an employee at their time of death

The act (1) extends nonstate public employer "partnership plan" health care coverage to the survivors of certain unpaid volunteers and (2) requires these employers to apply for partnership plan coverage regardless of whether the first responder or unpaid volunteer firefighter was an employee at their time of death.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Partnership Plan Coverage

By law, the comptroller must offer partnership plan coverage to nonstate public employers and nonprofit employers. As existing law requires for first responders, the act requires a nonstate public employer that provided partnership plan coverage to an unpaid volunteer firefighter killed in the line of duty to continue to provide the coverage to the survivors

who were covered under the plan when the firefighter died. The coverage must continue for one year after the death and may be renewed annually for up to five years. The employer must facilitate the coverage continuation and renewal. Under the act, “unpaid volunteer firefighters” are uniformed members of a fire department who perform firefighting duties for the department but are not paid.

Under the act, and as existing law requires for first responders, an employer that did not provide partnership plan coverage to an unpaid volunteer firefighter killed in the line of duty must apply for partnership plan coverage for, and at the request of, the survivors who were covered under the firefighter’s health care plan when he or she died.

The act also requires these employers to apply for partnership plan coverage for these survivors whether or not the first responder or unpaid volunteer firefighter was an employee of the nonstate public employer at the time of death.

By law, the comptroller must accept the application on the terms and conditions applicable to the partnership plan for enrolling and covering the survivors for one year. The nonstate public employer must facilitate enrollment and coverage initiation and renewal.

By law, nonstate public employers cannot require survivors of first responders to pay for coverage under a partnership plan. Instead, the employer must cover the entire amount and be reimbursed from the Fallen Hero Fund for the total cost. The act extends this requirement to survivors of unpaid volunteer firefighters.

§ 12 — STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN COVERAGE FOR SURVIVORS OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, STATE MARSHALS, CORRECTION OFFICERS, AND INVESTIGATORS

Generally allows the surviving spouse and dependent children of state marshals, correction officers, investigators, or unpaid volunteer firefighters who died performing their duties to participate in the state employee health insurance plan

The act expands participation in the state employee health insurance plan to surviving spouses and dependent children of state marshals, correction officers, investigators, and unpaid volunteer firefighters.

For survivors of correction officers, investigators, or firefighters, in order to qualify, the (1) deceased must have died as the result of injuries received while acting within the scope of his or her employment, and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and (2) surviving spouse and dependent children must not be otherwise eligible for a group health insurance plan.

For a state marshal’s survivors to qualify, the marshal must have died as the result of injuries received while performing a duty for which the state compensates the marshal, and not as the result of illness or natural causes. For any of the marshal’s qualifying covered dependents, the coverage ends by the end of the calendar year when the dependent (1) becomes covered under a group health insurance plan through their own employment, or (2) turns age 26, whichever occurs first.

Under the act, an “unpaid volunteer firefighter,” “correction officer,” and “investigator” are as described above (see §§ 10 & 11). Under existing law, unchanged by the act, surviving family members of state employees who died in the line of duty are eligible for the state employee health insurance plan while they are receiving certain benefits related to the death. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 13 — PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER PAYROLL DEDUCTION OF UNION DUES

Allows union dues or service fees to be paid through payroll deduction at the teacher’s choice, rather than required, under their CBAs

Prior state law generally specified that the teachers’ collective bargaining law does not preclude their collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) from requiring the collection of service fees (fees paid by teachers who do not join the union) by payroll deduction. The act instead specifies that the parties may negotiate CBA provisions that allow the teachers to choose whether to have their union dues, initiation fees, and service fees paid through payroll deductions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 14 — CRISIS INITIATIVE EXPANSION

Expands the CRISIS Initiative throughout Connecticut

The act requires the State Police, in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), to expand the Connection to Recovery through Intervention, Support and Initiating Services Initiative pilot program (CRISIS Initiative) throughout the state by January 1, 2027. (The program began in 2017 with DMHAS assigning a full-time licensed clinician social worker to State Police Troop E and the 2021 budget implementer expanded it to Troop

D.) The expanded program under the act must at least include the pilot program's components that require state police officer training, coordination between state police officers and mental health professionals, and referrals to mental health services facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 15 — DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN FOR NON-CMERS MUNICIPALITIES

Allows municipalities that do not participate in CMERS to create a deferred retirement option plan for their employees

Starting October 1, 2026, the act allows any municipality that does not participate in the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) to create a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) for its employees. The plan must allow employees who are eligible for a service retirement to participate in it. In general, a DROP is an arrangement under which an employee continues working even though they are eligible to retire and receive pension benefits. But instead of having the continued compensation and additional years of service counted toward the pension benefit, the employer deposits funds into a separate DROP account during each year of the continued employment, which earns interest or investment earnings, and is paid to the employee upon retirement instead of the increased pension amount.

Under the act, a DROP must include a fixed period for member participation, up to five years, and a specified interest rate credit for member accounts. All of its other provisions must be determined by the municipality, as long as the actuary that consults on the municipality's retirement plan certifies that the DROP's structure has no anticipated impact that would increase municipal contribution rates. The act also requires the municipality, within four years after creating the DROP, to (1) have the plan evaluated by the consulting actuary and (2) review and assess the evaluation to determine the cost to the plan's fund. After receiving the evaluation, the municipality may discontinue the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 16 — DIRECT CARE SERVICES EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO VIRTUAL MONITORING EVIDENCE

Generally allows employees in programs administered by DDS and DSS to access evidence from virtual monitoring if it will be used in a disciplinary action against the employees and they meet certain conditions

Under the act, when certain employees in programs administered by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) are subject to a proposed disciplinary action, DDS and DSS may, to the extent allowed by law, give the employees or an employee organization (union) representing them access to any evidence used in the action that comes from virtual monitoring and any other related evidence, as long as they meet certain conditions. Under the act, "virtual monitoring" is remote monitoring of a person receiving direct care services by a third party using technology owned and operated by the person in the person's living quarters.

The employees covered by these provisions are those of a (1) nonprofit organization that contracts with a state agency to deliver direct care services or (2) contractor providing those services. "Direct care services" are services provided in an agency, facility, home, or community-based setting to someone enrolled in a program administered by DDS and DSS. An "employee organization" is any organization that exists for collective bargaining or dealing with employers over grievances, employment terms or conditions, or other mutual aid or protection.

Under the act, to have access to evidence from virtual monitoring, the employees and their union representatives must (1) sign a confidentiality agreement issued or approved by the department; (2) treat any recordings or images obtained from it as confidential; and (3) not replicate, reproduce, or spread the recordings or images to anyone else, except as needed to represent and defend the employee in the disciplinary action or as required by law.

The act requires DDS and DSS to ensure that any access granted to virtual monitoring evidence does not violate the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or any other federal or state law. It also requires the DDS and DSS commissioners, by July 1, 2027, to implement policies and procedures to carry out these provisions while adopting them as regulations. They must publish a notice of intent to adopt the regulations on the DDS and DSS websites and the eRegulations System within 20 days after implementing the policies and procedures, which remain valid until final regulations take effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 17 — PCA FISCAL INTERMEDIARY REPORTS

Requires DSS to file quarterly reports on the fiscal intermediary that provides payroll and other services for DSS's self-directed home care programs

Beginning with information from the quarter starting April 1, 2024, the act requires DSS to file quarterly reports with the Human Services and Labor and Public Employees committees related to the fiscal intermediary that contracts with the department to provide payroll, taxes, and administrative services for self-directed home care programs. These are Medicaid-funded programs that allow a consumer to hire a personal care attendant (PCA).

The quarterly reports must include certain information to the extent it is not exempt from disclosure under the state's Freedom of Information Act. Reports must include the:

1. payroll processing error rate for PCAs and the number of days until payment after correction;
2. average number of days the fiscal intermediary takes to onboard a new employee so that the employee can use the payroll system;
3. average response time for answering phone calls, including call volume for incidents described in these reports, or emails from PCAs or consumers about general customer service requests;
4. number of electric visit verification tickets the fiscal intermediary receives and average time to resolve one; and
5. average number of hours the fiscal intermediary's mobile application was inoperable or offline.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 18-24 — CRANES AND HOISTING EQUIPMENT

Expands the size of the Examining Board for Crane Operators, eliminates licensure and registration exemptions for people engaged in arboriculture, and changes the investigative and enforcement authority of the board and DAS

The act makes several changes to the state's laws on cranes and hoisting equipment, including how they are regulated by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Examining Board for Crane Operators. Generally, it:

1. expands the size of the board by two members, from five to seven;
2. eliminates licensure and registration exemptions for people engaged in arboriculture (cultivating trees and shrubs); and
3. changes the department's and board's investigative and enforcement authority, such as by allowing stop work orders to be issued, increasing the maximum civil penalty for violations, and expanding who the penalty can be applied against to include equipment owners' lessees and contractors.

The act also makes conforming and technical changes, including specifying that notices and hearings must be done according to the UAPA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Examining Board for Crane Operators Membership Expansion (§ 19)

Under prior law, the Examining Board for Crane Operators in DAS had five members, of which one had to be a DAS employee, one had to be a crane operator with at least 10 years of experience, one had to represent crane owners' interests, and two had to be public members. The act expands the board's size by two members by adding a second crane operator who has the requisite experience and a second crane owners' representative. By law and under the act, all board members are appointed by the governor and must be Connecticut residents.

Licensure and Registration Requirements for Arboriculturists (§§ 20 & 21)

The law exempts several classes of people from the state's crane and hoisting equipment licensure and registration requirements. The act eliminates the exemptions for people engaged in arboriculture, which effectively requires them to obtain the respective licenses or certificates of registration issued by the Examining Board for Crane Operators to (1) operate or permit the operation of a crane they own, or (2) engage in, practice, or offer to perform the work of a hoisting equipment operator, hoisting equipment operator apprentice, crane operator, or crane operator apprentice (CGS §§ 29-223a(a) & 29-224(a)).

Changes to Investigating and Enforcing the State's Crane and Hoisting Equipment Laws (§§ 18 & 22-24)

The act makes several changes to the investigative and enforcement authority of DAS and the Examining Board for Crane Operators, including to explicitly encompass lessees. Under the act, a “lessee” is any individual or other legal entity that rents or leases a crane or hoisting equipment (§ 18).

Right of Entry for Investigation and Inspection (§ 22). Prior law allowed the DAS commissioner and DAS employees, while performing their duties and at all reasonable hours, to enter any premises where a crane or hoisting equipment is located to enforce the laws applicable to them. The act limits this right of entry to premises where they have reason to believe a crane or hoisting equipment is located. It also specifies that they may require:

1. crane and hoisting equipment operators to produce their licenses for verification;
2. crane owners to produce their crane's certificate of registration for verification; and
3. crane and hoisting equipment operators, owners, and lessees to produce any document establishing an agreement they have with an individual or other legal entity to perform crane or hoisting work on the premises.

(Existing law already requires (1) crane and hoisting equipment operators to carry their licenses when operating their respective equipment and (2) cranes' certificates of registration to be affixed to them in their principal operating location (CGS §§ 29-223a(a) & 29-224(a); Conn. Agencies Regs., § 29-223-5a(d)).)

Stop Work Orders (§§ 23 & 24). The act allows the DAS commissioner and DAS employees to issue a stop work order against a crane or hoisting equipment owner, operator, or lessee, or their contractors doing crane or hoisting work, if either determines the owner, operator, lessee, or contractor has committed one or more of the following violations: (1) demonstrating incompetence or negligence; (2) permitting the operation of the owner's, operator's, or lessee's crane in an unsafe manner; or (3) failing to comply with the state's crane and hoisting equipment licensure and registration requirements.

Under the act, a stop work order:

1. must require that the owner's, operator's, or lessee's crane, hoisting equipment, or related lifting operations stop at the place or premises where the violation was determined to have occurred;
2. must not require unrelated construction activities at the place or premises to stop unless they present an immediate danger to an individual or property;
3. is effective when served upon the owner, operator, or lessee and contractor by posting notice of the stop work order in a conspicuous location at the place or premises; and
4. remains in effect until the commissioner determines that the owner, operator, lessee, or contractor has resolved the violation and issues an order releasing the stop work order.

The act allows anyone served with a stop work order to request an administrative hearing to contest it. The request must be made in writing to the commissioner within 10 days after being served, and the hearing must be done according to the UAPA.

Additionally, the act requires the commissioner to (1) adopt regulations to carry out the act's stop work order provisions and (2) notify the Examining Board for Crane Operators of each stop work order issued and any violation of an issued order. If the board, after notice and hearing, finds that a crane or hoisting equipment owner or operator, lessee, or contractor violated a stop work order, the act requires it to impose a fine of \$5,000 per day for each day the order was violated.

Suspensions, Revocations, and Penalties (§ 24). The act modifies one of the circumstances when the Examining Board for Crane Operators may suspend or revoke a crane or hoisting equipment operator's license or an apprentice's certificate. Prior law allowed the board to do so after notice and hearing and a finding that the holder has been guilty of negligence in doing their work. The act instead only requires a finding that the holder has demonstrated negligence in their work performance.

Additionally, the act increases the existing maximum civil penalty against crane and hoisting equipment owners and operators for violating the state's crane and hoisting equipment laws from a fine of up to \$3,000 per violation to a fine of up to \$5,000 per violation per day. It also expands who this penalty may be applied against to include lessees and contractors. The act specifies that penalties may only be imposed after notice and hearing and a finding that the owner, operator, or lessee violated the crane and hoisting equipment laws.

The act also allows the board to impose a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation per day on any crane or hoisting equipment owner, operator, or lessee after notice and hearing and upon a finding that the owner, operator, or lessee has operated, or allowed the operation of, their crane or hoisting equipment without a valid license or certificate of registration.

At any time after issuing a notice alleging a violation, the act allows the board to accept an agreement instead of holding a hearing. It makes agreement negotiations confidential and exempt from disclosure under the state's Freedom of Information Act but makes the agreement itself a public record under the act.

Lastly, the act allows the DAS commissioner to apply to Hartford Superior Court to enforce any civil penalty imposed against anyone who is not licensed as a crane or hoisting equipment operator or has not registered a crane. She can

specifically apply for an order that the violator (1) pay in full any unpaid balance of the civil penalty or (2) temporarily and permanently stop working as a crane or hoisting equipment operator or allowing that work by others. The attorney general must bring the application for the order, and for any other appropriate decree or process, and must conduct the proceedings.

§ 25 — RESC AND CTECS REPORTS ON WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS

Requires each RESC and the CTECS executive director to annually report on their high school work-based learning programs

Starting by July 1, 2027, the act requires each regional educational service center (RESC) and the Technical Education and Career System's (CTECS) executive director, in consultation with the state Department of Education (SDE), to annually give the Education and Labor and Public Employees committees a report on the high school work-based learning programs offered in each RESC's region and by CTECS. It must also be posted on SDE's website.

Under the act, the report must at least include (1) an inventory of work-based learning programs offered by local or regional boards of education and CTECS, (2) the number of students enrolled in these programs, and (3) the total cost to each school district and CTECS for each program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 26 — PRIVATE SECTOR EDUCATOR EXTERNSHIPS

Requires the creation of a pilot program for educator externships with private sector employers to align classroom instruction with current industry standards and workforce needs

The act requires the education commissioner, by January 1, 2028, and in consultation with the Office of Workforce Strategy, to establish a two-year pilot program for educator externships for certified educators. The program must allow the educators to participate in experiential learning with private sector employers so they can align classroom instruction with current industry standards and workforce needs.

In developing the program, the commissioner must:

1. set criteria for (a) identifying and screening participating employers and (b) matching educators with externships based on subject matter relevance,
2. develop a curriculum that ensures that the learned skills are incorporated into the educator's future lesson plans, and
3. set eligibility for (a) stipends for educators completing an externship and (b) grants for participating employers.

The act allows the commissioner to contract with nongovernmental entities, including nonprofit organizations, to implement the program.

For the 2028-29 and 2029-30 school years, the act requires the commissioner to prioritize program placement for educators who (1) are employed in a town designated as an alliance district (see *Background — Alliance Districts*) or (2) teach a topic related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, manufacturing, or health care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Alliance Districts

By law, an alliance district is a school district for a town with one of the 33 lowest accountability index scores, plus any previously designated alliance districts (for a total of 36). The index determines school district performance by measures including student scores on standardized tests, academic growth from one year to the next, and graduation rates.

§ 27 — REGIONAL WORKFORCE NAVIGATOR

Requires each of the state's regional workforce development boards to include a regional workforce navigator to help connect people in adult education programs with workforce opportunities

The act requires each of the state's regional workforce development boards to include a regional workforce navigator appointed by the chief elected officials of the municipalities in each board's region (as the law also requires for the other board members). (PA 26-76, § 66, removes the navigator position from the boards and instead requires each board to employ a regional workforce navigator.)

Under the act, the navigator must coordinate with the boards, the Governor's Workforce Council, and the Department of Labor (DOL) to connect people in adult education programs, and public school students in grades 9 through 12, with workforce opportunities such as internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing opportunities, and credentials offered in the state.

Under the act, a "credential" is generally a documented award issued by an authorized body, such as a (1) diploma from a higher education institution or private career school; (2) certification awarded through an examination process designed to show the acquisition of certain knowledge, skill, and ability to do a specific job; (3) government-issued license that allows someone to practice a specific occupation; or (4) documented completion of an apprenticeship or job training program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 28 — TRAINING ON ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Requires the (1) chief workforce officer to develop a training on adult education programs and (2) regional workforce navigators to take this training by the end of 2026

The act requires the chief workforce officer, by October 1, 2026, and in consultation with educational institutions, the regional workforce development boards, and the Governor's Workforce Council, to develop training on adult education programs in the state, including funding streams for the programs and performance measures to ensure informed collaboration. The training must be given to the regional workforce navigators (see § 27) by December 30, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 29 — WORKING GROUP TO STUDY CO-INSTRUCTION TEACHING MODELS

Creates a working group to study the effectiveness and benefits of co-instruction teaching models used by public schools

The act creates a working group to study the effectiveness and benefits of co-instruction teaching models used by public schools, including models that allow people who do not have a professional teaching certification to teach collaboratively with a certified teacher.

Under the act, the Education Committee's chairpersons each appoint two members to the working group, and the committee's ranking members each appoint one member. The working group must submit the study's results to the Education Committee by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 30 & 31 — FEDERAL ADA INFORMATION

Requires DOL to post information about the federal ADA and how it relates to reasonable accommodations in the workplace; requires employers to give their employees written notice about this information

The act requires the DOL commissioner to post information about the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on DOL's website. The information must (1) at least include the ADA's definition of a disability and how it relates to reasonable accommodations in the workplace and (2) be on DOL's website in both English and Spanish and in a form that allows an employer to download it for display at its place of business.

Relatedly, the act requires employers to give written notice about an employee's right to reasonable accommodations in the workplace for a disability under the ADA to (1) new employees at the start of their employment; (2) existing employees by January 29, 2027; and (3) any employee who notifies the employer about his or her disability within 10 days after the notification. Under the act, an employer can meet the requirement by displaying the poster created by the DOL commissioner in a conspicuous place, accessible to employees, at the employer's place of business.

The act also allows the DOL commissioner to adopt regulations to set additional requirements on how employers must give employees the notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 32 — BREASTFEEDING AND EXPRESSING MILK IN THE WORKPLACE

Requires employers to provide reasonable break times for an employee to express breast milk for the employee's nursing child or to breastfeed in the workplace

The act requires employers to provide reasonable break times for an employee to express breastmilk for the employee's nursing child or to breastfeed at the workplace, which are in addition to the employee's scheduled breaks. This generally aligns with federal law requiring a reasonable break time to express breast milk for up to one year after a child's birth (29 U.S.C. § 218d).

Prior law allowed an employee to express breastmilk or breastfeed during her meal or break period. Existing law, unchanged by the act, requires an employer to make reasonable efforts to provide a room or location near the work area, except a toilet stall, that (1) is private, (2) has or is near a refrigerator or other employee-provided portable cold storage device, and (3) has access to an electrical outlet.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 33 — HOSPITAL STAFFING COMMITTEES AND NURSE STAFFING PLANS

Requires the DPH commissioner to create a report on the number of times hospitals varied from the nurse staffing plans the law requires them to develop

The act requires the public health (DPH) commissioner, by January 1, 2027, and in consultation with an organization that represents hospitals in the state, to create a report on the number of variations from the nurse staffing plans that the law requires hospitals to develop. The report must include the number of times (1) a hospital-wide variation from nurse staffing plans occurred and (2) there was a unit level variation from nurse staffing plans by a hospital. The commissioner must submit the report to the Public Health and Labor and Public Employees committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 34 — CNA TRAINING PROGRAM GRANT

Requires DPH, within available appropriations, to administer a grant program for CNA training programs in the Hartford area and rural communities in the state

The act requires DPH, starting in FY 27 and within available appropriations, to establish and administer a grant program to expand certified nursing assistant (CNA) training programs in the greater Hartford area and rural communities in the state. The program must give grants to organizations that educate and train prospective CNAs in these areas. And to the extent possible, it must use federal funds from the Rural Health Transformation Program for the grants to programs in rural communities. Under the act, an organization may submit grant applications in a form and way set by the DPH commissioner.

The act requires DPH, starting by December 31, 2028, to give the Public Health Committee a report every two years on the program's implementation and at least include an evaluation of the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 35 — STUDY ON TECHNOLOGY USE FOR MILITARY EMPLOYMENT

Requires the DOL commissioner to study certain models that use technology to connect current and former armed forces members with prospective employers

By January 1, 2028, the act requires the DOL commissioner to study models from other northeastern states that use technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), to connect current and former armed forces members with prospective employers based on the members' military occupational specialties and educational and professional backgrounds. The commissioner must (1) use the study's findings to update the informational webpage (see below) and (2) submit a report on her findings and recommendations to the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee by February 1, 2028.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 35 — DOL INFORMATIONAL WEBPAGE

Requires the DOL commissioner to update its employment information website for veterans; requires the DVA commissioner to send a periodic email newsletter to interested people

Informational Webpage

The act requires the DOL commissioner, by January 1, 2027, to update its veteran employment information website using information gathered from her study on using technology to connect current and former armed forces members with job opportunities (see above). She must annually update this webpage, which serves as a central repository of information, resources, and materials. The webpage must include links to external sources on:

1. job training,
2. career counseling,
3. workforce development organizations,
4. employers who are veteran- and military-friendly or who set and commit to meeting targets for hiring veterans and current and former armed forces members, and
5. other relevant topics for those transitioning from the military to a professional civilian occupation.

The act requires the DOL commissioner to annually solicit known and reputable providers of information, resources, and materials described above. She must do this in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) commissioner and adjutant general.

Additionally, starting January 1, 2027, she must (1) post in a conspicuous place on the informational webpage details of relevant Military Department employment assistance programming and the Military Department's annual job fair (see § 36) and (2) try to optimize the webpage's visibility in Internet search engine results.

DVA Newsletter and Website

The act requires the DVA commissioner, starting January 1, 2027, to (1) send a periodic email newsletter with relevant resources and materials included on the DOL informational webpage to interested recipients and (2) post a link to the webpage in a conspicuous location on the DVA's website.

Under the act, the DOL commissioner must (1) have a form on the informational webpage that an interested person can use to submit a request for the periodic email newsletter and (2) send the DVA commissioner the email addresses of those who submitted the form during the preceding month.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 36 — MILITARY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD & ANNUAL JOB FAIR

Requires the adjutant general to promote and periodically improve the Military Department's employment assistance program for current and former National Guard members; requires the Military Department to hold an annual job fair

Employment Assistance Program

By January 1, 2028, the act requires the adjutant general, in consultation with the DOL commissioner and within existing resources, to increase promotion of, and periodically improve, the Military Department's employment assistance program for current and former National Guard members considering available educational and occupational opportunities. The adjutant general may (1) tailor the promotion and improvements to better supplement any federally funded transition assistance program and (2) appoint personnel as needed to support, administer, and coordinate state transition assistance and related programs.

Military Department Annual Job Fair

On and after January 1, 2027, the act requires the adjutant general, in consultation with the DOL and DVA commissioners, to hold an annual job fair to (1) promote employment of current and former National Guard members and (2) invite Connecticut employers to attend and share information about prospective employment opportunities. The adjutant general must publicize the job fair on the Military Department's website and include information in any periodic emails the department sends to interested recipients.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 37 — LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MILITARY EMPLOYMENT

Requires the DECD commissioner to develop legislative recommendations for promoting in-state employment of current and former armed forces members

By August 1, 2026, the act requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner, in consultation with the DOL and DVA commissioners and any other official, organization, or entity he sees fit, to develop legislative recommendations to promote in-state employment of current and former armed forces members, including reserve and National Guard members. In doing so, the DECD commissioner may examine the effectiveness of various incentives, including tax credits, wage subsidies, and training reimbursements.

The DECD commissioner must report these recommendations to the Commerce, Labor and Public Employees, and Veterans' and Military Affairs committees by January 15, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 38 — PAYCHECK TRANSPARENCY

Requires certain employers to create a guide for employees on pay codes for overtime and pay differentials

The act requires employers with at least 100 employees (including the state and municipalities) to create a guide for its employees on the pay codes used for overtime and its most commonly used pay differentials, such as shift differentials, on-call pay, hazard pay, call-back pay, holiday or weekend pay, or geographic pay differentials.

Under the act, each guide must include at least 10 pay codes, if applicable, and be posted on the employer's website in English, Spanish, and the most common other languages spoken by their employees. It must also have contact information for the designated office or person who will handle employee disputes about calculations of hours and pay differentials. Employers must update the guide each time they add a new pay code for overtime or a pay differential.

The act requires employers to (1) include the guide's website address on each record of hours given to an employee and (2) give new employees the address upon hire. Alternatively, they may comply by giving a written copy of the guide to an employee upon hire in English and the employee's primary language.

Under the act, employers who use a third-party payroll services company that provides the pay code guide are considered in compliance with these paycheck transparency provisions. The act specifies that it does not require an employer to (1) establish and maintain an Internet website if it does not currently have one or (2) establish new pay codes to satisfy these provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 39 — GRANTS FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMS

Creates a grant program for junior firefighter programs run by volunteer fire departments

The act requires the state fire administrator to create and administer a program to give grants to junior firefighter programs administered by volunteer fire departments. It requires the administrator to conspicuously post a description of the program, including its eligibility criteria and application process, on the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESPP) Division of Fire Services website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 40 — MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS

Exempts minor league baseball players from state minimum wage and overtime laws

The act exempts from the state's minimum wage and overtime laws anyone who (1) has entered into a contract to play minor league baseball and (2) is paid under a collective bargaining agreement's terms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 41-43 — UCONN SPECIAL POLICE FORCES AND FIRE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Requires UConn's president to establish a recruitment and retention program for the UConn special police forces and fire department and submit annual reports on it; expands the objective job-based criteria she must use to establish classifications for UConn's special police forces

The act requires the UConn president, by July 1, 2027, to establish a recruitment and retention program for the UConn special police forces and fire department to address critical staffing shortages and high resignation rates. As part of the program, the president must develop salary schedules for all sworn members of the university's special police forces and all members of the fire department (UConn's first responders), and an education benefit for them. It also requires her, beginning by January 1, 2027, to submit annually a report on the recruitment and retention status of UConn's first responders to certain committees and entities.

Lastly, it expands the objective job-based criteria she must use to establish classifications for UConn's special police forces.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Program Salary Schedules

Under the act, the salary schedules must:

1. align compensation rates to eliminate pay disparities between UConn's first responders and members of comparable municipal and state law enforcement and fire service agencies and
2. eliminate significant step overlaps between ranks to ensure supervisors do not earn less than those they supervise.

UConn must give the developed salary schedules to the Office of Labor Relations and the collective bargaining unit representing UConn's first responders. The salary schedules, once received by these parties, (1) must be a mandatory subject of the next salary negotiations between the office and the bargaining unit, including any wage reopeners, and (2) may be used in earlier negotiations if agreed upon by the parties.

Education Benefit

The UConn president must develop an education benefit, which (1) may include tuition reimbursement or university fee waivers, and (2) must include, at a minimum, the required years of service for eligibility and allow the dependents of UConn's first responders to be eligible for the benefit, as she determines.

UConn must provide a written description of the benefit's parameters to the UConn Board of Trustees for approval. Upon approval, the educational benefit must be implemented without modification and regardless of any applicable collective bargaining agreement or the state employee collective bargaining law.

Recruitment and Retention Report

Beginning by January 1, 2027, UConn must annually submit a report on the recruitment and retention status of UConn's first responders to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement and Public Safety and Security committees, and UConn Board of Trustees. The report must, for both the special police and fire department, include at least the following:

1. the total number of authorized positions compared to filled positions, including a breakdown of any vacancies due to unfilled positions, personnel in academy training or field training, or personnel on administrative, military, or medical leave;
2. the total number of any resignations, retirements, and terminations in the previous year, and the average seniority of departing personnel for that year;
3. a detailed assessment of the entity's ability to provide mandated coverage at all applicable campuses and facilities; and
4. a fiscal impact analysis of the cost incurred to train and recruit personnel who resign within five years of hire.

Objective Job-Related Criteria

By law, the UConn president must establish classifications for special police force positions at UConn and its campuses, including the UConn Health Center, using objective job-related criteria. The act expands these criteria to specifically include the (1) knowledge and skill required to carry out the duties of each position in high-density campus environments, provide

student-focused community outreach services, and provide specialized emergency services within the UConn Health Center, and (2) responsibilities of exercising jurisdiction over multiple UConn campuses.

By law, the criteria also include the (1) knowledge and skill required to carry out the duties of each position, (2) mental and physical effort required to carry out those duties, and (3) level of accountability assigned to each position. By law, the UConn president establishes and administers the necessary examinations for UConn's special police forces.

§§ 44-47 — DOUBLE UTILITY POLES

Generally creates a process for public utility pole users and owners to transfer their wires and equipment from existing poles to replacement poles and then remove double utility poles

The act generally creates a process, including notice requirements, deadlines, and penalties, for public utility pole users, custodians, and owners to transfer their wires and equipment from existing poles to replacement poles and then remove double utility poles (where the existing pole and its replacement are alongside or attached to each other) by January 1, 2029. It also allows various exceptions to its requirements and related penalties.

Under the act, a “public utility pole” is a pole or portion of it that is owned by a telephone company or an electric distribution company (EDC; Eversource or United Illuminating) and used to support wires for distributing electricity, telecommunications services, or street or sidewalk lighting. A “user” is any person or entity that is not the pole’s owner but maintains equipment on it (but when a pole has more than one owner, the owner who is not performing the removal or replacement work is also considered a “user”). A user does not include a municipality or political subdivision of the state, or an EDC that owns the pole. A pole’s “custodian” is the EDC or telephone company with a duty to maintain a public utility pole.

The act allows the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to adopt regulations to implement its provisions on double utility poles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, except the provision requiring PURA to open a docket (§ 50) takes effect October 1, 2026.

Notice Requirement

The act requires a public utility pole’s custodian or its agent to deliver to each of the pole’s users written notice about any removal and replacement work for the pole. The notice must be delivered within 72 hours (1) after the work on the pole starts (if the work is planned) or (2) after the work is completed (if it was unplanned and needed to correct a hazardous condition on an emergency basis). The notice must be delivered electronically through the utility pole attachment database system to each of the pole’s users and describe the pole’s location, the nature of the work, the expected or actual completion date, as applicable, and the notice’s delivery date. Under the act, the “utility pole attachment database system” is a software system designated by PURA for maintaining a database of attachments to public utility poles in the state.

User Requirement to Transfer Equipment

Subject to certain exceptions (see below), the act generally requires each notified user to transfer its equipment from the existing pole to the replacement pole within (1) 20 days after receiving the notice if it requires transfers from 50 or fewer poles, or (2) 45 days after receiving the notice if it requires transfers from more than 50 poles. (PA 26-68, § 206, requires users that are EDCs to transfer their equipment within 45 days after receiving the notice, regardless of how many poles are involved.) Upon completing the transfer work, the user must electronically notify the pole’s custodian through the utility pole attachment database system that the work has been completed.

If a user fails to complete the transfer work within the required deadline, the act allows the telephone company, or its agent, to complete the transfer work on the user’s behalf and bill the user for the work based on the prevailing wage rates set under the state’s prevailing wage law. The user must pay the bill within 60 days after receipt.

EDC or Telephone Company Pole Removal and Replacement Work

The act requires an EDC or telephone company that removes and replaces a public utility pole, including any portion of one, to finish transferring any wires or equipment it owns within 45 days after it receives notice about work from a pole’s custodian as required above.

PURA List of Uncompleted Transfers

Starting on July 1, 2027, and then every six months, the act requires each utility pole custodian to compile a list of any users who failed to complete work needed to transfer its equipment as required above.

Each custodian must submit the list to PURA. Starting October 1, 2027, and then every six months, PURA must post on its website a list of each user who has a total number of uncompleted pole attachment transfers that is 3% or more of the total number of public utility poles on which it has an attachment in the state. Any user identified on the list must give PURA a written explanation of why it failed to comply.

Double Utility Pole Removals

The act requires each EDC and telephone company, by January 1, 2029, to do any work required to remove its double utility poles in existence on January 1, 2027. Under the act, a “double utility pole” is a replacement public utility pole built or installed alongside, or attached to, an existing public utility pole, or a portion of one, for transferring the wires from the existing pole to the replacement, when the existing utility pole or any portion of it has not been removed after the installation of the replacement.

Enforcement

The act generally allows PURA to issue an order imposing a civil penalty of up to \$100 for each day that a utility pole user, EDC, or telephone company remains in violation of the act’s requirements, specifically those for:

1. users, EDCs, and telephone companies to transfer their equipment;
2. users to pay the telephone company for transfer work done on the user’s behalf; and
3. EDCs and telephone companies to do the work needed to remove their double utility poles.

The act requires PURA to (1) impose the penalties under its statutory procedure for issuing civil penalties and (2) remit the collected penalties to the social services commissioner to help fund the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program.

Exceptions

The act exempts any user who is not on PURA’s list of uncompleted transfers from its requirements (1) to transfer equipment from an existing pole to the replacement pole or have the telephone company do it for the user and (2) for each EDC and telephone company, by January 1, 2029, to do any work required to remove its double utility poles.

Additionally, under the act, it is not a violation, and PURA cannot impose a civil penalty on a utility pole user that was prevented from completing the transfer work:

1. solely because of a municipality’s failure to timely remove or transfer any equipment it (or its political subdivision) owns (the act does not specify a deadline for a municipality to complete this transfer);
2. because the telephone company or its agent failed to complete the transfer for the user as allowed by the act; or
3. because the user gave PURA a good cause explanation for why it failed to complete the transfer of its equipment, including the presence of an unidentified attachment to a pole, a significant weather event that precludes or delays completing the work on time, a declared emergency in the state, or the transfer is a complex transfer.

However, the act specifies that this does not excuse the user from completing the work within a reasonable time, considering the circumstances of the work, as determined by PURA.

Under the act, a “complex transfer” is work to transfer a public utility pole attachment that would be reasonably likely to cause a service outage or damage to any other such attachments, including work such as splicing a communication attachment or relocating existing wireless attachments. This includes any transfer involving mobile, fixed, and point-to-point wireless communications and attachments owned by wireless Internet service providers.

The act creates a similar exception for an EDC or telephone company that must transfer its wires and equipment to a replacement utility pole, if it can show good cause to PURA for why it failed to complete the transfer (presumably, the removal), such as the presence of an unidentified attachment to a pole, a significant weather event that precludes or delays completing the work on time, a declared emergency in the state, or the transfer is a complex transfer.

For either of the good cause exceptions above, if PURA determines that a user has given a good cause explanation that results in no penalty being imposed, the act requires it to state the basis for the determination in writing.

PURA Docket

The act requires PURA, by December 1, 2026, to open a docket to develop a recommended damage liability clause that must be adopted by any public utility pole custodian in any contract or other agreement with the pole's user. The clause must (1) address scenarios in which a user damages another user's attachment or equipment while transferring its attachments or equipment from one pole to another and (2) create a mechanism for (a) reimbursing for damage under \$100,000, and (b) submitting damages of \$100,000 or more to PURA for resolution.

§ 48 — POSTING INFORMATION ON VETERANS' BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Requires the DOL commissioner and the chief manufacturing officer to post information about veterans' benefits and services on the DOL and the Office of Manufacturing websites

The act requires the DOL commissioner and the chief manufacturing officer, within available appropriations and in consultation with the DVA commissioner, to post information about veterans' benefits and services on the DOL and the Office of Manufacturing websites. The posted information must be downloadable by employers to display at their workplaces.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 49 — DAS JOB CLASSIFICATION FOR PART-TIME FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS

Requires the DAS commissioner to create a job classification for part-time fire service instructors in DESPP's Division of Fire Services Administration

The act requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner, in consultation with the DESPP commissioner and the State Fire Administrator, to create a job classification for part-time fire service instructors within DESPP's Division of Fire Services Administration.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 50 — STUDY OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER HEALTH INSURANCE

Requires the state comptroller to study health insurance coverage for retired police officers and firefighters in the state

The act requires the state comptroller to study health insurance coverage for retired police officers and firefighters in the state, including an assessment of any gaps in, absence of, or diminished coverage for those no longer employed in these jobs due to normal retirement or an early retirement caused by illness or injury. The comptroller must submit a report on the study's findings to the Labor and Public Employees Committee by January 1, 2027.

Under the act, a "police officer" is sworn member of an organized local police department or the State Police, an appointed constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a special appointed policeman, or any member of a law enforcement unit who performs police duties. A "firefighter" includes any:

1. uniformed member of (a) a paid municipal or state fire department, (b) a volunteer fire department, or (c) the Connecticut Airport Authority, the Tweed-New Haven Airport, and any entity that contracts with the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority, and
2. local fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, fire investigator, fire inspector, and certain other classes of inspectors and investigators.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 51 — "REASONABLE ASSURANCE" OF RETURNING TO WORK FOR PARAEDUCATORS

Requires school districts, before regular school sessions end, to notify DOL about which of their paraeducators have reasonable assurance of returning to work when school sessions resume

Under state and federal law, employees who work at an educational institution are ineligible to receive unemployment benefits for a school break (for example, between two successive academic years, between two regular terms, or during a customary vacation or holiday recess) if they have a "reasonable assurance" to work for any educational institution once courses resume (in the next academic year or term or after the vacation or recess).

The act requires each school district, before regular school sessions end, to give DOL lists of their paraeducators who do and do not have reasonable assurance of returning to work for the district when courses resume. More specifically, the requirement applies to each local or regional board of education, regional educational service center, governing authority for a state charter school, or an endowed or incorporated academy approved by SBE (collectively referred to as “school districts” below).

The act allows the DOL commissioner to consider the information on these lists when making reasonable assurance determinations but specifies that it cannot be conclusive evidence of reasonable assurance in any case unless it is accompanied by additional evidence.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Reasonable Assurance

Under the act, “reasonable assurance” exists if two conditions are met. First, there must be a written, oral, or implied employment offer for the next school year that:

1. was made by an authorized school district employee;
2. is for (a) services in the same capacity the person performed in the previous school year and (b) at least 90% of the wages or salary paid to the person, in total, by every educational institution he or she worked for during the previous school year; and
3. does not depend on factors within the school district’s control, such as course programming, available funding allocation, program modifications, or facility availability.

Second, it must be highly probable that the paraeducator will work in the same capacity once courses resume, based on the totality of the circumstances, including funding availability, past enrollment levels, the paraeducator’s seniority level, and the nature of the offer’s contingencies.

Paraeducator Lists

The act requires school districts to submit two employee lists to DOL, in a way the commissioner sets, at least 10 days before the last day of regular school sessions.

The first must list employees, with their names and Social Security numbers, who worked as paraeducators for the school and do not have reasonable assurance of working in the same capacity once courses resume. The second list must have employees who worked as paraeducators and have reasonable assurance of working in the same capacity once courses resume. It must also describe how each paraeducator was given reasonable assurance, including (1) whether the offer was written, oral, or implied; (2) the nature of any offer contingencies; and (3) the information about the offer communicated to the paraeducator.

§ 52 — SCHOOL PARAEDUCATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

Adjusts paraeducator representation on the School Paraeducator Advisory Council

The act adjusts paraeducator representation on the School Paraeducator Advisory Council. Prior law required the council to have one paraeducator from each statewide bargaining representative organization that represents paraeducators with instructional responsibilities. The act instead requires it to have five paraeducators from those organizations (without allotting any to a particular one) and requires that the Connecticut AFL-CIO nominate them.

By law, unchanged by the act, the council also has (1) a representative from each of the exclusive bargaining units for certified employees, (2) the most recent Connecticut Paraeducator of the Year Award recipient, (3) two representatives from the regional educational service centers, and (4) a school administrator. In general, the council advises the education commissioner on the needs for paraeducator professional development and training, appropriate staffing strategies, and other relevant paraeducator issues.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 53 — SALARIES FOR STATE POLICE AT DOT HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Requires State Police assigned to a DOT highway construction project to be paid at a rate set under a DOT-DESPP agreement instead of amounts set by the DAS commissioner

The act changes who decides the salaries for sworn members of the State Police assigned to a Department of

Transportation (DOT)-administered highway construction project. Under prior law, the DAS commissioner fixed their salaries. The act instead requires that they be paid at a rate set under an agreement executed between the DOT and DESPP commissioners on or after May 11, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 54 — PREVAILING WAGE LAW

Requires employers on prevailing wage projects to keep daily attendance records of the workers on a covered project and submit them weekly to the agency overseeing the project; requires the labor commissioner, when determining the prevailing wages required on a public works project, to determine the portion that covers payments, contributions, and member benefits at the journeyman rate

The act makes changes to the record keeping requirements for employers covered by state prevailing wage laws (including similar laws that apply to certain projects funded by DECD, renewable energy projects, and work on state highways (see *Background — Prevailing Wage Laws*)). Generally, it requires these employers to keep daily attendance records of the workers on a covered project and submit them weekly to the agency overseeing the project. Under the act, a failure to file these records is a Class C misdemeanor, subject to a fine of up to \$500, up to three months' imprisonment, or both.

Generally, the state's prevailing wage law requires contractors and subcontractors on certain public works projects to pay their construction workers wages and benefits equal to those that are customary or prevailing for the same work, in the same occupation, in the same town. The act further specifies that when the labor commissioner determines the prevailing wages required on a public works project, the portion that covers payments, contributions, and member benefits (such as health insurance and retirement benefits) must be determined at the journeyman rate. Prior law does not specify a particular rate to be used in this determination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026 (PA 26-68, §§ 371-373, repeals these provisions and reinstates them with separate effective dates so that the requirement to determine prevailing wage benefits at the journeyman rate is effective January 1, 2027, and the requirement to keep daily attendance records remains effective October 1, 2026).

Daily Attendance Records

The act requires employers covered by state prevailing wage laws to keep a daily record of each construction worker at a covered work site. This record must include (1) the project's name and location; (2) the current date; and (3) each worker's (a) name (printed or signed), (b) trade license number (when applicable), and (c) arrival and departure times at the site. The act requires the employer to submit these records weekly to the contracting agency, DECD, or the clean energy project's developer, as applicable.

Under the act, and regardless of the state Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA) provisions on public records access, these daily records are public records and anyone may inspect and copy a daily log or sign-in sheet under FOIA's provisions on copying and scanning public records.

Background — Prevailing Wage Laws

The state's prevailing wage law generally requires contractors and subcontractors on certain public works projects to pay their construction workers wages and benefits equal to those that are customary or prevailing for the same work, in the same occupation, in the same town. The requirement applies to new construction projects costing at least \$1 million and renovation projects costing at least \$100,000. Similar prevailing wage requirements also apply to certain (1) projects that receive at least \$1 million in DECD financial assistance, (2) clean energy projects, and (3) work on state highways.

§§ 55 & 56 — CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR LIABILITY FOR UNPAID WAGES

Makes certain construction contractors jointly and severally liable for any unpaid wages owed to a subcontractor's employees

For certain construction contracts executed on or after January 1, 2027, the act makes a construction contractor jointly and severally liable for any unpaid wages owed to a subcontractor's employee working within the contract's scope.

Under the act, if the subcontractor fails to pay the employee, either the employee or a labor organization may sue the subcontractor, the contractor, or both. If the contractor is a party in the suit, the employee must give the contractor at least

30 days' advance notice about the subcontractor's alleged violation before suing. The notice must describe the alleged violation's general nature. However, the employee does not have to give this notice if he or she previously gave the contractor notice about the same violation or a prior violation by the same subcontractor. The act specifies that the notice does not limit the contractor's liability or prevent subsequent amendments to the suit to include more of the subcontractor's employees.

The act also specifies that it does not prohibit a construction contract between a contractor and subcontractor from including a provision establishing a remedy for any liability created by a subcontractor's nonpayment of wages, as long as it does not (1) diminish an employee's right to bring a lawsuit for unpaid wages or (2) waive or release any liability assigned to the contractor under the act.

Under the act, this can include a contract provision that allows the liability to be paid from the amount withheld for retainage under the contract. "Retainage" is a sum withheld from progress payments to the contractor or subcontractor, otherwise payable to a contractor or subcontractor by an owner conditioned on substantial or final completion of all work under the terms of a written or verbal construction contract. It does not include any sum withheld due to the contractor's or subcontractor's failure to comply with construction plans and specifications.

Additionally, the act makes any provision to waive or release liability assigned to the contractor unenforceable in a contract entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

Contracts, Contractors, and Subcontractors

Under the act, a "construction contract" is a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2027, for construction, renovation, or rehabilitation in the state, including any improvements to real property associated with it. It includes those contracts between an owner and a contractor, a contractor and a subcontractor, or between subcontractors. It does not include:

1. public works or other contracts by the state, another state, or the federal government or
2. home improvement contracts to build, renovate, or rehabilitate (a) an owner-occupied residence or property where it is located or (b) one- or two-family dwelling units or properties unless there are more than 15 of them at one project site.

Under the act, "contractors" are business entities, including construction managers, general or prime contractors, joint ventures, or combinations of them, that have a direct contractual relationship with an owner (the owner of record or lessee of real property where the construction, renovation, or rehabilitation will be or is being done).

A "subcontractor" is a business entity that does not have a direct contractual relationship with an owner, but:

1. is a party to a construction contract with the contractor;
2. is a party to a construction contract with another subcontractor that has a direct contractual relationship with the contractor; or
3. does any work at any tier within the construction contract's scope, regardless of whether it has a direct contractual relationship with a contractor.

§§ 57-61 — INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TRAINING AND RELATED REPORTS

Requires the UConn Board of Trustees and BOR to jointly identify the qualities and best practices of a high-quality internship program and create a syllabus for employers' online training using them; sets internship-related reporting requirements

By October 1, 2026, the act requires the UConn Board of Trustees and Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to jointly identify the qualities and best practices of a high-quality internship program, using at least six of the eight National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) career readiness competencies (see *Background —NACE Career Readiness Competencies*). The boards must create a syllabus for an asynchronous (prerecorded) employer online training course using these qualities and best practices by January 1, 2027, and BOR must use the syllabus to offer a course through Charter Oak State College by July 1, 2027.

The act allows the college to charge an enrollment fee and requires it to give employers a credential for completing the training. The boards must clearly post on their websites information about the qualities and best practices and a link to the online training registration for employers.

The act also requires the following reports to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

1. Annually, beginning by July 1, 2028, BOR must report on the number of employers receiving the online training credential in the prior fiscal year.

2. By January 1, 2027, each higher education institution in the state must report on the internship opportunities available to their students through their career services offices, including the types of employers offering internships, quality measures used to ensure students have a valuable experience, and other relevant information.
3. By February 1, 2027, DAS must survey state agencies (other than public higher education institutions) and report on their internship programs, including whether an agency has internship programs that are (a) paid and (b) high-quality according to the qualities and best practices that must be established under the act.
4. By January 1, 2028, the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) must consult with the Office of Policy and Management to study the revenue impact of expanding the human capital investment tax credit (see *Background — Human Capital Investment Tax Credit*) to cover intern compensation paid by (a) employers that earned the online training credential and (b) an S corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or limited partnership that earned the credential.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provision on (1) the DRS study is effective October 1, 2026, and (2) offering and reporting on the online training course is effective January 1, 2027.

Background — NACE Career Readiness Competencies

NACE is a professional association connecting college career services professionals, early talent recruiting, university relations professionals, and businesses that serve this community. NACE tracks and provides information on college graduate employment. NACE's eight career readiness competencies are (1) career and self-development, (2) communication, (3) critical thinking, (4) equity and inclusion, (5) leadership, (6) professionalism, (7) teamwork, and (8) technology.

Background — Human Capital Investment Tax Credit

By law, corporations can receive this tax credit against their corporate business tax for expenses including (1) job training; (2) work education programs, including those offered by higher education institutions; (3) donations or capital contributions to higher education institutions related to technology; (4) activities related to developing a child care center for employees' children; (5) donations or capital contributions to a nonprofit for developing a child care center for children in the community; and (6) child care subsidies for employees. By law, the credit equals 25% of the child care related expenses and 10% for other types of expenses.

By law, (1) these credits cannot exceed the amount a corporation owes in corporation business tax, (2) an unused tax credit can be carried forward for the next five years, and (3) a corporation claiming this tax credit cannot claim another credit for the same expense.

§ 62 — MUNICIPAL TAX ABATEMENT FOR SURVIVING DOMESTIC PARTNERS OF FIRST RESPONDERS

Expands an optional municipal property tax abatement for the spouses of first responders who died in the line of duty to also cover domestic partners

By law, municipalities may pass an ordinance to establish a property tax abatement program for the surviving spouses of first responders (police officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical technicians) who die in the line of duty. The act extends eligibility to include surviving domestic partners (people with whom a first responder maintained, until his or her death, a domestic partnership). Under the act, a "domestic partnership" is between two people who (1) are at least age 18; (2) are in a committed, intimate relationship with each other; (3) are not married to anyone; (4) would not be prohibited from marrying each other under the state's laws; (5) live together in a principal residence; and (6) are each other's sole domestic partner.

The act allows a municipality that establishes this abatement program to require a domestic partner claiming the abatement to attest to the criteria described above. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the abatement may cover all or some of the property taxes due on the residence that the claimant owns and occupies as his or her primary residence.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 63 — WORKING GROUP ON TAX INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Creates a working group to review and make recommendations for tax incentives and credits for volunteer firefighters

The act creates a working group to review and make recommendations for legislation on tax incentives and credits for volunteer firefighters in the state. Under the act, the working group consists of the state fire administrator and DRS commissioner, or their designees, and one member appointed by each of the six legislative leaders. The House speaker's appointee must represent an organization representing firefighters in the state, but the other appointees have no specifically required qualifications, and any of the appointees may be state legislators.

The act requires (1) all initial appointments to the working group to be made within 30 days after the act becomes effective (by June 10, 2026) and (2) any vacancy to be filled by the appointing authority.

The act makes the House speaker's and Senate president pro tempore's appointees the working group's chairpersons and requires them to schedule and hold the task force's first meeting within 60 days after the act becomes effective (by July 10, 2026). The Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee's administrative staff must serve in that capacity for the working group.

The working group must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee by January 1, 2027. It ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 64 — LOBSTER SALES

Allows (1) food service establishments to sell consumers lobsters with sizes outside of LMA 6 minimum and maximum length requirements under certain conditions and (2) licensed seafood dealers to sell food service establishments these lobsters

The act allows Connecticut food service establishments to sell lobsters that do not meet the existing lobster size requirements if the lobster meets certain criteria. The act allows the establishments regulated by the public health code to sell consumers any lobster outside of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's American Lobster Fishery Management Plan Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 minimum and maximum shell lengths (3.375 inches and 5.25 inches) if the:

1. lobster is taken from LMA 6 waters (under federal regulations this includes New York and Connecticut state waters) or landed in Connecticut;
2. lobster is within the legal length for the LMA or nation of origin where it is taken; and
3. food service establishment that has the lobster also has a manifest, bill of landing, invoice, purchase order, or other written documentation that identifies the (a) state, LMA, or nation of origin where the lobster was received and (b) number of lobsters received.

Under the act, the food service establishment must keep the required documentation for six months after it receives the lobster and make it available to any law enforcement officer upon request.

The act also allows any Connecticut licensed seafood dealer to sell food service establishments lobsters in compliance with these restrictions. The dealer must give the purchasing food service establishment the documentation described above at the time of sale.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage (PA 26-68, § 253, delays this provision's effective date to July 1, 2027.)

§§ 65-70 & 72 — TUITION WAIVERS AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Requires (1) CT State and CSCU to waive tuition for eligible police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel (first responders); (2) CHFA to develop and administer a mortgage assistance program for these first responders; and (3) POST, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, and DPH to establish eligibility requirements for these programs

The act requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education, beginning July 1, 2027, to waive Connecticut State Community College (CT State) and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) tuition for (1) eligible police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service (EMS) personnel (first responders) who submit compliance certifications that certify their eligibility (see below) and are enrolled or accepted for admission, and (2) students who are enrolled at the state fire school in courses offered together with the respective college or university that accredits the fire school courses. The act caps the total number of these waivers at CT State and CSCU at 200 per school year, respectively.

The act also requires the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), starting January 1, 2027, to develop and administer a mortgage assistance program for these eligible first responders who submit a compliance certification and are buying a home as their principal residence in the community where they serve. Under the act, this mortgage assistance must be provided under CHFA-established guidelines. In doing so, CHFA may (1) use down payment assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies and (2) allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable portion of the property's equity gain when it is sold.

EFFECTIVE DATE: (1) July 1, 2026, for the compliance certification provisions; (2) October 1, 2026, for the eligibility requirement provisions; (3) January 1, 2027, for the mortgage assistance program provisions, and (4) July 1, 2027, for the tuition waiver provisions.

Covered First Responders

Under the act, a "first responder" is (1) a police officer certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), (2) volunteer or paid fire service personnel certified by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (commission), and (3) EMS personnel licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Compliance Certifications

The act requires first responders seeking tuition waivers or mortgage assistance to request a compliance certification from their "employer" on a form developed by the state comptroller that certifies the first responder meets applicable eligibility requirements (see below). Under the act, "employer" for a police officer means the administrative head of a law enforcement unit, for fire service personnel it means the chief of a volunteer or paid fire department, and for EMS personnel it means the chief administrator of a volunteer or municipal EMS organization.

The employer must complete the compliance certification form if the first responder meets the applicable eligibility requirements established by the act as described below. The employer must send the compliance certification to the first responder, and a copy to the comptroller in a way prescribed by the comptroller. First responders must submit their compliance certification along with their applications to CT State or CSCU for a tuition waiver, or to CHFA for mortgage assistance, as applicable.

Compliance Form

The comptroller must, by September 1, 2026, develop a compliance certification form for employers to use to certify that the first responder meets the eligibility requirements established by the act. The comptroller must post the form in a conspicuous location on his website and maintain each compliance certification submitted to the comptroller for as long as the first responder receives either a tuition waiver or mortgage assistance. The comptroller, if requested by the first responder, may share a copy of the compliance certification with (1) the first responder, (2) CT State, (3) CSCU, (4) CHFA, or (5) DRS.

Eligibility Requirements

The act requires POST, the commission, and DPH to each establish eligibility requirements, by January 1, 2027, for first responders under their jurisdiction that apply for tuition waivers or mortgage assistance.

POST must establish eligibility requirements for police officers that, at a minimum, require officers to be (1) POST-certified and (2) currently employed by a law enforcement unit in Connecticut for between two and five years.

The commission must establish eligibility requirements for firefighters, which include (1) anyone regularly employed and paid by a municipality or nonprofit contractor for performing firefighting duties for a municipality at least 35 hours per week on average, or (2) any volunteer who performs firefighting duties. The eligibility requirements must at least require that the firefighter be (1) certified as fire service personnel by the commission and (2) currently employed by a fire department in the state for between two and five years. The act specifies that, for the commission's eligibility requirements for tuition waivers, "firefighter" includes firefighters serving a fire department operated by a federally recognized Connecticut Indian tribe.

DPH must establish eligibility requirements for EMS personnel that at least require them to be (1) licensed or certified by the DPH commissioner and (2) currently employed by a municipal or volunteer EMS organization in Connecticut for between two and five years. DPH must consult with the commission in establishing the eligibility requirements for tuition waivers.

§§ 69-71 — FEE WAIVERS FOR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS

Expands the current tuition waiver for active National Guard members enrolled at CT State, CSCU, or UConn to include all mandatory fees

The act waives all mandatory fees for eligible National Guard members enrolled at CT State, CSCU, or UConn under the existing tuition waiver program. By law, to be eligible for the program, a National Guard member must be (1) certified by the adjutant general or his designee as a member in good standing and (2) enrolled or accepted in one of those institutions on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program (or graduate program, for CSCU and UConn). Under existing law, the waiver program also covers eligible National Guard members' tuition and extension fees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027

§ 73 — PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE

Establishes a task force to study recruitment and retention issues for public safety personnel

The act establishes a task force to study recruitment and retention issues for public safety personnel. The study must at least examine the feasibility and fiscal impact of the state providing:

1. tuition waivers, mortgage assistance, and tax credits to correction officers and judicial marshals;
2. tuition waivers to dependent children of police officers, uniformed members of paid or volunteer fire departments, and EMS personnel;
3. tuition waivers for undergraduate and graduate degree programs at UConn to police officers, uniformed members of paid or volunteer fire departments, and EMS personnel; and
4. tuition vouchers for any accredited higher education institution in Connecticut to public safety personnel.

Under the act, the task force consists of the DESPP and education commissioners and the chief court administrator, or their designees, and one member appointed by each of the six legislative leaders. The House speaker's appointee must have expertise in public safety and the Senate president pro tempore's appointee must represent the University of New Haven and have expertise in higher education. Any appointee may be a state legislator. All initial appointments must be made by June 10, 2026, and any vacancies must be filled by the appropriate appointing authority. The speaker and the president pro tempore must select the task force's chairpersons from its members, who must schedule the first meeting of the task force, which must be held by July 10, 2026. The Public Safety and Security Committee's administrative staff must serve in that capacity for the task force. The task force must submit its findings and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2027. The task force ends on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 74 — POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER CAREER PIPELINE PROGRAM

Requires the chief workforce officer to develop a plan to establish a police officer and firefighter career pipeline program

The act requires the chief workforce officer to develop a plan to establish a police officer and firefighter career pipeline program. The plan must include (1) a strategy to increase the number of state residents pursuing careers as police officers or firefighters and (2) estimated funding needed to support the pipeline program. The chief workforce officer must report on the plan to the Public Safety and Security and Labor and Public Employees committees by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-17—SB 268

Labor and Public Employees Committee

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMPTROLLER TO WITHHOLD PAYMENT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE PREVAILING WAGE STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act sets a process for the state comptroller to withhold payment to a contractor or subcontractor who has violated the state's prevailing wage law. More specifically, it allows the labor commissioner to notify the comptroller when, as allowed under existing law, she issues a stop work order against a contractor or subcontractor for knowingly or

willfully failing to pay an employee the prevailing wage required on a public works project. The notice must be in a way set by the comptroller.

The act requires the comptroller, within 10 business days after getting the notice, to notify the contractor or subcontractor that (1) he received the notice from the labor commissioner and (2) the contractor or subcontractor must comply with the prevailing wage requirement within 10 business days after receiving the comptroller's notice.

If the contractor or subcontractor remains noncompliant after this 10-day period, the act allows the comptroller to withhold payment to the contractor or subcontractor until the (1) labor commissioner releases the stop work order, (2) contractor or subcontractor pays any penalties imposed under the prevailing wage law or the law on additional wage-related penalties, or (3) parties finalize a settlement agreement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Prevailing Wage Law

The state's prevailing wage law generally requires contractors and subcontractors on certain public works projects to pay their construction workers wages and benefits equal to those that are customary or prevailing for the same work, in the same occupation, in the same town. The requirement applies to new construction projects costing at least \$1 million and renovation projects costing at least \$100,000. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, if the contracting officer on a prevailing wage job finds that a contractor or subcontractor failed to pay a worker the required prevailing wage, the state (or the contracting political subdivision of the state) may generally (1) terminate the contractor's right to proceed with the work or (2) withhold payment to the contractor or subcontractor (CGS § 31-53(b)).

PA 26-34—HB 5383

Labor and Public Employees Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES CONCERNING LABOR

SUMMARY: This act makes technical changes to various labor-related statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-83—SB 349

Labor and Public Employees Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF FUND

SUMMARY: This act makes changes to the state treasurer's reporting requirements on programs that provide benefits to firefighters with cancer.

Prior law required the treasurer, in consultation with the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, to issue separate annual reports on the status of the Firefighters Cancer Relief Program, with one due each January to the Public Safety Committee, and the second due each July to the Firefighters Cancer Relief Fund Advisory Committee.

The act repeals the requirement for the report to the Public Safety Committee. For the report to the advisory committee, the act:

1. requires the report to also include information about a separate program that provides workers' compensation-like benefits to firefighters with cancer;
2. changes the report's required contents to include the projected and actual (1) expenditures (rather than participation) for each program and (2) income sources for the firefighters cancer relief account (rather than certain demographic information about the firefighters receiving benefits);
3. requires the Labor and Public Employees Committee to also receive the report; and
4. changes the annual report's due date from July 1 to October 1 (with the next one due by October 1, 2026).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-89—sSB 439

*Labor and Public Employees Committee
Judiciary Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE DEVICES AND SYSTEMS AND SELF-SERVICE KIOSKS IN EMPLOYEE LOUNGES

SUMMARY: This act allows third-party vendors that operate self-service kiosks to use an electronic surveillance device or system in employee lounges as long as it (1) does not record sound or voice and (2) only records the kiosk's checkout area and the area where products are displayed for sale. Under the act, a "self-service kiosk" is an interactive, stand-alone terminal that allows people to independently scan and buy items for sale.

The act prohibits employers, including their agents and representatives, from asking to view the vendor's surveillance system's video except when the vendor reports an alleged theft by an employee. The vendor must otherwise maintain sole custody of the video collected by the surveillance system and cannot release or allow access to it unless required by law.

Existing law otherwise prohibits employers from using an electronic surveillance device or system to record or monitor employee activities in areas designed (1) for employee health or personal comfort or (2) to safeguard employees' possessions. The act extends the law's penalties for violations to also cover third-party vendors who violate the act's provisions (a \$500 fine for a first offense, a \$1,000 fine for a second offense, and a \$1,000 fine and 30 days' imprisonment for subsequent offenses).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-99—SB 346

Labor and Public Employees Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

SUMMARY: This act changes the membership of the Governor's Workforce Council by (1) increasing the number of the governor's appointments of business representatives from 24 to 30; (2) changing the qualifications for these members and requiring at least one of them to be an expert in residential construction and another in unionized construction; and (3) eliminating a separate gubernatorial appointment of a residential construction expert who, under prior law, was not subject to those qualifications.

The act also requires the governor to appoint to the council a (1) member who is a representative of a labor organization nominated by a state building trades labor organization and (2) director of a vocational rehabilitation program at the Department of Aging and Disability Services. Additionally, the act caps the total members of the council at 62 members and requires that modifications to the council's membership conform to federal law, which, among other things, requires the majority of the governor's appointments to be business representatives and requires them to meet certain qualifications.

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes, such as updating the citation to federal law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

CHANGES TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Prior law required the council's business representatives appointed by the governor to:

1. be owners of a business, chief executives or operating officers of a business, or other business executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority;
2. represent businesses or organizations representing businesses that provide employment opportunities that at least include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the state; or
3. have been nominated by state business organizations or business trade associations.

The act changes this by requiring that appointees satisfy all three of the above qualifications, generally aligning with federal requirements. Under existing law, at least one of these members must represent small business.

BACKGROUND

Federal Requirements

Federal law requires a state workforce development board's membership to (1) include the governor, two legislators, and other government representatives; (2) have the majority of the governor's appointments be business representatives; and (3) have at least 20% of the governor's appointments be workforce representatives (29 U.S.C. § 3111).

Council Duties

The council's statutory duties include, among other things, convening state agencies, educational institutions, business leaders, and others to (1) inform state workforce development policy, (2) help state agencies and educational institutions align with employers' needs, and (3) help businesses understand how to contribute to the state's workforce efforts.

PA 26-145—HB 5491

Labor and Public Employees Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CENTRALIZATION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

SUMMARY: This act requires the labor commissioner to create a centralized webpage on the Department of Labor's website for information, resources, and materials on workforce development by January 1, 2027, and then update it on a semiannual basis. The act specifically requires that the website have links to external sources of information, resources, and materials on (1) job training, career counseling, and workforce development organizations and opportunities; (2) regional sector partnerships; and (3) other topics related to workforce development.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-7—sHB 5288

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITY CONNECTIONS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

SUMMARY: In addition to replacing references to “accessory apartment” with “accessory dwelling unit” (ADU) throughout the statutes, this act makes two changes to the law on “as-of-right” ADUs (see BACKGROUND).

First, the act extends provisions on zoning regulations’ treatment of as-of-right ADUs to municipalities that exercise zoning authority under a special act. Previously, these requirements applied only to municipalities that exercise zoning authority under the statutes (CGS § 8-2). As is generally the case for municipalities exercising authority under the statutes, under the act, any local regulations adopted under a special act that do not comply with the law on as-of-right ADUs are void.

Second, the act extends existing law on utility providers’ treatment of ADU utility connections, such as water and sewer connections, to cover investor-owned water companies. Under existing law, municipalities, special districts, and sewer and water authorities cannot (1) consider an ADU to be a new residential use when calculating connection fees or capacity charges for utilities unless the ADU was built with a new single-family dwelling on the same lot or (2) require the installation of a new or separate utility connection directly to an ADU or impose a related connection fee or capacity charge. Under the act, the same prohibitions apply to investor-owned water companies.

Unchanged by the act, an ADU is a separate dwelling with cooking facilities that is located on the same lot as a larger, principal dwelling and complies with any applicable building and fire codes and health and safety regulations. By law, an “as-of-right” dwelling may be approved by reviewing compliance with zoning regulations, without requiring (1) a public hearing; (2) a variance, special permit, or special exception; or (3) other discretionary zoning action, other than a determination that a site plan conforms with applicable zoning regulations.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

As-of-Right ADU Law (CGS § 8-2o)

By law, municipalities generally must allow one ADU as of right on each lot that contains a single-family dwelling. (Municipalities were previously able to opt out of this requirement, but the deadline for doing so was January 1, 2023.) By law, among other things, zoning regulations on these as-of-right ADUs:

1. must allow attached and detached ADUs;
2. cannot set a maximum net floor area for ADUs that is smaller than the lesser of (a) 30% of the principal dwelling’s net floor area or (b) 1,000 square feet;
3. cannot require a familial, marital, or employment relationship between the principal dwelling unit’s occupants and the ADU’s occupants; and
4. may prohibit or limit the use of ADUs for short-term rentals or vacation stays.

PA 26-9—sHB 5391

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ZONING REGULATIONS

SUMMARY: This act authorizes municipalities that exercise zoning authority under a special act to enforce their regulations in the same way (under CGS § 8-12) as municipalities that exercise zoning authority under the statutes. For example, under the act, the zoning enforcement authority in a municipality zoning under a special act can enforce local regulations by asking the court (1) for an injunction; (2) to impose criminal penalties, including imprisonment; or (3) to impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 (see BACKGROUND for information on these and other remedies extended to municipalities zoning under a special act).

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Zoning Enforcement Under CGS § 8-12

By law, a municipality's zoning enforcement authority may issue written orders to remedy property conditions that violate zoning regulations (including related bylaws, ordinances, and rules). The authority may also issue cease-and-desist orders for violations involving land grading, soil removal, or soil erosion or sediment control.

CGS § 8-12 subjects a person to a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 if he or she (1) has been served with a written order and fails to comply with it within 10 days, (2) has been served with a cease-and-desist order and fails to comply immediately, or (3) continues to violate the specific regulation identified in the order. In addition, the court can grant the municipality injunctive relief if a person subject to an order does not comply with it.

In addition to these penalties for violating an order, a violation of the underlying regulations is subject to civil and criminal penalties. Ordinarily, violations are subject to a court-imposed fine of between \$10 and \$100 per day. However, if the violation is willful, the violator is subject to a fine of between \$100 and \$250 per day, imprisonment of up to 10 days for each day of the violation (up to a maximum of 30 days), or both. A willful violator may also be responsible for the municipality's costs and attorney's fees.

(In addition to the enforcement powers described above, existing law allows any municipality to enact an ordinance setting fines of up to \$150 per day for zoning violations, if the municipality also has a local citation hearing procedure (CGS § 8-12a).)

PA 26-114—sSB 362

Planning and Development Committee

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO STATUTES RELATING TO MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY: This act makes changes in property tax-related laws, including:

1. delaying the annual reporting deadlines for digital parcel filings;
2. changing the membership requirements for the committee that trains, examines, and certifies tax assessors;
3. allowing assessors to use certain imaging tools when doing full revaluation inspections and requiring them to notify taxpayers about assessment increases, even in revaluation years;
4. capping the taxable value of older motor vehicles and changing how commercial vehicles are valued;
5. expanding what proof taxpayers may file for property tax exemptions for veterans;
6. requiring all municipalities to use the uniform personal property valuation method in existing law;
7. specifying that municipalities may continue tax liens while a court appeal is pending;
8. broadly delaying the due dates for property tax filings that fall on a weekend or holiday; and
9. repealing a requirement that assessors annually report on exemptions granted for certain machinery and equipment.

Lastly, it makes technical changes, including conforming changes to reflect prior changes in the law (§ 19).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§ 1 — DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING DIGITAL PARCEL FILINGS

The act delays, from May 1 to September 1, the date by which each town must annually give its digital parcel files (data about plots of land) to its council of governments (COG) or, if it is not a member of one, to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). It correspondingly delays, from July 1 to October 1, the annual deadline for COGs to report to OPM and the Planning and Development Committee on towns that did not submit or do not have digital parcel files.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 2 & 3 — PILOT-RELATED NOTIFICATIONS

The act requires OPM to send certain notices to municipalities electronically, rather than by certified or registered mail as prior law required. The requirement applies to the notices OPM sends municipalities about inaccurate property valuations for payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 4 — CERTIFIED CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL ASSESSOR COMMITTEE

To align with existing regulations, the act specifies that the Certified Connecticut Municipal Assessor Committee (CCMA) may recommend applicants for CCMA I or II certification.

The act also changes the committee membership requirements by (1) removing the requirement that one member be an OPM employee, instead requiring that the OPM secretary or someone he selects be a member, and (2) requiring that all other committee members have a CCMA II certification, rather than any certification as prior law allowed. Under the act, if any of these committee members lose their CCMA II designation, the OPM secretary must choose a replacement to finish their terms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 5 & 6 — REVALUATION INSPECTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Assessment Increase Notifications (§ 5)

When assessors are setting their municipality's annual grand lists, the law generally requires them to notify taxpayers about any increases in their property assessments. The act removes an exception that allows assessors, during revaluation years, to send a revaluation notice instead. Thus, the act requires assessors to send these notices any time assessments increase.

Full Inspections (§ 6)

By law, assessors must generally do revaluations every five years, and every 10 years, either (1) fully inspect buildings and structures or (2) require a questionnaire about them be completed. (They may also fully inspect them at other times to verify their records are accurate, such as after a renovation.) The act adds to the ways assessors can do full inspections.

Under prior law, when assessors did a full inspection, they had to enter a building or structure, if given permission, to see its characteristics and condition. They also had to verify its exterior dimensions. The act appears to limit the purpose for which they enter a building, and assess its interior, to verifying its exterior dimensions.

Under the act, assessors may also use imaging tools that meet the International Association of Assessing Officers' guidance on alternatives to on-site inspections to do a full inspection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 7, 9 & 11-14 — MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

Assessed Value (§§ 7, 9, 12 & 14)

Generally, property must be assessed at and taxed on 70% of its present true and actual (fair market) value. To align with recent changes in the law, the act clarifies that motor vehicles are instead assessed at 70% of the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP), if there is one. (By law, if there is no MSRP, the assessor must consult with the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers and set the vehicle's value.)

For vehicles assessed using an MSRP, the act specifies that people may only appeal the MSRP used and may not base an appeal on the vehicle's present true and actual value (for example, vehicles in a similar condition having sold for a different amount).

Relatedly, it eliminates a requirement that OPM annually set guidelines for assessors to use when valuing vehicles.

Valuing Older Vehicles (§ 11)

The act caps the taxable value of motor vehicles that are at least 20 years old. Previously, these vehicles had to be valued at \$500 or more. Under the act, they must be valued at the lesser of \$500 or 10% of their MSRP (15% of their MSRP in municipalities that have chosen to use the modified depreciation schedule existing law allows).

Commercial Vehicles (§ 12)

By law, when assessing commercial motor vehicles and any additions to them (modifications and attachments), assessors must decide whether they should be valued like other motor vehicle property, taking into consideration whether the additions are permanent. Under prior law, assessors could instead value them like other (primarily non-motor vehicle)

personal property listed on a personal property declaration. The act removes this option and instead allows assessors to value them using another existing law that primarily determines which municipality may levy tax on a property. (It is unclear whether this law provides an alternative way to value commercial vehicles.)

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills (§ 13)

The act specifies when property tax payments for motor vehicles added to the grand list after the start of the assessment year (October 1) are due and late payment interest is added. In prior years (before the 2024 assessment year), supplemental tax bills were due January 1 and interest was added to bills not paid by February 1, providing a one-month grace period. Beginning with the 2024 assessment year, the law began allowing assessors to set supplemental tax bill due dates. The act specifies that interest is added to these bills one month after the due date, retaining the one-month grace period (that also applies to regular, non-supplemental tax bills under existing law).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, and applicable to assessment years starting on and after that date, except the main provision (§ 7) specifying that vehicles are assessed using their MSRP is effective October 1, 2026.

§§ 8, 17, 18, 20 & 21 — VETERANS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Adjusting Amounts After a Revaluation (§ 8)

By law, municipalities must increase certain property tax exemption amounts for veterans and their families if, after a revaluation, their grand lists increase by a certain amount. When calculating this increase, municipalities must compare their net grand list for that year (post-revaluation) to their net grand list for the prior year (pre-revaluation).

The act specifies that municipalities, when doing this calculation, must use the municipality's published grand list.

WWII Veterans Who Served With Foreign Nations (§ 17)

Existing law generally entitles U.S. citizens who served with an allied or associated nation's military during World War II to a property tax exemption (of at least \$1,500) if they received an honorable discharge. The act expands eligibility to also cover these individuals who served with another nation if they received (1) a general discharge under honorable conditions or (2) an other than honorable (OTH) discharge if they have a qualifying condition (broadly, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a traumatic brain injury, or a military sexual trauma or a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge (CGS § 27-103)).

Submitting Proof of Eligibility (§§ 18, 20 & 21)

By law, veterans and their families claiming a property tax exemption based on military service must generally show the town clerk proof of the qualifying service. Under prior law, this proof had to show that the veteran has an honorable discharge from military service, even though other discharge characterizations can qualify a veteran (or his or her family) for an exemption.

The act expands what proof claimants may show to also cover these other, eligible discharge characterizations (a general discharge under honorable conditions or an OTH discharge based on qualifying conditions, as described above). The act also makes the assessor, rather than the tax collector, responsible for receiving proof a claimant is retroactively eligible for an exemption based on his or her service-connected disability rating.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, and applicable to assessment years starting on and after that date, except the provisions on adjusting amounts after a revaluation (§ 8) and proof of eligibility (§ 21) are effective October 1, 2026.

§ 10 — STATEWIDE DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE

The act requires assessors to use a uniform personal property valuation method set in existing law. Prior law gave municipalities the option of adopting this method (and in practice most municipalities opted to).

By law, this method requires assessors to value most types of personal property based on their acquisition or development cost (plus certain additional costs, such as for installation), and then depreciate it based on its property type and age, according to statutory schedules.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, and applicable to assessment years starting on and after that date.

§ 15 — MUNICIPAL TAX LIENS

By law, real estate on which property taxes are owed is subject to an unrecorded (“silent”) lien for those taxes. If taxes on the property remain unpaid for a period set in law, the tax collector may file a certificate to continue the lien (formalize it in the land records) (CGS § 12-172 et seq.). The act specifies that the tax collector may do so even if the taxpayer has appealed the taxes to Superior Court and the case is still pending.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 16 & 22 — TAXPAYER FILINGS WITH THE MUNICIPALITY*Weekend and Holiday Deadlines (§ 22)*

The act broadly delays the deadline for taxpayers to file any property tax-related application or extension if the deadline falls on a weekend or a legally recognized holiday. Under the act, the filings are considered on-time if they are filed or postmarked on the next day that is not a weekend or holiday. Existing law similarly allows property tax bills that are due on a weekend or holiday to be paid on the next business day without being considered late (CGS § 12-169).

Circuit Breaker Program Extensions (§ 16)

The act requires taxpayers who want an extension on the deadline to apply for the circuit breaker program to request it with the assessor rather than the OPM secretary, as prior law required.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 23 — REPEAL OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The act repeals the requirement that each assessor annually report to OPM on the amount of claims the municipality granted under certain existing exemptions for machinery and equipment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-126—sHB 5282*Planning and Development Committee*

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONTINUING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING THE STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes in laws related to the state plan of conservation and development (POCD). Among other things, it generally raises, from \$200,000 to \$1 million (adjusted for inflation regularly), the threshold at which certain state agency capital projects and grant authorizations must be consistent with the state POCD. (Generally, these same projects were also deemed “growth-related projects” under prior law (see below).) The act also removes acquiring public transportation equipment or facilities from the list of grants and projects that must be consistent with the POCD.

Additionally, the act eliminates priority funding areas (PFAs). Under prior law, (1) the state POCD had to identify the boundaries for PFAs and (2) when state agencies funded or undertook a growth-related project, the project had to be located in a PFA unless the agency complied with a statutory exception process. The act eliminates both of these requirements, among other PFA-related requirements and references.

The POCD is a statement of the state’s development, resource management, and public investment policies. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) develops the plan, which goes before the legislature for hearings and approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 1 — STATE AGENCY SPENDING THAT MUST CONFORM TO POCD*Higher Threshold and Indexing to Inflation*

Under prior law, the following projects, if they cost more than \$200,000, and were undertaken by a state agency with

state or federal funds, had to be consistent with the state POCD:

1. acquiring real property;
2. developing or improving real property;
3. acquiring public transportation facilities or equipment; and
4. authorizing state grants to (a) acquire, develop, or improve real property or (b) acquire public transportation equipment or facilities.

The act (1) removes public transportation facilities and equipment from the list of covered projects and grant purposes and (2) increases the cost threshold for all other covered projects to more than \$1 million. But the new threshold applies to state agencies' grant authorizations (the last listed item) only if the application is made on or after October 1, 2026.

By January 1, 2027, and every five years after that, the act requires the OPM secretary to adjust the threshold by the percentage change in the Producer Price Index by Commodity: Construction (Partial) (WPU80), not seasonally adjusted, or its successor index, as calculated by the United States Department of Labor, over the preceding five calendar years, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100. The secretary must publish the adjusted threshold on OPM's website.

Advisory Statements

Prior law required agencies undertaking covered projects to request and receive an advisory statement from OPM on the grant or project's conformity with the POCD. The act eliminates this requirement and instead requires agencies to give OPM a notice explaining how their grant or project conforms to the POCD. It allows agencies to consult with the OPM secretary before submitting the notice.

§§ 2-5 — ELIMINATION OF PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS

The act repeals references to PFAs and related requirements. Under prior law, these were areas that OPM specified as part of the POCD, considering factors such as whether an area is a regional center, growth or conservation area, or located in a distressed municipality. Under the act, OPM does not have to identify PFAs.

Prior law required growth-related projects (see above) to be undertaken in PFAs, with exceptions. In eliminating the PFA framework, the act correspondingly eliminates this requirement.

PA 26-136—sSB 444

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES TO SERVE ON MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF FINANCE

SUMMARY: This act creates an additional exception to a statutory prohibition on municipal employees serving on the board of finance (BOF) in the municipality in which they work and live. It allows these employees, if they receive a stipend for their work, to serve on the BOF as long as the stipend is less than \$10,000 in any rolling 12-month period.

Additionally, as under existing law, the prohibition on municipal employees serving on the BOF in the municipality does not apply if (1) a local charter or home rule ordinance explicitly allows the service or (2) employees serve only in their capacity as a member of the municipality's legislative body (ex officio membership).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-137—sSB 449

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY: This act requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to collaborate with state agencies to identify state property that qualifies as PA 490 land and have local assessors classify and value it that way for purposes of making the grand list. The act's provisions apply regardless of conflicting state laws on the PA 490 program, special acts, and municipal charters and ordinances. The PA 490 program allows eligible land (such as farm or forest land) to be assessed at its current use value, rather than fair market value, for property tax purposes. (While the state does not pay property taxes,

it makes annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) grants to municipalities for state-owned property, based in part on its assessed value (see BACKGROUND).)

The act also:

1. delays, from March 1 to April 1, the annual deadline for OPM to notify public school operators about their District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) grant allocation and post related information online;
2. eliminates a municipal reporting requirement related to zoning regulations on family and group child care homes; and
3. repeals the law on the obsolete Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision on classifying land as PA 490 land is effective upon passage and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after October 1, 2026.

CLASSIFICATION OF STATE PROPERTY AS PA 490 LAND

Unchanged by the act, the state is not subject to local property taxes. But under existing law, the state must fully or partially reimburse municipalities for their forgone revenue on state-owned property, based on the property's assessed value, as part of the PILOT program (see BACKGROUND). By requiring eligible state-owned lands to be valued using the PA 490 valuation method, which generally results in a value below fair market value, the act generally decreases the required state PILOT payment for that land.

The PA 490 law allows four classifications of land – farm, forest, open space, and maritime heritage – to be assessed at their current use value, rather than their fair market value. “Current use value” refers to what the land is worth as it is actually used; “fair market value” refers to what the land may be worth on the open market (at its highest and best use).

Identifying Land and Notifying Assessor

Under the act, OPM must work with state agencies to identify land that can be classified as PA 490 land. Specifically, agencies must identify eligible real property that (1) a state agency has custody or control of or (2) belongs to, or is held in trust for, the state (“state land”).

When eligible state land is identified, OPM must inform the local assessor that the land should be classified as farm, forest, open space, or maritime heritage land, as applicable. The act requires assessors to classify the land accordingly, value it using the recommended land values the state sets every five years, and add it to the grand list in the manner the law generally sets for adding tax-exempt property.

The act requires OPM to notify assessors about state land that qualifies as PA 490 land within the same timeframes as other property owners must under the PA 490 program (meaning no earlier than 30 days before and no later than 30 days after the assessment date, except OPM can inform assessors as late as 90 days after the assessment date in a revaluation year).

As is the case for other PA 490 land, the classification of state land as open space, farm, forest, or maritime heritage land ends if its use changes or it is sold or transferred.

DRIP PROGRAM

By law, DRIP grants are formula grants awarded to public school operators (such as school boards) to, among other things, help construct, renovate, repair, and enlarge public school buildings or grounds.

The act delays, from March 1 to April 1, the annual deadline for OPM to (1) notify school operators about their DRIP allocation and (2) post these amounts, and the calculations used to determine them, on its website.

By law, unchanged by the act, OPM must issue the grants to school operators by June 30 each year.

ELIMINATION OF THE CHILD CARE HOME ZONING COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

The act ends the requirement that municipalities annually certify to OPM by December 1:

1. that their zoning regulations do not restrict family and group child care homes in a way the law prohibits (such as by banning them in residential zones or requiring a special permit to operate one) or
2. the timeframe within which they will bring their zoning ordinances into compliance.

BACKGROUND

PILOT Program (CGS § 12-18b)

The PILOT program generally gives municipalities and fire districts annual grants for (1) state-owned property, municipally owned airports, and tribal reservation land and (2) private nonprofit college and hospital property. PILOT grant amounts are generally determined by multiplying the assessed value of the PILOT-eligible property by the statutory reimbursement rate for the given property type. The rate is generally 45% for state-owned property. The actual grant amounts municipalities and districts receive, however, depend on the amount appropriated for the grants.

PA 26-138—HB 5287

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES RELATING TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY: This act makes several technical changes in statutes on municipal debt financing and planning.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-141—sHB 5509

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

SUMMARY: This act requires vital statistics registrars (often town clerks) to wait at least 48 hours after receiving an application for a marriage license before issuing the license. It correspondingly delays the period during which the wedding can be held (no sooner than 48 hours after applying for the license and no later than 65 days after the license's issuing date, rather than the application date).

Separately, the act defines what constitutes official misconduct by justices of the peace ("justices") and makes them liable for any damages caused by their misconduct. It requires the secretary of the state ("secretary") to investigate allegations of misconduct and authorizes her to take certain enforcement actions, including revoking a justice's appointment. The act also requires the secretary to publish a manual on justice duties by July 1, 2027, which justices must certify they have read.

Justices are normally appointed according to a four-year schedule. The act establishes processes for appointing them when (1) a municipality creates new justice positions 91 days or more before the next scheduled appointment period or (2) the town clerk must fill vacancies but did not get enough applications during the last quadrennial application filing period to do so.

Lastly, the act establishes a working group to examine and make recommendations on various justice-related topics by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the (1) provisions barring justice misconduct and allowing the secretary to investigate take effect January 1, 2027, and (2) working group provision is effective upon passage.

§ 1 — JUSTICE MANUAL & QUALIFICATIONS

The act requires the secretary, by July 1, 2027, to publish on her office's website a manual that describes the justices' duties (see BACKGROUND). To be qualified as a justice under the act, an individual must (1) be appointed through one of the processes set out in existing law and (2) certify, on a form the secretary creates, that they received and read the manual. Generally, justices must make this certification within 30 days after their appointment. For justices appointed before July 1, 2027, they must do it by August 1, 2027.

§§ 1-3 — JUSTICE MISCONDUCT

Prohibited Acts

The act prohibits justices from doing any of the following:

1. performing any official action with the intent to deceive or defraud anyone;
2. using their title to endorse or promote any product, third-party service, contest, or offering; or
3. performing a marriage the justice knows, or should know, is unlawful under state law or the federal law that, among other things, criminalizes entering a marriage to evade immigration laws.

Liability for Official Misconduct

Under the act, a justice engages in official misconduct if he or she, while executing justice duties, performs an act (1) described above (a “prohibited act”) or that another state law prohibits or (2) in a way the secretary finds to be negligent, fraudulent, unlawful, or against the public interest. Failure to do something state law requires is also official misconduct under the act.

The act makes a justice liable for damages that were proximately caused by the justice’s official misconduct.

Secretary of the State Enforcement

The act requires the secretary to investigate any allegations of official misconduct by a justice. It specifies that an investigation may occur or continue even if the justice’s appointment expires or is revoked or terminated.

At the end of the investigation, the secretary must issue findings. If the secretary finds that a justice engaged in official misconduct, the act authorizes her to (1) issue a written warning or reprimand or (2) suspend or revoke the justice’s appointment, even if it would conflict with a special act or municipal charter or ordinance.

Regulations

The act also authorizes the secretary to adopt regulations to carry out these misconduct-related provisions.

§ 4 — FILLING NEWLY CREATED POSITIONS

Through a process specified in existing law, justices are selected by the town clerk (selecting applicants who are not members of a major political party) and major political parties (Republicans, Democrats, and any parties whose last gubernatorial candidate received at least 20% of all votes cast). Under this process, they are generally selected on a quadrennial schedule that aligns with state election years and their appointment terms are for four years. But prior law did not specify a process by which newly created justice positions could be filled.

Under the act, when a municipal ordinance or charter amendment creates new justice positions 91 days or more before the scheduled quadrennial appointment, justices may be appointed to serve the remainder of the four-year term (until the next scheduled appointment).

Division of Appointments

Of these new positions under the act, generally half are selected by each political party that is considered major based on its party enrollment (the Democrats and Republicans), with the registrars of voters deciding by lottery which party gets an additional selection if there are an uneven number. However, if a third political party qualifies as major (based on its candidate for governor in the prior election receiving at least 20% of the votes), that party selects 20% of the positions, rounded down to the nearest whole number. (In either case, none of these newly created positions are selected by the town clerk.) Under the act, whoever the political parties nominate as their selections qualify as justices.

If a major party fills a vacancy, it must file an appointment certificate with the town clerk, as existing law requires. The town clerk must record the certificate with the town meeting’s records and notify the secretary about the appointment.

§ 5 — FILLING TOWN CLERK-APPOINTED VACANCIES MID-SCHEDULE

By law, people seeking an appointment by a town clerk (meaning they are not affiliated with a major political party) must apply between August 1 and November 1 during the scheduled appointment year (every fourth year). If there are more

applicants than open justice positions, the town clerk must first reappoint applicants who are incumbent justices, then order the remaining applicants using a lottery system. If a town clerk must fill a mid-term vacancy (if a justice gives up their role early, for example), the law requires the clerk to appoint the applicant who is next highest in the lottery order.

Under prior law, if there were more vacancies than applicants remaining on the list, or the lottery was never held, the vacancy had to stay unfilled until the next quadrennial application period. The act instead requires the town clerk to hold another application period. The clerk must issue public notice about the number of vacancies and appointment procedure and then accept written applications from eligible individuals for the next 30 days. Under the act, anyone eligible for an appointment by a major political party (generally a registered Democrat or Republican) in the three months before the public notice is ineligible to apply.

The same notice requirements apply to the act's process for filling mid-term vacancies as apply to existing law's process for filling quadrennial vacancies. If there are more applicants than open positions, the town clerk must hold a public lottery, after at least five days' notice, to prioritize applicants to fill these and any future vacancies. The act requires the clerk to hold the lottery between 10 and 15 days after the application period ends. If, in any year, the clerk gets too few applications to fill all of the vacancies, the act prohibits the clerk from appointing any more justices.

§ 8 — JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

The act establishes an 11-member working group to examine and make recommendations on the following:

1. ways to determine the number of justice positions in each municipality and statewide;
2. the portability of a justice appointment from one municipality to other municipalities;
3. the justice selection process;
4. potential training, qualification, application, and background check requirements;
5. oversight of justices, including potential fines;
6. potential legal consequences of misrepresenting oneself as a justice; and
7. issues related to human trafficking, forced marriage, and marriage fraud.

Under the act, the working group consists of the secretary of the state or her designee, who serves as the chairperson, and the 10 appointed members shown in the table below. Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments by July 4, 2026, and fill any vacancies that arise.

Task Force Appointed Members

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointments</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>
House speaker	Two	One justice and one representative of a professional organization for justices
Senate president pro tempore	Two	Town clerks
House majority leader	One	Town party chairperson
House minority leader	Two	One town party chairperson and one town clerk
Senate majority leader	One	Justice who is not a member of a major political party
Senate minority leader	Two	One justice and one town clerk

The chairperson must schedule and hold the first meeting by August 2, 2026. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Government Administration and Elections Committee and the secretary of the state by January 1, 2027. It ends on the date it submits the report.

BACKGROUND

Justice of the Peace Authority

A justice's authority generally includes administering oaths and signing affidavits after administering them (CGS § 1-24), acknowledging legal documents (CGS § 1-29), performing marriage ceremonies (CGS § 46b-22), taking depositions and issuing subpoenas to compel witnesses to attend them (CGS § 52-148c), and issuing tax warrants (CGS § 12-130).

PA 26-3—sHB 5044
Public Health Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CONNECTICUT VACCINE STANDARDS

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to state laws on immunizations. Principally, it:

1. requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to establish an immunization standard of care for adults, in addition to children as under existing law, and authorizes her to (a) consider recommended vaccine schedules from an additional organization when doing so and (b) include passive immunizations, in addition to active immunizations as allowed under existing law (§§ 1-7, 11, 12, 15 & 16);
2. requires the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) to provide all children's vaccines included under DPH's standard of care, instead of only those recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and allows DPH to purchase the vaccines by means other than through the CDC under certain conditions (§ 2);
3. requires DPH, in consultation with the Department of Social Services (DSS), to adopt regulations for nursing homes on immunization requirements for respiratory viral diseases (such as flu and pneumonia), according to DPH's immunization standard of care instead of the CDC recommendations as under prior law (and allows DPH to adopt related policies and procedures while in the process of adopting regulations) (§ 4);
4. allows the governor, during a public health emergency, to authorize the DPH commissioner or her designee to issue a standing order to allow medical interventions (including vaccines) needed to respond to the emergency (§ 8);
5. establishes, within available appropriations, a DPH-administered Vaccines for Adults Program that purchases and distributes vaccines to eligible health care providers to administer to underinsured and uninsured adults ages 19 and older (§§ 9 & 10);
6. requires health insurance policies that cover prescription drugs to also cover immunizations for children, adolescents, and adults included in DPH's standards of care within the schedules the standards prescribe (§§ 11 & 12);
7. authorizes licensed pharmacists to order, prescribe, and administer vaccines listed in DPH's immunization standards of care, instead of CDC-recommended vaccines, for adult patients and patients between ages 12 and 18 (with parental consent or proof the minor is emancipated) (§ 13); and
8. expressly provides that the state's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) does not apply to immunization requirements for (a) public and private schools, including higher education institutions, and (b) child care centers and group and family day care homes (§ 14).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that provisions on (1) insurance coverage for vaccines take effect January 1, 2027, and (2) RFRA take effect upon passage and apply to any civil action pending on or filed after that date.

§§ 1-7, 11, 12, 15 & 16 — EXPANDED IMMUNIZATION STANDARDS OF CARE

Existing law requires the DPH commissioner to determine an immunization standard of care for children based on the recommended vaccine schedules of ACIP, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

The act requires the commissioner to also establish an immunization standard of care for adults and, when setting any immunization standards, allows her to also consider recommended immunization schedules from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). The standards of care must include immunization schedules for children and adults the commissioner recommends as well as any related contraindications.

The act makes related conforming changes to provisions on (1) the health and welfare fee assessed against certain insurers to pay for the CVP (§ 3); (2) medical exemption forms for state immunization requirements (§ 5); and (3) school immunization requirements, including for higher education institutions (§§ 6 & 7).

Additionally, the act authorizes the DPH commissioner to consider and include in state immunization standards of care for children, adolescents, and adults passive immunizations, instead of only active immunizations as under prior law. It makes related conforming changes to statutory provisions on (1) state immunization requirements and related regulations and (2) mandated insurance coverage for immunizations (see §§ 11 & 12 below).

Generally, active vaccinations stimulate the body's immune system to produce its own antibodies that provide long-term protection. Passive vaccinations, such as the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, instead directly introduce antibodies to provide short-term protection.

§ 2 — VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

By law, DPH administers the CVP, which gives health care providers certain vaccines at no cost to administer to children under age 19, regardless of insurance status. Under prior law, the program only used ACIP-recommended vaccines that DPH purchased through the CDC. The act instead requires the program to use all vaccines included in DPH's recommended children's vaccine schedule set under its standard of care. It allows DPH to purchase the vaccines by means other than through the CDC, so long as the purchase conforms with practices designed to increase efficiency and reduce state costs.

§ 4 — NURSING HOME IMMUNIZATION REGULATIONS

Prior law required the DPH commissioner to adopt nursing home regulations that generally require, among other things, residents to be adequately immunized against flu and pneumonia according to ACIP recommendations. The act instead requires DPH to adopt immunization requirements for respiratory viral diseases, including flu and pneumonia, based on DPH's immunization standards and consult with the DSS commissioner when doing so.

Under the act, the DPH commissioner may adopt policies and procedures needed to implement these immunization requirements while in the process of adopting regulations. She must publish notice of her intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations system within 20 days after implementing the policies and procedures, which are valid until final regulations are adopted.

§ 8 — PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

The act allows the governor, during a statewide or regional public health emergency, to authorize the DPH commissioner or her designee to issue a standing order to allow medical interventions (including vaccines) needed to respond to the emergency.

Under the act, a standing order is a nonpatient-specific statewide order that (1) includes a prescription or order issued by a physician that allows licensed health care providers to dispense or administer medical interventions to treat, or control and prevent the spread of, a disease or public health threat and (2) does not require a person to receive or use these interventions.

§§ 9 & 10 — VACCINES FOR ADULTS PROGRAM

The act establishes, within available appropriations, a DPH-administered Vaccines for Adults Program. Under the program, DPH must purchase and distribute vaccines to free clinics, municipal and district health departments, and other licensed health care providers determined by the commissioner who vaccinate adults ages 19 and older ("eligible health care providers").

Under the act, the commissioner must determine the (1) vaccines the program purchases and distributes based on their efficacy in preventing serious disease and death in adults and (2) eligible health care providers the program distributes the vaccines to. When determining which vaccines to purchase, the commissioner may consult with DPH's Federal Recommendations Advisory Committee (see BACKGROUND).

The act allows an eligible health care provider to administer a vaccine from the program to a patient only if the vaccine is not already covered by (1) the patient's private health insurance plan (if any), (2) Medicaid, or (3) a payment plan the patient entered into with the provider for health care services.

Under the act, the program's vaccines and provider eligibility requirements the commissioner determines are not considered state regulations and are exempt from the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act's regulatory process.

§§ 11 & 12 — INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR IMMUNIZATIONS

The act requires health insurance policies that cover prescription drugs to also cover immunizations for children, adolescents, and adults included in DPH standards of care based on the schedules the standards set. Existing law already requires these insurance policies to cover immunizations (1) recommended by the AAP, AAFP, or ACOG and (2) that have, in effect, a recommendation from ACIP for the person involved. These include, for example, immunizations for influenza, meningitis, tetanus, HPV, hepatitis A and B, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella. For ACIP-recommended immunizations, existing law requires insurance policies to also cover a 20-minute immunization consultation between a patient and a provider authorized to administer them.

The act applies to individual and group health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in

Connecticut that cover (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO plan. Because of the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), state insurance benefit mandates do not apply to self-insured benefit plans.

§ 13 — PHARMACISTS

The act authorizes licensed pharmacists to order, prescribe, and administer federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved or -authorized vaccines listed in DPH's immunization standards of care, instead of only CDC-recommended vaccines, to adult patients and patients between ages 12 and 18 (with parental consent or proof the minor is emancipated).

Existing law also allows pharmacists to order, prescribe, and administer to adult patients other vaccines that are (1) not on the immunization schedules or (2) prescribed (verbally or written) by a practitioner for a specific patient. The act specifies that these vaccines must be FDA-approved or authorized. Prior law limited authorization for vaccines that are not on the immunization schedules to those for which there are administration instructions on the CDC's website. The act removes this limitation.

§ 14 — RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT

The Connecticut Constitution grants people the right to follow their religion and a state law commonly referred to as RFRA prohibits the state or any of its political subdivisions from placing any burden on this right, unless they can demonstrate that their actions are to further a compelling governmental interest and are the least restrictive way of doing so.

The act expressly provides that RFRA does not apply to school immunization requirements for (1) public and private schools, including higher education institutions, and (2) child care centers and group and family day care homes. (A 2021 law eliminated the religious exemption from immunization requirements for people attending these facilities, and grandfathered people enrolled in grades kindergarten or higher who had already submitted the exemption.)

BACKGROUND

DPH Federal Recommendations Advisory Committee

As authorized by law, the DPH commissioner has created a committee of experts to advise her on matters relating to CDC and FDA recommendations, using evidence-based data from peer-reviewed sources. The committee must serve in a nonbinding advisory capacity, giving guidance only at the commissioner's discretion (CGS § 19a-131n).

Related Case

In 2022, parents from a few Connecticut municipalities filed a lawsuit against the governor and the education and public health commissioners claiming that the legislature's 2021 repeal of the religious exemption from school immunization requirements violated state and federal religious freedom protections. In July 2024, the state Supreme Court dismissed the parents' claims under the Connecticut and U.S. constitutions but allowed their claims made under state statute (RFRA) to proceed (*Spillane v. Lamont*, 350 Conn. 119 (2024)). The case is currently pending in Connecticut Superior Court.

PA 26-13—sHB 5514

*Public Health Committee
Appropriations Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES

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§ 14 — ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR T-CELL THERAPY

Establishes a 20-member advisory council on CAR T-cell therapy and other gene therapies to advise and make recommendations to DPH and other state agencies related to these therapies; requires the council to report annually to the Insurance and Real Estate and Public Health committees

§§ 15-17 — ATHLETIC HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES

Generally requires public high school students, before playing interscholastic sports, to have an annual athletics health assessment to screen for serious cardiac conditions

§ 18 — MENOPAUSE PROVIDER TOOLKIT

Requires UConn's Health Disparities Institute to (1) develop a menopause toolkit for specified providers who diagnose or treat people with symptoms of menopause, perimenopause, and post-menopause; (2) distribute the toolkit to providers by June 1, 2028; and (3) distribute a revised toolkit as needed by January 1, 2029, based on provider feedback

§§ 19-22 — SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS

Sets requirements for health care providers to share certain minors' safety plans with schools

§§ 23, 24 & 27 — NURSE'S AIDES

Starting in October 2027, expands DPH's nurse's aide registry to include nurse's aides working at any DPH-licensed health care institution, rather than just nursing homes as under prior law, and makes related changes to expand DPH's authority to take disciplinary action against nurse's aides who commit specified misconduct

§§ 25 & 26 — RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

Allows DPH to take disciplinary action against a practitioner for failing to fulfill any material obligation resulting from the receipt of funding from DPH under the federally-funded Rural Health Transformation program; exempts program funding to the tribes from the general requirement that they first adopt an Employment Rights Code before the state can provide funds that assist a tribe engaged in a commercial enterprise

§§ 28-30 — EMS LICENSURE INTERSTATE COMPACT AND BACKGROUND CHECKS

Enters Connecticut into the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact, no earlier than one year after a neighboring state enters it; correspondingly requires DPH to create a criminal background check requirement for EMS personnel (starting one year after a neighboring state enters the compact); requires DPH to report on the compact's implementation within five years after the state enters it

§ 31 — WELL WATER TESTING RESULTS

Allows health authorities to disclose private residential or semipublic well testing results to eligible parties without getting the DPH commissioner's approval, and expands the allowable recipients to include certain nearby property owners

§ 32 — STATE EXTREME WEATHER PROTOCOLS

Requires (1) DESPP to develop guidance on extreme hot and cold weather protocols and improvements to public communication of these protocols and (2) DOH to develop ways to improve outreach to unhoused people during extreme weather events

§§ 33-36 — DENTISTS

Under certain conditions, allows dentists to administer cosmetic injections on patients' faces; eliminates the requirement that dentists remain on-site when delegating to dental assistants the taking of dental x-rays; adds to the list of topics from which dentists must select for certain hours of continuing education

§ 37 — REPEALERS

Repeals the statutory cap on executive director salaries in state agencies' calculations of grants to private agencies that provide employment opportunities, day services, or residential facility services

SUMMARY: This act makes various unrelated changes to the public health statutes as shown in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, unless otherwise noted below.

§ 1 — HEALTH CARE FACILITIES OPERATED BY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Allows an infirmary operated by an educational institution to care for dependent family members of students, faculty, and employees when they are enrolled in the institution's health plan

The act allows an infirmary operated by an educational institution to provide care to dependent family members of students, faculty, and employees when these family members are enrolled in the institution's health plan.

Under prior state law and regulation, these facilities provided evaluation and treatment for routine health problems and, in some cases, short-term overnight accommodations (for example, when someone is recovering from surgery or requires observation) only for students, faculty, and employees (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 19-13-D43a(a)(15)).

§ 2 — WORKING GROUP ON MANAGED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

Requires the DPH commissioner to establish a working group to advise the department on managed residential communities in the state that provide assisted living services and whether these communities should be licensed by the state

The act requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to establish a working group to advise the department on (1) managed residential communities (MRCs) where assisted living services agencies (ALSAs) provide services to residents and (2) whether licensing these MRCs would enable DPH and these communities to improve residents' health, safety, and overall well-being.

Under the act, the working group must at least include:

1. three representatives each of different MRCs and ALSAs in the state;
2. three residents and three relatives of residents receiving assisted living services in an MRC, each from different communities; and
3. one representative of an in-state association of aging services organizations.

The act requires the working group to report its findings and recommendations to the DPH commissioner by January 1, 2027. The commissioner must then report the information to the Public Health Committee by February 1, 2027, and indicate whether she agrees with each finding and recommendation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Background — MRCs

By law, the state does not license assisted living facilities. Instead, it licenses and regulates ALSAs that provide assisted living services. ALSAs can only provide these services at an MRC. MRCs that wish to provide assisted living services must obtain a DPH license as an ALSA or arrange for the services with a licensed ALSA.

§ 3 — NONPROFIT DISTRIBUTION OF FREE EYEGLASSES

Allows nonprofits that give away free eyeglasses to give them to the person's authorized representative if the person is unavailable to receive them from the organization in-person

Regardless of the state's optician laws, the act allows nonprofit organizations that give free glasses produced by an optician to the person wearing them to give the glasses to the wearer's authorized representative if the wearer is unavailable to receive them in-person from the organization.

Under prior practice, the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians required eyeglasses to be dispensed in-person by a licensed optician.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 4 — PATIENT NOTICE ON MEDICAL RECORDS RETENTION

Requires health care providers to notify patients in writing at their initial intake about how long the law requires the provider to keep their medical records and how the patient can request copies of them

The act requires health care providers, starting by January 1, 2027, to notify patients in writing at their initial intake, about the amount of time the law requires the provider to keep their medical records and how the patient can request copies of them.

§§ 5-7 — TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes technical changes to update the name of LeadingAge Connecticut to LeadingAge Connecticut and Rhode Island in statute

The act makes technical changes to statutory provisions referencing Leading Age CT, updating its name to Leading Age Connecticut and Rhode Island to reflect the merging of its Connecticut and Rhode Island associations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 8 — SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND NITROGEN REMOVAL

Requires the DPH and DEEP commissioners, by July 1, 2028, to consult with nitrogen removal experts to establish procedures and standards for reviewing and approving new nitrogen removal technologies for DPH-regulated subsurface sewage disposal systems

The act requires the DPH and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioners, by July 1, 2028, to consult with nitrogen removal experts to do the following:

1. determine nitrogen credit equal to the nitrogen credit values for DEEP-approved nitrogen removal technologies that are published before July 1, 2028, in the technical standards for on-site sewage disposal systems under DPH jurisdiction;
2. determine nitrogen credit equal to the nitrogen credit values for DEEP-approved nitrogen removal technologies that are not published in the technical standards before that date that meet the definition of subsurface sewage disposal systems in state regulation; and
3. establish procedures and standards for reviewing and approving new nitrogen removal technologies, with the procedures and standards supported by independent third-party testing and climate-relevant field data demonstrating the technology's effectiveness in removing nitrogen.

The act requires the DPH commissioner to (1) adopt implementing regulations and (2) publish in the technical standards specifications for nitrogen removal technologies approved according to the procedures and standards.

Under the act, "nitrogen removal technology" is a system that removes nitrogen used in subsurface sewage disposal systems delegated to DPH (see *Background — DPH Sewage Disposal Oversight*), except for alternative on-site sewage treatment systems with daily capacities of up to 10,000 gallons.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — DPH Sewage Disposal Oversight

PA 23-207 transferred regulatory authority from DEEP to DPH over small community sewerage systems and household and small commercial subsurface sewage disposal systems with daily capacities of up to 10,000 gallons. By law, the DEEP commissioner must post notice of her intent to amend the regulations to effectuate this transfer on the eRegulations system by July 1, 2026. Before amending the regulations, she must consider the recommendations of a sewage disposal working group established under PA 25-97.

§ 9 — TEMPORARY VETERINARY PERMITS

Under specified conditions, allows DPH to issue a temporary veterinarian permit to graduates of foreign veterinary schools, allowing them to work under direct supervision of certain state-licensed veterinarians

The act allows DPH to issue a temporary veterinary permit to someone who (1) graduated from a veterinary school located outside of the U.S., its territories, or Canada and (2) is working toward certification from the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence. For the person to be eligible, the veterinary school program must be one that the American Veterinary Medical Association finds acceptable for ECFVG certification.

The act allows a permit holder to practice only under the direct supervision of a veterinarian who has been licensed in the state for at least two years. “Direct supervision” means the licensed veterinarian is in the office where the permit holder is practicing and immediately available to help and direct the permit holder.

The permit is valid for up to two years and can be renewed once (for two years) if the applicant fails to get certification from the commission or program specified above during the initial two-year period. There is no permit fee.

§ 10 — VETERINARY TELEHEALTH WORKING GROUP

Creates a working group to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship through telehealth

The act creates a working group within the Legislative Department to (1) evaluate whether it is feasible to allow a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to be created through telehealth in the state when an animal needs medical care or treatment and (2) if so, make related recommendations. The working group must report to the Public Health Committee on its evaluation and recommendations by January 1, 2027. Under existing law, a veterinarian-client-patient relationship cannot be established through telehealth, but after an initial in-person appointment, veterinarians generally may use telehealth if it is not medically necessary for them to examine the animal in-person.

The working group’s membership includes the Public Health Committee chairpersons and ranking members, or their designees, and four members appointed by the chairs and ranking members, as follows:

1. two members of an in-state veterinarian association, one each appointed by the Public Health Committee’s Senate chairperson and House ranking member, and
2. two proponents of creating a veterinarian-client-patient relationship through telehealth when an animal needs medical care or treatment, one each appointed by the committee’s House chairperson and Senate ranking member.

Under the act, the Public Health Committee’s administrative staff serves in that capacity for the working group.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 11 — HOSPITAL COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Requires hospitals, when conducting a community health needs assessment, to (1) consider including the nutritional needs of community members with diabetes and congestive heart failure and (2) include these community members’ nutrition needs in their assessment to the extent federal law allows

The act requires hospitals, when conducting a community health needs assessment, to consider including the nutritional needs of community members with diabetes and congestive heart failure, if warranted by available data. They must also, to the extent federal law allows, include these community members’ nutrition needs in their assessment.

To maintain tax-exempt status under federal law, a nonprofit hospital must, among other things, (1) conduct a community health needs assessment at least once every three years and (2) adopt an implementation strategy to meet the needs identified in the assessment. Federal regulations set various steps that hospitals must take in completing these

requirements (26 C.F.R. § 1.501(r)-3).

Background — Related Act

PA 26-68, §§ 91, 155 & 158, as amended by PA 26-76, § 76, eliminates the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and transfers from OHS to the Office of the Healthcare Advocate oversight of hospital community benefit program reporting.

§ 12 — BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT

Generally allows hospitals to (1) administer buprenorphine or methadone to someone who comes to the emergency department with symptoms of opioid use disorder without requiring them to be admitted; (2) offer these patients an opioid antagonist (or prescription for one) when discharged and refer them to outpatient care; and (3) give these patients, when discharged, either a bridging dose or last dose letter (depending on the medication)

Starting January 1, 2027, the act authorizes hospitals, if federal law allows, to administer buprenorphine or methadone to a patient who presents to the emergency department with symptoms of opioid use disorder without requiring the patient to be admitted solely to do so. Under the act, hospitals may do this only if administering the medication is medically indicated and the patient consents to it.

Additionally, the act permits hospitals, if federal law allows, to (1) offer these patients a prescription for, or a supply of, an opioid antagonist (for example, Narcan) when they are discharged from the emergency department (and provide it if they accept the offer) and (2) refer them to community providers or opioid treatment programs that can provide continuity in prescribing buprenorphine or administering methadone. If clinically indicated, hospitals may also give patients a supply of methadone, in compliance with federal regulations on prescribing controlled substances.

Under the act, hospitals must, if federal law allows, give patients administered buprenorphine a bridging prescription for the medication to cover the anticipated time during which they are waiting to be seen by their referred community provider. Hospitals must give patients who receive methadone a last-dose letter to give to their referred treatment program. (A “last-dose letter” is a formal, sealed document that confirms the exact date, time, and amount of the patient’s last methadone dose.)

The act specifies that it does not (1) require providers to give these medications when medically contraindicated, (2) limit a treating clinician’s ability to exercise professional judgment, or (3) prevent the use of other medications to treat opioid use disorder when it is clinically appropriate and the patient consents to it.

Under the act, “community providers” are health care providers allowed by federal and state law to prescribe buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder. “Opioid treatment programs” are those certified by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and allowed by state and federal law to administer methadone to treat these disorders.

§ 13 — ENDOMETRIOSIS WORKING GROUP

Establishes an ongoing 20-member endometriosis working group in the Legislative Department to evaluate and make recommendations on endometriosis diagnosis, treatment, research, education, and public awareness

The act establishes a 20-member endometriosis working group within the Legislative Department to evaluate and make recommendations on endometriosis diagnosis, treatment, research, education, and public awareness in Connecticut.

The act requires the working group, starting by January 1, 2027, to annually report to the governor and the Human Services and Public Health committees on its evaluation and recommendations, including any legislation needed to implement them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Evaluation

The act requires the working group to evaluate the following:

1. the prevalence and impact of endometriosis in Connecticut;
2. barriers to timely and accurate diagnosis;
3. access to evidence-based treatments, such as medical, surgical, and therapeutic interventions;
4. insurance coverage and reimbursement practices for treating the condition;
5. the condition’s impact in the workplace, including leave, accommodations, and employment protections;

6. gaps in public and provider education and training; and
7. opportunities to improve data collection, research, and patient outcomes.

Membership

Under the act, the working group's membership includes the (1) insurance and public health commissioners or their designees and (2) co-chairpersons of the state's endometriosis data and biorepository program (see *Background — Endometriosis Data and Biorepository Program*). It also includes 16 appointed members as listed in the table below.

Endometriosis Working Group Appointed Members

Appointing Authority	Member Qualifications
House speaker (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One House member One Connecticut-licensed physician experienced in diagnosing and treating endometriosis One representative of a federally qualified health center One state resident diagnosed with endometriosis
Senate president pro tempore (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Senate member One Connecticut-licensed physician who is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists One researcher affiliated with an in-state academic or research institution with expertise in endometriosis One patient advocate with experience advocating on behalf of people with endometriosis
House minority leader (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One House member One Connecticut-licensed pediatric or adolescent medicine physician currently practicing in the state One in-state expert in racial and health equity or representative of a community-based organization serving historically underserved populations One representative of a state hospital association or a Connecticut hospital administrator
Senate minority leader (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Senate member One representative of an in-state school-based health center One representative of a therapeutic or drug manufacturer experienced in endometriosis-related treatments One state resident diagnosed with endometriosis

The act staggers appointed members' terms (except for legislators) as determined by the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's (CWCSEO) executive director, with six initial appointees serving a two-year term, and the other six serving a three-year term. After that, members serve two-year terms and may be reappointed.

The act requires appointing authorities to make initial appointments by June 13, 2026, and fill any vacancy within 30 days.

Under the act, members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for their necessary expenses in performing their duties.

Meetings and Leadership

CWCSEO's executive director must schedule and hold the first meeting by July 13, 2026. The working group must appoint a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members at the first meeting.

Under the act, the working group must meet at least quarterly and offer opportunities for public comment at the meetings.

The act requires the CWCSEO administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the working group.

Background — Endometriosis Data and Biorepository Program

In 2023, the legislature directed UConn Health and The Jackson Laboratory to create an endometriosis data and biorepository program to promote research on (1) early detection of endometriosis in adolescents and adults and (2) developing therapeutic strategies to improve clinical management of the condition. The program, EndoRISE, focuses on administering the endometriosis biorepository, public awareness, and clinical education.

§ 14 — ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR T-CELL THERAPY

Establishes a 20-member advisory council on CAR T-cell therapy and other gene therapies to advise and make recommendations to DPH and other state agencies related to these therapies; requires the council to report annually to the Insurance and Real Estate and Public Health committees

The act establishes a 20-member advisory council on chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy and other gene therapies within DPH for administrative purposes only. Under the act, the advisory council must advise and make recommendations to DPH and other state agencies related to these therapies, such as on (1) how to deliver them in a safe, equitable, and financially sustainable way; (2) developing related referral and management protocols; and (3) advanced training for clinical providers who offer them.

The act authorizes the council to (1) apply for and accept grants, gifts, bequests, sponsorships, and in-kind donations from federal and interstate agencies, private firms, individuals, and foundations to carry out its responsibilities and (2) enter into a contract or agreement needed to distribute or use any received funds, services, or property according to any conditions placed on them.

Lastly, the act requires the council to annually report to the Insurance and Real Estate and Public Health committees on its findings and recommendations, including (1) its activities, research findings, and recommended legislative proposals and (2) potential funding sources for its activities, including grants, donations, sponsorships, or in-kind donations. The first report is due no later than one year after the council's first meeting.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Advisory Council Responsibilities

The act requires the council to advise and make recommendations to DPH and other state agencies on the following:

1. the availability of CAR T-cell therapy and other gene therapies in Connecticut to treat cancer;
2. how to deliver these therapies in a safe, equitable, and financially sustainable way;
3. advanced training for clinical providers who offer these therapies;
4. long-term follow-up and vector safety (mitigating unintended harm from viruses used in gene therapy) for patients receiving these therapies;
5. developing referral and management protocols for these therapies;
6. education on these therapies and protocols for clinicians, patients, and patients' relatives and caregivers;
7. advising patients and their relatives and caregivers on the cost and available insurance coverage for these therapies;
8. opportunities to coordinate with research collaborations, government agencies (for example, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), accrediting bodies, and national registries on these therapies;
9. developing centers of excellence in Connecticut to deliver these therapies, including requiring centers to be accredited;
10. developing a statewide referral network to ensure all eligible patients are matched with a Connecticut center of excellence;
11. developing safety protocols to address patient complications and other safety concerns;
12. ways to provide psychosocial support to patients and their relatives and caregivers; and
13. ways to track patient outcomes, focusing on equity related to diagnosis, race, ethnicity, geography, and income.

Functions

In doing its work, the act authorizes the advisory council to do the following:

1. consult with experts on CAR T-cell therapy and other gene therapies to treat cancer to develop policy recommendations for improving access to these therapies in Connecticut;

2. hold public hearings and otherwise make public inquiries and solicit public comments to help with a study or survey of people living with cancer who received these therapies, these patients' caregivers, health care providers, and patient advocates; and
3. conduct research and make recommendations to DPH and other state agencies.

Membership

Under the act, the advisory council's membership includes the following state officials, or their designees: (1) the insurance, public health, and social services commissioners and (2) the health information technology officer. The council also includes the following 16 appointed members as shown in the table below.

Appointed Council Members Under the Act

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Member Qualifications</i>
Public Health Committee Senate chairperson (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hematologist or oncologist serving adults • One specialist in emerging cellular and genetic therapy • One pharmacology expert • One patient advocate for conditions treated by gene therapy
Public Health Committee House chairperson (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One patient who received CAR T-cell therapy • One representative of a Connecticut hospital association • One pediatric hematologist or oncologist • One community health equity advocate
Public Health Committee Senate ranking member (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One representative of an internationally recognized accreditation body for institutions providing cellular therapies • One representative of a Connecticut health carrier association • One director of a Connecticut cellular therapy program • One representative of the life sciences or biotechnology industries
Public Health Committee House ranking member (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One representative, family member, or caregiver of someone living with cancer who received gene therapy • One advocate for cancer patients in the state • One social worker or patient navigator • One director of a transplant and cellular therapy program in the state

The act requires appointing authorities to make their initial appointments by October 31, 2026, and fill any vacancies. Members serve three-year terms, except for those representing state agencies.

The DPH commissioner must choose the council's acting chairperson to organize its first meeting, which must be scheduled and held by November 30, 2026. At the first meeting, council members must appoint their chairperson and vice chairperson by a majority vote. The act requires the council to meet at least quarterly, either in person or remotely, as the chairperson determines.

Under the act, members are not compensated, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties.

Background — CAR T-cell therapy

CAR T-cell therapy is an individualized immunotherapy that genetically changes a person's own T-cells to recognize and fight cancer cells. It is often used to treat blood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

§§ 15-17 — ATHLETIC HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES

Generally requires public high school students, before playing interscholastic sports, to have an annual athletics health assessment to screen for serious cardiac conditions

Starting in the 2027-28 school year, the act generally requires public high school students, before participating in interscholastic sports, to have an annual athletics health assessment by a health professional. This must include a physical exam that screens for serious cardiac conditions that could lead to sudden death. Among other things, the assessment form must include information on relevant patient or family history and whether the provider referred the student for additional cardiac screening or treatment.

As with other student health assessments under existing law, the act requires schools to (1) provide the assessment for free if the student is eligible for free or reduced price meals and (2) record the assessment results in the student's health record.

The act extends to these athletic health assessments certain other provisions that apply to student health assessments under existing law, including those shielding the records from public inspection and allowing for a religious exemption (CGS §§ 10-208 & -209).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Annual Athletics Health Assessment

Under the act, the required athletic health assessment for high school student athletes must be done by a qualified health care provider, such as a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant. It must include a physical exam that screens for serious cardiac conditions that could lead to sudden death, with the screening done in line with guidelines set by the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, or another organization focused on pediatric cardiovascular care.

The assessment form, to be supplied by the state Board of Education, must include:

1. a check box for the provider to indicate any patient or family history of serious cardiac symptoms, such as chest pain with exertion or unexplained syncope (fainting), and family history of sudden cardiac death;
2. screening questions for the parent or guardian about family history with these issues, including those listed above or sudden cardiac arrest;
3. any additional screening questions for the provider to answer as he or she deems necessary and appropriate; and
4. a check box for the provider to indicate whether he or she referred the student for additional cardiac screening or treatment.

§ 18 — MENOPAUSE PROVIDER TOOLKIT

Requires UConn's Health Disparities Institute to (1) develop a menopause toolkit for specified providers who diagnose or treat people with symptoms of menopause, perimenopause, and post-menopause; (2) distribute the toolkit to providers by June 1, 2028; and (3) distribute a revised toolkit as needed by January 1, 2029, based on provider feedback

The act requires UConn Health Center's Health Disparities Institute, within available appropriations, to develop a menopause toolkit that has practical, evidence-based, and culturally appropriate guidance on best practices for screening, identifying, clinically assessing, diagnosing, and treating symptoms of perimenopause, menopause, and post-menopause. Under the act, the toolkit is for Connecticut health care providers who diagnose or treat people with symptoms of these conditions, as the institute determines, including those in the fields of obstetrics, gynecology, family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, psychiatry, mental health, social work, dentistry, dental hygiene, and community health.

The institute must develop the toolkit in consultation with DPH, people who have experienced symptoms of these conditions, and providers who treat them.

The guidance may include:

1. a comprehensive description of the symptoms of perimenopause, menopause, and post-menopause;
2. evidence-based guidelines for identifying and treating these symptoms, including hormone replacement therapy and testosterone therapy;
3. available insurance coverage for the therapies; and
4. short education modules on the guidance that qualifies as continuing education for these providers.

Under the act, the Health Disparities Institute must distribute the toolkit to providers by June 1, 2028. The institute must then evaluate any provider feedback it receives on the toolkit's effectiveness, revise the toolkit as needed to address this feedback, and distribute any revised toolkit to providers by January 1, 2029.

§§ 19-22 — SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS

Sets requirements for health care providers to share certain minors' safety plans with schools

The act regulates the review and sharing of certain minors' "safety plans" (written documents health care providers and patients create collaboratively, outlining coping strategies, activities, and support networks the patient can use to prevent or manage a potential mental health crisis).

Starting April 1, 2027, the act requires each health care provider that prepares a safety plan for a minor patient who received at least 12 consecutive days of inpatient behavioral health care treatment to (1) review it with the minor, if medically appropriate, and (2) ask whether the minor or the minor's parent or legally authorized representative consents to sharing the safety plan with the minor's school. If this consent is given, the provider must (1) get written consent from the minor's parent or legally authorized representative (or the minor if they are at least age 16) and (2) send the plan to the minor's school or school district using a secure messaging system or in a way that complies with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Relatedly, the act also requires:

1. school districts or schools to sign up for a related organizational account on a secure messaging system and give at least one designated employee (such as a school nurse, social worker, or psychologist) access to the account;
2. local and regional education boards to give the State Department of Education (SDE) commissioner each school's and school district's secure messaging system address to make available to health care providers; and
3. local and regional education boards to give new designated employees SDE-developed guidance on how to use the secure messaging system.

Additionally, the act makes it a goal of the Statewide Health Information Exchange ("Connie"), within available appropriations, to give schools and school districts a secure messaging system organizational account that designated employees may access to receive these safety plans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that the provision on guidance for new designated employees takes effect July 1, 2027.

Provider Requirements

The act specifies that its provisions do not create a standard of medical care for minor patients or require a health care provider to do the following:

1. create a safety plan;
2. release information to a minor patient's parent or legally authorized representative if state or federal law allows the minor to withhold the information (for example, for a pregnancy, abortion, contraception, HIV, mental health treatment, or any other area of care that the provider promised to keep confidential); or
3. transmit a safety plan or provide any other information to someone in violation of HIPAA.

Secure Messaging Systems

The act requires local and regional education boards, by January 1, 2027, to ensure that each school district or school, as determined by the board, (1) signs up for an organizational account on a "secure messaging system" (for example, one that complies with the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's Direct Project specifications, see *Background — Direct Project Standards*) and (2) gives at least one designated employee (see below) access to the organizational account to access the safety plans.

Correspondingly, the act makes it a goal of Connie to give, within available appropriations, (1) a secure messaging system organizational account to each board-determined school district and school to receive these safety plans and (2) designated employees access to the accounts (at no cost to schools, school districts, or their designated employees).

Designated Employees

Under the act, a "designated employee" is a school nurse or nurse practitioner, school nurse supervisor, school counselor, school social worker, or school psychologist who the local or regional education board designates to access the

safety plans.

The act requires at least one designated employee to be a school nurse supervisor. Designated employees must keep the safety plans in a confidential file separate from any cumulative academic or health record, so long as safety plan information may be used for appropriate interventions under a minor's individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan (see *Background — IEP and 504 Plans*).

SDE List of Secure Messaging System Addresses

The act requires local and regional education boards to give the SDE commissioner each school district's and school's secure messaging system address by April 1, 2027. After this date, the education boards must also give the commissioner any address changes within 30 days after receiving them.

The act requires the SDE commissioner to create and maintain a list of these secure messaging system addresses and make it available to the state's health care providers so they can send the safety plans.

Guidance for New Designated Employees

Starting with the 2027-2028 school year, the act requires each local and regional education board to provide guidance about the safety plans to new designated employees. More specifically, SDE must develop guidance and related training materials for the school boards to use that include instruction on using a secure messaging system to access safety plans sent by health care providers under the act.

Background — Direct Project Standards

The Direct Project is part of the Nationwide Health Information Network and specifies technical standards and services for health care providers to securely send authenticated, encrypted health information directly to trusted recipients online.

Background — IEP and 504 Plans

An IEP is a written statement detailing a student's academic achievement level, goals for future achievement, and specialized educational services needed to reach the goals. Federal law requires school boards to develop IEPs for students eligible to receive special education and related services (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.). Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects students with mental or physical disabilities from discrimination in public schools (29 U.S.C. § 794). Students who receive school accommodations under this law have them memorialized in a written plan, commonly known as a "504 plan."

§§ 23, 24 & 27 — NURSE'S AIDES

Starting in October 2027, expands DPH's nurse's aide registry to include nurse's aides working at any DPH-licensed health care institution, rather than just nursing homes as under prior law, and makes related changes to expand DPH's authority to take disciplinary action against nurse's aides who commit specified misconduct

The act expands DPH's nurse's aide registry to include nurse's aides working (as direct employees or under a contract) at any DPH-licensed health care institution, rather than just nursing homes as under prior law. Under existing law, a nurse's aide must meet specified training and exam requirements to be registered.

The act correspondingly expands DPH's authority to receive and investigate complaints and take disciplinary actions against nurse's aides to include those who work at any DPH-licensed institution. Under prior law, the grounds for complaints against nurse's aides (just in nursing homes) included, among other things, resident abuse or neglect. The act specifies that this applies to "abuse" or "neglect," as defined in specified federal regulations for long-term care facilities (42 C.F.R. § 483.5), of a health care institution resident, patient, or client. The act also expands the grounds for complaints to include illegal, incompetent, or negligent conduct in providing nursing or related services.

The act authorizes DPH to issue a summary suspension of a nurse's aide's ability to practice before the final decision on a complaint or during the appeals process. This authority applies only if DPH finds that a nurse's aide represents a clear and immediate danger if allowed to continue to practice.

The act also allows DPH, through existing procedures, to take disciplinary action against a nurse's aide after it investigates a complaint. By law, disciplinary actions available to DPH include, among other things, (1) revoking or suspending a credential; (2) censuring the violator; (3) issuing a letter of reprimand; (4) placing the violator on probationary

status; or (5) imposing a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 (CGS § 19a-17).

Under existing law, DPH can also make a finding against someone who is or has provided nurse's aide services and enter the finding in the registry, regardless of whether the aide is on the registry.

The act also makes minor and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2027

§§ 25 & 26 — RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

Allows DPH to take disciplinary action against a practitioner for failing to fulfill any material obligation resulting from the receipt of funding from DPH under the federally-funded Rural Health Transformation program; exempts program funding to the tribes from the general requirement that they first adopt an Employment Rights Code before the state can provide funds that assist a tribe engaged in a commercial enterprise

The act allows DPH, or its licensing boards or commissions, to take disciplinary action (for example, a license suspension or civil penalty) against a practitioner who fails to fulfill any material obligation resulting from receiving DPH funding under the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) program.

Generally, under existing law, before the state can give funds to help the Mashantucket Pequot or Mohegan tribe when engaged in a commercial enterprise, the tribe must first adopt an Employment Rights Code with specified components. The act exempts funding to tribes under the RHT program from this requirement.

Under the RHT program, created by 2025 federal legislation (P.L. 119-21, § 71401), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is giving all states grants to implement measures to expand rural health care access and quality. Connecticut received a first-year grant of \$154 million under the program. The Department of Social Services is the lead agency under the grant funding, collaborating with several other agencies (including DPH) to implement projects across four initiatives: population health outcomes, workforce, data and technology, and care transformation and stability.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the tribal-related provision takes effect upon passage.

§§ 28-30 — EMS LICENSURE INTERSTATE COMPACT AND BACKGROUND CHECKS

Enters Connecticut into the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact, no earlier than one year after a neighboring state enters it; correspondingly requires DPH to create a criminal background check requirement for EMS personnel (starting one year after a neighboring state enters the compact); requires DPH to report on the compact's implementation within five years after the state enters it

The act enters Connecticut into the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (EMS compact), but no earlier than one year after Massachusetts, New York, or Rhode Island enters it. (There are currently 27 member states in the compact, but these neighboring states have not yet joined.)

The compact creates a process authorizing EMS personnel who are licensed in one member state to practice across state boundaries without requiring licensure in each state. Member states must grant the privilege to practice to EMS personnel who hold an unrestricted license (or other authorization) in another member state and who otherwise meet the compact's eligibility requirements. Generally, by joining the compact, Connecticut retains broad authority to license and regulate EMS personnel, but must grant qualifying EMS providers a privilege to practice in Connecticut. The compact applies to emergency medical technicians (EMTs), advanced EMTs (AEMTs), paramedics, and other EMS providers at a level between EMT and paramedic.

The compact is administered by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, which Connecticut joins under the act once it enters the compact.

Among various other provisions, the compact:

1. sets eligibility criteria for states to join the compact and for EMS personnel to practice under it;
2. addresses several matters related to disciplinary actions for EMS personnel practicing under the compact, such as information sharing among member states and removal of the privilege to practice;
3. allows the commission to levy an annual assessment on member states or impose fees on other parties to cover its operational costs;
4. only allows amendments to the compact to take effect if all member states adopt them into law; and
5. has a process for states to withdraw from the compact.

A broad overview of the compact appears below.

Under the act, corresponding to a compact requirement, the DPH commissioner must require anyone applying for EMS licensure or certification to submit to a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records check. This applies

starting one year after Massachusetts, New York, or Rhode Island enacts the EMS compact (when Connecticut can enter the compact under the act).

Additionally, within five years after the compact is implemented in the state, the act requires the DPH commissioner, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management secretary, to report on its implementation to the Public Health Committee. The report must (1) assess the compact's impact on the state's EMS workforce and patient access to medical care and (2) include recommendations to further support EMS workforce development.

Compact Scope (§ 28(1) & (2))

The compact creates a process authorizing EMS personnel to work in multiple states if they are licensed in one member state. A "license" is a state's authorization for someone to practice as an EMT, AEMT, paramedic, or level between EMT and paramedic. (In Connecticut, paramedics are licensed, while EMTs and AEMTs are certified, but all of these credentials would constitute a "license" under the compact's definition.)

Under the compact, a "state" is a U.S. state, commonwealth, district, or territory. A "member state" is a state that has enacted the compact. A "home state" is the member state where someone is licensed to practice emergency medical services. A "remote state" is a member state where someone is not licensed.

"Privilege to practice" is someone's authorization to deliver emergency medical services in remote states as authorized under the compact.

Home State Licensure (§ 28(3))

Under the compact, any member state in which someone holds a current license is a home state for the compact's purposes. A home state license authorizes someone to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice only if the home state:

1. requires the use of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) examination as a condition of issuing initial EMT and paramedic licenses;
2. has a mechanism to receive and investigate complaints about individuals;
3. notifies the commission about any adverse action (such as disciplinary action against an EMS license or a criminal conviction) or significant investigatory information (such as information that someone represents an immediate threat to public health and safety) about a person;
4. requires a criminal background check for initial licensure applicants, including fingerprints or other biometric-based information that meets FBI requirements (except for federal employees with a suitability determination under federal regulations); and
5. complies with the commission's rules.

A member state may require someone to get licensed in order to practice in that state under circumstances not authorized by the compact's privilege to practice.

Compact Privilege to Practice (§ 28(4))

The compact requires member states to recognize the privilege to practice of someone licensed in another member state that complies with the above requirements. To exercise the privilege to practice under the compact, a person must:

1. be at least age 18;
2. have a current unrestricted license (see above) in a member state as an EMT, AEMT, paramedic, or level between EMT and paramedic; and
3. practice under the supervision of a medical director (a physician licensed in a member state who is accountable for EMS personnel's care delivery).

Under the compact, someone providing patient care in a remote state under the privilege to practice must function within the home state's scope of practice unless and until it is modified by an appropriate authority in the remote state. Otherwise, someone practicing in a remote state is subject to the remote state's authority and laws.

Conditions of Practice in a Remote State (§ 28(5))

Under the compact, a person may practice in a remote state under a privilege to practice only in performing their EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate authority, and when the person:

1. originates a patient transport in a home state and transports the patient to a remote state,
2. originates in the home state and enters a remote state to pick up a patient and provide care and transport to the

- home state,
- 3. enters a remote state to provide patient care or transport within that state,
- 4. enters a remote state to pick up a patient and provide care and transport to a third member state, or
- 5. complies with other conditions as determined by the commission's rules.

Relationship to Emergency Management Assistance Compact (§ 28(6))

Under the compact, if a member state's governor declares a state of emergency or disaster that activates the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the EMAC compact prevails over any conflicting provisions of this compact for anyone practicing in a remote state in response to the governor's declaration. (All states are part of EMAC, under which states may provide personnel, equipment, and other supplies to assist other states in governor-declared emergencies.)

Veterans, Service Members Separating From Active-Duty Military, and Their Spouses (§ 28(7))

Under the compact, member states must consider someone as satisfying the minimum training and examination requirements for a given EMS license if the person (1) is a veteran, active military service member, member of the National Guard and Reserve separating from an active-duty tour, or the spouse of such a person and (2) holds an unrestricted NREMT certification at or about the level of the license being sought. Member states must expedite the processing of their licensure applications. These individuals practicing under the compact remain subject to the compact's adverse action provisions (§ 28(8)).

Respective States' Authority and Adverse Actions (§ 28(4), (8) & (9))

The compact addresses several matters related to states' authority to investigate and discipline EMS personnel practicing under its procedures. Broadly, the compact maintains the home state's authority to regulate the home state license, while authorizing remote states to regulate the compact privilege to practice in their states. For investigations and adverse actions, a home state's EMS authority must give the same priority to conduct reported from remote states as it would to conduct within the home state.

The following are examples of the regulatory structure under the compact:

1. a home state has exclusive authority to impose adverse action against a home state license, but a remote state may take adverse action against an individual's privilege to practice in that state or take other actions needed to protect its citizens;
2. if someone's (a) home state license is restricted or suspended or (b) privilege to practice in any remote state is restricted, suspended, or revoked, he or she cannot practice in any remote state until the license or privilege is restored;
3. member states must report adverse actions and compact privilege restrictions, suspensions, or revocations to the commission;
4. member states may allow someone to participate in an alternative program for substance abuse recovery rather than imposing an adverse action, but the person must not practice in any other member state during that time without its prior authorization;
5. member states' EMS authorities may issue subpoenas to compel someone's testimony or the production of evidence (to be enforced as applicable by a remote state's courts), with the issuing state covering certain costs; and
6. member states may issue cease and desist orders to restrict, suspend, or revoke someone's privilege to practice in the state.

Compact Commission (§ 28(10) & (12))

The compact is administered by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, which consists of one voting delegate from each member state. The delegate must be the responsible official of the state's EMS authority or the official's designee. The compact sets several powers, duties, and procedures for the commission. For example, the commission:

1. may make rules, binding on member states, to coordinate the compact's implementation and administration (a rule has no effect if a majority of the member states' legislatures reject it);
2. may levy and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties to cover its operational costs; and
3. must have its receipts and disbursements audited yearly and the audit report included in the commission's annual

report.

The compact addresses several other matters regarding the commission and its operations, such as setting conditions under which its members, officers, and employees are immune from civil liability.

Coordinated Database (§ 28(11))

Member states must submit specified information (for example, on licensure and disciplinary actions) about individuals covered by the compact to include in a database the compact creates. The database administrator must promptly notify all member states about any adverse action against, or significant investigative information on, someone in a member state.

Member states that contribute information to the database may designate information that may not be shared publicly without the state's express permission. If a member state's law requires information to be expunged, it must be removed from the database.

Compact Oversight, Dispute Resolution, Enforcement, Member Withdrawal, and Related Matters (§ 28(13)-(15))

Among other related provisions, the compact:

1. requires each member state's executive, legislative, and judicial branches to enforce the compact and take necessary steps to carry out its purposes;
2. requires the commission to take specified steps if a member state defaults on its obligations under the compact, and after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted, allows a defaulting state to be terminated from the compact upon a majority vote of the member states;
3. requires the commission, upon a member state's request, to try to resolve a compact-related dispute among member states or between member and non-member states;
4. requires the commission to enforce the compact and rules and allows it to bring legal action against a member state in default upon a majority vote (the case may be brought in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission's principal offices are located);
5. allows a member state to withdraw from the compact by repealing the enabling legislation, but withdrawal does not take effect until six months after the repealing statute's enactment;
6. allows member states to amend the compact, but no amendment takes effect until all member states enact it into law;
7. requires the compact to be liberally construed to carry out its purposes, and if the compact is held to violate a member state's constitution, it remains in effect in the remaining member states; and
8. specifies that the compact does not supersede state law or rules on EMS agency licensure.

§ 31 — WELL WATER TESTING RESULTS

Allows health authorities to disclose private residential or semipublic well testing results to eligible parties without getting the DPH commissioner's approval, and expands the allowable recipients to include certain nearby property owners

The act removes the requirement for the DPH commissioner's approval before health authorities can disclose private residential or semipublic well testing results to certain parties, and expands the allowable recipients of the test results.

More specifically, the law requires an environmental laboratory that conducts water quality testing for these wells to report the results to DPH and the local health authority. Prior law allowed DPH and the local health authority, with the DPH commissioner's approval, to disclose the test results or related investigation information to certain parties. The act eliminates the requirement for the commissioner's approval, and expands the allowable parties to include the owner of (1) any other property that obtains water from the well or (2) any property next to the property (a) where the well is located or (b) that obtains water from the well.

Under existing law, DPH and the local health authority (previously, only with the commissioner's approval) may also disclose the test results or investigation information to the following:

1. the property owner where the well is located,
2. a prospective buyer who has signed a purchase contract,
3. a state agency's agent, or
4. other people or entities when disclosure is needed for DPH or the local health authority to carry out their duties.

§ 32 — STATE EXTREME WEATHER PROTOCOLS

Requires (1) DESPP to develop guidance on extreme hot and cold weather protocols and improvements to public communication of these protocols and (2) DOH to develop ways to improve outreach to unhoused people during extreme weather events

The act requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to develop guidance on the following:

1. extreme hot and cold weather protocols that may include weather factors (for example, temperatures and wind chill) that will prompt the state and municipalities to open cooling and warming centers statewide and
2. improvements to public communication when extreme hot and cold weather protocols are activated.

The division must do this by January 1, 2027, and in consultation with municipal leaders and the (1) governor's office; (2) Office of Policy and Management; (3) departments of housing (DOH), mental health and addiction services (DMHAS), and social services (DSS); (4) United Way of Connecticut's 2-1-1 Infoline program; and (5) Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

Additionally by this date, the act requires DOH, in consultation with DMHAS and DSS, to develop ways of improving outreach to unhoused individuals during extreme hot and cold weather events based on an evaluation conducted by DOH and those who provide services to these individuals.

§§ 33-36 — DENTISTS

Under certain conditions, allows dentists to administer cosmetic injections on patients' faces; eliminates the requirement that dentists remain on-site when delegating to dental assistants the taking of dental x-rays; adds to the list of topics from which dentists must select for certain hours of continuing education

The act generally allows dentists, if they meet certain training and professional liability insurance requirements, to administer nonsurgical cosmetic injections, such as Botox or dermal fillers, on patients' faces to change or improve their physical appearance. Prior law prohibited dentists from performing cosmetic procedures, other than those related to the mouth or jaw.

The act also eliminates the requirement for dentists to remain on-site when delegating to a dental assistant the taking of dental x-rays.

By law, dentists' continuing education (CE) must include, every two years, at least one contact hour in any three of certain topics set by the DPH commissioner in consultation with the state dental commission. Under the act, starting with registration periods beginning on or after October 1, 2026, DPH, in consultation with the commission, must expand the list from 10 to 12 items and must add to it (1) providing dental care to people with intellectual or developmental disability and (2) identifying victims of human trafficking. By law, dentists generally must complete 25 contact hours of CE every two years, starting with their second license renewal.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the CE provisions take effect July 1, 2026.

Dentists Performing Cosmetic Procedures

To qualify to administer cosmetic injections under the act, a dentist must (1) have completed an in-person hands-on training in this topic, administered by a CE provider or program approved by DPH or accredited by a national professional accrediting body, and (2) maintain professional liability insurance that covers cosmetic injections.

The act specifies that it does not authorize a dentist to administer injections into:

1. specified areas near the eyes (such as the tear trough or eyelids) for periocular volumization or under-eye hollow correction or
2. the forehead, glabella (between the eyebrows and above the nose), or eyebrows for improved cosmesis.

It also specifies that it does not prohibit a dentist from administering:

1. a neuromodulator to the lateral canthal region (eye's outer corner where the upper and lower eyelids meet), including to treat lateral canthal rhytids (commonly called "crow's feet");
2. an injection to manage orofacial pain, temporomandibular disorders (disorders in the jaw joint or muscles), or other oromandibular conditions; or
3. dermal filler to specified areas near the cheekbone or midface region when the primary intended treatment site is the cheek or midface and the injection site is lower than the infraorbital rim.

The act prohibits dentists from delegating the administration of cosmetic injections to dental hygienists, dental assistants, or other auxiliary personnel.

It allows the DPH commissioner to adopt implementing regulations, including on minimum training standards, approved training courses, and patient safety requirements.

Dental Assistants Taking X-Rays

By law, dentists can delegate the taking of dental x-rays to dental assistants who meet certain examination requirements. The act eliminates the requirement that this happens only under the dentist's direct supervision and correspondingly removes the need for the dentist to remain on-site while the assistant takes x-rays. Similar to prior law, it requires the dentist to approve the assistant's taking of x-rays and assume responsibility for the assistant doing so.

§ 37 — REPEALERS

Repeals the statutory cap on executive director salaries in state agencies' calculations of grants to private agencies that provide employment opportunities, day services, or residential facility services

The act repeals statutory provisions that capped at \$125,000 (subject to cost-of-living increases), executive director salaries in the Department of Developmental Services', DMHAS's, DSS's, and other state agencies' calculations of grants to private agencies that provide employment opportunities, day services, or residential facility services.

PA 26-22—sSB 196

Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL SALE-LEASEBACK TRANSACTIONS AND ATTESTATIONS CONCERNING LACK OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST OF A HOSPITAL OR OF INTERFERENCE WITH THE PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT AND CLINICAL DECISIONS OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF A HOSPITAL BY A PRIVATE EQUITY ENTITY

SUMMARY: This act prohibits hospitals from entering into sale-leaseback transactions on or after July 1, 2027. These are agreements a hospital enters into with another person or entity for the hospital to sell and lease back the real property comprising its main campus.

The act also requires hospitals, starting by February 15, 2027, to annually submit to the Department of Public Health (DPH) a document with an attestation that no private equity entity:

1. has a controlling interest in the hospital (in relation to its main campus) or ultimate governance control over any asset or activity of the hospital's main campus, including (among other things) any clinical matters, and
2. is allowed to direct the hospital's adoption of any policy or procedure that would interfere with clinicians' professional judgment or clinical decisions.

Subject to certain procedures, the act allows the DPH commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 on a hospital that fails to submit the required attestation.

The act applies to DPH-licensed short-term acute care general or children's hospitals, including UConn's John Dempsey Hospital.

Under the act, a "private equity entity" is any entity that collects capital investments from people or entities and purchases a direct or indirect ownership share of a hospital. It may buy this share as a parent company or through another entity it owns or controls (in whole or part).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

HOSPITAL ATTESTATIONS

Under the act, hospitals must annually submit a document, in a manner DPH sets, attesting that no private equity entity has (1) a controlling interest in the hospital or (2) ultimate governance control over any asset or activity of the hospital's main campus, including any clinical, operational, managerial, financial, or human resources matters. Under the act, "controlling interest" is the direct or indirect power to direct the management and policies of a hospital's main campus through ownership of voting securities, contract, or other means.

The act also requires hospitals, in this annual document, to attest that no private equity entity may direct the hospital's adoption of any policy or procedure that would interfere with clinicians' professional judgment or clinical decisions. This includes:

1. how much time to spend with patients or the number of patients seen in a given period;
2. the time allowed to triage emergency department patients or evaluate admitted patients;
3. the time within which a patient must be discharged;
4. decisions on a patient's clinical status, including whether the patient should be kept in observation status or receive palliative care and where the patient should be placed when discharged;
5. the final diagnosis, diagnostic terminology, or codes entered into medical records; or
6. appropriate diagnostic tests.

Under the act, if a hospital fails to submit the required attestation, DPH may impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,000. After a hospital receives an order imposing this penalty, it has 10 business days to submit to DPH a written request for a hearing. If the hospital fails to do so, the order is deemed final. If a hospital requests a hearing within that period, DPH must schedule the matter for a contested case hearing under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.

The act specifies that these provisions do not prohibit hospitals, or their affiliates, from (1) investing (directly or indirectly) in a joint venture or (2) having an agreement with physicians or physician groups to provide services at the hospital. Additionally, the act specifies that these provisions do not interfere with a hospital coordinating with its parent health care system.

BACKGROUND

Related Act

PA 26-68, §§ 226-246, replaces the existing health care facility certificate of need (CON) process with a new one starting in July 2027 and, among various other changes, specifically requires CON approval for a real estate sale or lease agreement involving 20% or more of a hospital's total assets.

PA 26-29—HB 5240

Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to Department of Developmental Services (DDS)-related statutes. First, it allows DDS to make payments directly to landlords for people with intellectual disability who participate in the department's Community-Based Housing Subsidy Program (see BACKGROUND) (§ 1). Prior law only allowed DDS to pay program participants directly.

Second, the act modifies the DDS Community Residential Facility Revolving Loan Fund Program, which issues loans related to community-based residential facilities for people with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. Principally, the act:

1. makes several changes to the size and scope of eligible loan projects, such as increasing the maximum loan amount for capital repair and improvement projects and eliminating rehabilitation projects from the program (§ 3);
2. requires loan recipients to be licensed or certified providers that own or operate the community residential facility for the loan's duration (§ 3); and
3. specifies that DDS may require organizations seeking a loan to submit additional documentation (§ 4).

The act also conforms to current practice by repealing provisions allowing DDS to administer the program through a (1) contract with a statewide private nonprofit housing development corporation or (2) memorandum of understanding with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (§ 6). (DDS has solely administered the program for over 50 years.)

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes, including eliminating obsolete provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL FACILITY REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

By law, DDS uses the Community Residential Facility Revolving Loan Fund to issue loans at up to 6% annual interest to private, nonprofit organizations to construct, purchase, renovate, or make certain other improvements to community-

based residential facilities. Facilities housing up to six people with intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder and providing food, shelter, personal guidance, and necessary continuing health care are eligible.

Construction and Purchase and Renovation Loans

Under existing law and the act, DDS may issue loans to organizations to construct or purchase and renovate community-based residential facilities in amounts up to 100% of a project's total property development cost. However, for purchase and renovation projects, the act adds a restriction that prohibits their total renovation costs from being over \$100,000 above the cost to acquire the property.

Loans for Rehabilitation and Capital Repairs and Improvements

Prior law allowed DDS to issue loans of \$3,000 to \$40,000 to organizations that own or have capital leases for existing community-based residential facilities for rehabilitation and capital repairs and improvements. The act eliminates the allowance for rehabilitation projects and increases the maximum loan amount for capital repairs and improvements to \$100,000. It also eliminates (1) a separate allowance for DDS to issue loans of up to \$60,000 that cover up to 100% of a project's total property development costs to rehabilitate a facility and (2) the statutory definition of "rehabilitation" for purposes of the revolving loan program.

Documentation

Under existing law, an organization seeking a loan under the program must give DDS an independent appraisal by a state-certified real estate appraiser and a structural survey of the home by a state-licensed engineer. The act specifies that DDS may require organizations to submit additional documentation.

BACKGROUND

DDS Community-Based Housing Subsidy Program

By law, this program provides rental subsidies to support people with intellectual disability who receive residential services from DDS but whose current services or income do not cover their housing costs. Participants must rent or lease their own eligible apartment, condominium, or home in the community and not have other funding options to pay their monthly housing costs (for example, HUD Section 8 Certificate vouchers or Connecticut Rental Assistance Program vouchers).

PA 26-38—sHB 5515

Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ACCESS TO OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL MEDICATION AND VARIOUS REVISIONS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION STATUTES

SUMMARY: This act expands the circumstances when an opioid antagonist (used to treat opioid overdose, such as Narcan) may be administered to students in public schools. It updates education statutes on administering opioid antagonists to reflect federal Food and Drug Administration changes to these medications' designation. Prior to 2023, all opioid antagonists were legend drugs, meaning a prescription was required to access them, but this act makes changes to reflect the recent availability of a non-legend (over-the-counter) version. (The non-legend version is a nasal spray, whereas legend versions are typically administered by injection.)

The act also more broadly allows anyone (for example, an individual, governmental entity, or business) to distribute or otherwise provide someone with a non-legend opioid antagonist to treat or prevent an opioid drug overdose and gives them immunity from civil and criminal liability for doing so. The act exempts anyone who distributes these medications for free from needing a non-legend drug permit to do so. Existing law already generally immunizes anyone who, in good faith, believes that another person is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose and administers an opioid antagonist to the other person.

Additionally, the act:

1. requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to coordinate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), in addition to the Department of Public Health (DPH) as under existing law, when deploying behavioral health professionals after mass shootings;
2. updates the membership requirements of certain DMHAS advisory boards to reflect current practice; and
3. repeals a statutory provision establishing catchment area councils (community councils that help plan mental health services in a geographic area) and makes related technical changes, removing statutory references to these councils (in practice, their functions are now performed by Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations).

Lastly, the act makes minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provisions on (1) general non-legend opioid antagonist immunity, deploying mental health professionals after mass shootings, and advisory boards for DMHAS-operated facilities are effective upon passage and (2) catchment area councils are effective October 1, 2026.

OPIOID ANTAGONIST IN SCHOOLS

Under prior law, only school nurses or, in their absence, a qualified trained school employee could administer an opioid antagonist to students without prior written authorization from a parent, guardian, or qualified medical professional.

Non-legend

The act allows any person to administer a non-legend opioid antagonist to someone at a school experiencing an opioid drug overdose. It gives a person who administers a non-legend opioid antagonist immunity from civil liability for any injuries that may result from actions or omissions that are considered ordinary negligence. However, this immunity does not apply in cases of gross, willful, or wanton negligence.

Under existing law, the State Department of Education (SDE) must consult with DPH and the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to develop guidelines on storing and administering opioid antagonists in schools. The act also requires SDE to consult with DMHAS and limits these guidelines to non-legend opioid antagonists.

Legend

The act generally extends existing law's requirements to the administration of legend opioid antagonists, while expanding the circumstances in which they may be administered. It allows a qualified trained school employee to administer the medication to a student experiencing an opioid drug overdose at any time, regardless of any prior approvals. It also removes the option for a student's parent or guardian to request that the student not be given an opioid antagonist.

Under prior law, the training program required for nurses and qualified employees had to be developed by SDE, DPH, and DCP. The act instead allows the program to be approved or developed by these departments, along with DMHAS.

DEPLOYING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AFTER MASS SHOOTINGS

The act requires the DESPP commissioner to coordinate with the DMHAS commissioner, in addition to the DPH commissioner as under existing law, when deploying grief counselors and mental health professionals to provide mental health services to mass shooting victims' family members and other people with a close association to them. By law, these deployments must be made to (1) local community outreach groups in and around the impacted location and (2) any school or higher education institution where a mass shooting victim or perpetrator was enrolled.

DMHAS ADVISORY BOARDS

Advisory Boards for State-Operated Facilities

Existing law requires all hospitals and facilities DMHAS operates (partially or wholly) that treat people with psychiatric disabilities or substance use disorders (or both) to have an advisory board that includes members with lived experience of behavioral health disorders (see BACKGROUND). The act exempts the Connecticut Valley Hospital advisory council and Whiting Forensic Hospital oversight board from this requirement.

By law, a facility's superintendent or director must appoint the advisory board members, at least two of whom must have lived experience with behavioral health disorders. The act eliminates prior law's requirement that the superintendent or director appoint additional board members when the current membership is less than the number of members they designated and to fill vacancies.

It also eliminates prior law's provisions that (1) required appointed members' terms to be staggered so that an approximately equal number of terms expire in odd-numbered years; (2) limited members to no more than two successive terms in addition to any unexpired term they were appointed to fill; and (3) required at least one-third of members to each represent regional behavioral health action organizations and catchment area councils, which the act repeals.

The act also makes related minor and technical changes.

BACKGROUND

DMHAS-Operated Facilities and Advisory Boards

By law, DMHAS-operated facilities generally include the Capitol Region Mental Health Center, the Connecticut Valley Hospital (including its Addictions and General Psychiatric divisions), the Whiting Forensic Hospital, the Connecticut Mental Health Center, the Franklin S. DuBois Center, the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center, and River Valley Services (CGS § 17a-458).

A DMHAS-operated facility's advisory board must (1) periodically meet with the facility superintendent or director to advise on the facility's programs and policies, (2) act as a liaison between the facility and residents of its assigned geographic area, and (3) issue reports to the governor and DMHAS commissioner on facility conditions and make recommendations for changes or improvements (CGS § 17a-471).

Related Act

PA 26-68, § 165, has the same provisions (1) allowing any person to give someone a non-legend opioid antagonist, (2) giving them immunity from civil and criminal liability for doing so, and (3) exempting anyone who distributes these medications for free from needing a non-legend drug permit.

PA 26-54—sHB 5239

Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE INDEPENDENT MORTALITY REVIEW BOARD AND FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

SUMMARY: This act makes changes to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Independent Mortality Review Board (IMRB) by removing a statutory reference to Executive Order 57. This 2017 executive order established two boards that review and investigate certain deaths of people with intellectual disabilities under DDS care (IMRB and Fatality Review Board (FRB), see BACKGROUND). In doing so, the act appears to eliminate the FRB and merge its functions with the IMRB. (In practice, the responsibilities of the two boards overlap.)

The act specifically establishes the IMRB in statute and codifies, with changes, the board's membership. More specifically, it allows, rather than requires, specified people to serve as board members, depending on the case under review. It also allows the board's chairperson to add any members to the IMRB he or she deems beneficial, so long as the majority of the board's members are not DDS employees.

As under prior law, the act subjects DDS and IMRB mortality processes to existing law's confidentiality and peer review requirements.

The act also makes minor and technical changes, such as allowing the DDS commissioner's designee to perform board-related functions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

INDEPENDENT MORTALITY REVIEW BOARD

Membership

The act codifies the board's membership in a way that is similar to its prior membership under Executive Order 57. But it allows, rather than requires, the following people to serve as board members, depending on the case under review:

1. the DDS directors of quality and systems improvement and investigations, or their designees;
2. the chief medical examiner, or his designee;
3. a physician appointed by the DDS commissioner;

4. the public health commissioner, or her designee;
5. the Disability Rights CT executive director or her designee; and
6. a representative of private providers, appointed by the DDS commissioner.

Under the act, the board chairperson may also add any board members he or she deems beneficial, so long as the majority of board members are not DDS employees. The act designates the DDS commissioner or his designee as the chairperson, instead of requiring the commissioner to appoint the chairperson from among the board's members as under the executive order.

Responsibilities

By law, DDS must investigate the deaths of people for which it has direct or oversight responsibility for their medical care. Similar to prior law, the act requires the DDS commissioner to report to the IMRB any death in which (1) the department raises questions about the client's care, (2) abuse or neglect has been alleged, (3) the Office of Chief Medical Examiner or a local medical examiner has accepted jurisdiction, or (4) the death was unexpected and the commissioner or his designee determines that an independent investigation by the board is needed. The board must then investigate each report and may request necessary documentation and information to do so.

BACKGROUND

Fatality Review Board

Executive Order 57 (2017) established a DDS FRB to investigate unexpected deaths of people under DDS care that the commissioner believes warrant an independent investigation. The commissioner may refer a particular case to the FRB before the IMRB completes its review. The FRB is chaired by the DDS commissioner and includes the following members appointed by the governor:

1. one law enforcement professional with a background in forensic investigations,
2. one developmental services professional,
3. the chief state's attorney or his designee,
4. two medical professionals,
5. one expert in teaching forensic investigation techniques, and
6. the Disability Rights CT executive director.

PA 26-108—SB 191

Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PSYCHEDELIC-ASSISTED THERAPY PILOT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act expands eligibility for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) psychedelic-assisted therapy pilot program by allowing Connecticut residents to participate who (1) are at least age 18 and (2) meet clinical eligibility criteria set by the institutional review board of the medical school that administers it (currently Yale University). Previously, the pilot program was limited to Connecticut veterans, retired first responders, and direct health care workers. As under prior law, participants must receive MDMA- ("Molly" or "ecstasy") or psilocybin-assisted therapy as part of a research program approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The act also eliminates a requirement that DMHAS end the pilot program if the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) approves MDMA and psilocybin for medical use (the DEA has not yet done so).

MDMA is a synthetic psychoactive drug, and psilocybin occurs naturally in some mushrooms. Both act as serotonin receptor agonists, and MDMA also acts as a reuptake inhibitor of serotonin and dopamine.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-142—sHB 5518
Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SUBSURFACE SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, WATER OPERATOR APPRENTICES AND VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER STATUTES

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[§§ 1-6 — BOTTLED WATER AND WATER SOURCES](#)

Makes changes to DPH's oversight of bottled water and water sources, such as specifically (1) requiring the commissioner to issue a schedule of PFAS and unregulated contaminants and acceptable levels for each, based on EPA regulations, and (2) allowing DPH to set conditions on its approval of bottled water sources

[§§ 7 & 20 — ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES](#)

Makes various changes to laws on environmental laboratories, such as requiring certain out-of-state laboratories to get DPH's approval before operating service centers (collection sites) in the state and expanding the range of disciplinary actions that DPH may take against in-state laboratories

[§§ 8-16, 19 & 27 — ASBESTOS PROFESSIONALS](#)

Makes various changes to laws on asbestos professional credentialing, including certain changes to conform to existing practice or regulation

[§§ 17 & 18 — ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS AND CREMATORIES](#)

Exempts crematories that perform only alkaline hydrolysis at funeral homes from the law's general restrictions on crematories being near residential properties and allows DPH to adopt regulations on crematories, including on alkaline hydrolysis and other chemical cremation processes

[§§ 21-25 — SUBSURFACE SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CERTIFICATION](#)

Creates a three-phase DPH certification program for subsurface sewage enforcement officers who review plans, conduct inspections, investigate complaints, and perform similar work related to subsurface sewage disposal systems

[§ 26 — WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS AND APPRENTICESHIPS](#)

Creates a specific pathway for water treatment plant, water distribution system, or small water system operator certification after the applicant completes an apprenticeship; sets related supervision requirements for these apprenticeships

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to the Department of Public Health's (DPH) regulation of bottled water and water sources, environmental laboratories, asbestos professionals, crematories, subsurface sewage enforcement officers, and apprentice water system operators.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various; see below.

§§ 1-6 — BOTTLED WATER AND WATER SOURCES

Makes changes to DPH's oversight of bottled water and water sources, such as specifically (1) requiring the commissioner to issue a schedule of PFAS and unregulated contaminants and acceptable levels for each, based on EPA regulations, and (2) allowing DPH to set conditions on its approval of bottled water sources

Conditions on Source Approval (§ 2)

By law, sellers or distributors of bottled water from in-state sources must get DPH approval after an inspection of the water source. The act specifically allows DPH to set terms or conditions on its approval as the commissioner deems necessary to address quality and safety issues. Under existing law, the approval is good for three years.

(By law, sellers or distributors of bottled water from out-of-state sources must, at specified times, submit to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) a copy of its current license or approval for that source from the other jurisdiction.)

DPH Schedule of PFAS and Unregulated Contaminants and Required Testing (§ 3)

By law, bottlers must annually collect water samples from each DPH-approved source and get them tested (before any water treatment) through an environmental laboratory for perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and unregulated contaminants.

The act specifically requires the DPH commissioner to issue a schedule that lists PFAS and unregulated contaminants and the acceptable levels for each, based on levels in specified federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. (In practice, DPH currently issues an action level list setting contaminant levels for drinking water above which DPH or the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection may take certain actions.)

Correspondingly, starting by January 1, 2027, the act requires that bottlers' testing of water sources tests for (1) compliance with the levels or standards set in DPH's schedule and (2) physical, chemical, radiological, and microbiological standards set in DPH regulations.

For these purposes, the act defines PFAS as any of five specific substances (for example, perfluorooctanoic acid or perfluoronanoic acid) or any other perfluoroalkyl substances listed in specified EPA or DPH regulations.

The act also revises the definition of an "unregulated contaminant" subject to the law. Under prior law, an unregulated contaminant was one for which DPH, under existing law, has set a level at which it creates, or can be reasonably expected to create, an unacceptable risk to health or safety for people drinking from the water source. Under the act, it is instead any chemical, physical, biological, or radiological substance in a bottled water source (other than PFAS) for which there is no state or federal statutory or regulatory drinking water health standard and that is listed in specified EPA regulations.

(Existing law also requires water bottlers to collect samples from each approved source at least once a year to test for regulated contaminants and at least once every three years for unregulated contaminants for which monitoring is required but allowable levels have not been established.)

Bottler Reporting (§ 5)

By law, bottlers must report the testing results for PFAS and unregulated contaminants to DPH and DCP. The act specifies that they must do so in a way the DPH commissioner sets.

Under prior law, if the testing results exceeded DPH's set level for PFAS or unregulated contaminants, the department could require the bottler to stop using that water source until the problem was resolved. The act makes a conforming change by instead granting DPH this authority if the testing results fail to meet the (1) PFAS or unregulated contaminant levels or standards in DPH's schedule or (2) physical, chemical, radiological, and microbiological standards in DPH regulations.

Property Owner Notification to Tenants (§ 6)

Existing law requires commercial and residential property owners to notify tenants and lessees whenever the property's water supply is tested and exceeds certain thresholds. Previously, this requirement applied if the water exceeded any maximum contaminant level in state regulations or DPH's state drinking water action level list. The act makes a conforming change by instead requiring this notice when the water exceeds the level in state regulations or in the DPH schedule for PFAS or unregulated contaminants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 7 & 20 — ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES

Makes various changes to laws on environmental laboratories, such as requiring certain out-of-state laboratories to get DPH's approval before operating service centers (collection sites) in the state and expanding the range of disciplinary actions that DPH may take against in-state laboratories

Certification Requirement (§ 7(b), (c) & (e))

By law, DPH regulates environmental laboratories that test drinking water, ground water, sewage, soil, and other environmental samples for contaminants.

Under prior law, DPH had to determine whether it was necessary for the protection of the public health or the environment to require an environmental laboratory to register with DPH and get certified to conduct analyte testing in a

matrix. If so, the laboratory had to get DPH certification to do these tests. The act conforms to practice by eliminating this determination and instead requires environmental laboratories to be certified, rather than registered, with DPH. The certification must identify the specific analytes that may be tested and the acceptable testing methods (see below).

The act specifies that the certification requirement applies to owning a laboratory (as well as managing or controlling one, as under prior law) that tests for analytes on DPH's list (see below).

Prior law allowed DPH to revoke or otherwise limit a laboratory's credential if it failed to comply with applicable law or regulations. The act instead specifically prohibits DPH from certifying an environmental laboratory until the laboratory shows its compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The act exempts state-owned or -operated laboratories from the existing \$1,250 certification application fee other applicants must pay.

Regulations (§ 7(b))

Existing law requires DPH to adopt regulations setting standards on various issues related to environmental laboratories. The act requires the regulations to include standards for service centers (in-state collection sites operated solely to collect samples to be tested at a certified environmental laboratory or out-of-state one). It eliminates the requirement for the regulations to set a civil penalty schedule (existing law sets a maximum \$5,000 per day penalty for violations of the law or regulations).

Acceptable Testing Methods (§ 7(d))

By law, DPH must annually publish a list of analytes and matrices that require certification for testing. The act requires the list to include the specific acceptable testing methods.

By law, an "analyte" is a microbiological, chemical, radiological, or other matrix component being measured by an analytical test. Similar to prior law, a "matrix" is the substance or medium in which an analyte may be contained, including drinking water or wastewater.

Exemption (§ 7(g))

Prior law exempted an environmental laboratory from these laws if it only provided laboratory services or information for its owner or operator. The act specifies that for the exemption to apply, the laboratory must use laboratory results solely for the owner's or operator's own information. It also prohibits anyone from using these results to show compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements. But when allowed by law, results from analyses done by certified water operators (or people they supervise) at drinking water treatment facilities may be used to confirm treatment effectiveness and for regulatory reporting.

Enforcement (§ 7(h) & (j))

Existing law requires the commissioner to allow an opportunity for a hearing if she imposes a civil penalty on an environmental laboratory. The act also specifically requires this when she issues other orders connected with a violation.

Under prior law, DPH could revoke or otherwise limit the credential of any environmental laboratory that failed to comply with the law or regulations. The act instead specifies that DPH may take a range of disciplinary actions, such as revoking or suspending the certificate, placing the certificate holder on probationary status, or imposing a corrective action plan. DPH must also summarily suspend a laboratory's certification before the final adjudication or during the appeals process if the laboratory presents a clear and present danger to public health and safety if it continues to operate.

The act explicitly allows DPH to impose a \$5,000 daily civil fine on an environmental laboratory that operates without the required certification.

Out-of-State Laboratories (§ 7(l))

Under the act, if an out-of-state laboratory is not DPH-certified but seeks to operate an in-state service center (collection site), it must apply to DPH for approval. This applies only if the lab's testing results are used to show Connecticut statutory or regulatory compliance. (Existing regulations require out-of-state laboratories to get DPH's approval to test samples that originate in the state (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 19a-36-A33(c).))

The commissioner may approve the application if the laboratory shows that (1) it is certified in its home state to test for an analyte using a method on the DPH list and (2) the service center's policies and procedures suffice to protect the

integrity of the tested samples. The approval is good for two years and is renewable.

The act allows DPH to inspect these service centers at any time and revoke an approval if needed to protect public health. The commissioner may also issue civil fines of up to \$5,000 per day if the out-of-state laboratory violated the law or regulations. In assessing the penalty, she must consider the same factors as under existing law when deciding the fine amount for in-state laboratories (the degree of the threat, amount needed to achieve compliance, and laboratory's compliance history). The commissioner must give the laboratory the opportunity for a hearing, and any penalty or approval revocation may be appealed to Superior Court.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 8-16, 19 & 27 — ASBESTOS PROFESSIONALS

Makes various changes to laws on asbestos professional credentialing, including certain changes to conform to existing practice or regulation

Asbestos Contractors (§ 10)

The act prohibits anyone who provides services as an asbestos contractor from performing any duties associated with those of asbestos abatement site supervisors unless the person is certified as a site supervisor. It also requires individuals applying for an asbestos contractor license to submit proof of this certification.

Asbestos Consultants (§ 11)

Under existing law, applications for an asbestos consultant license must contain information, as DPH may require in regulations, on the applicant's relevant experience. The act specifies that this includes supervised field experience. It also specifically allows applicants, before getting their license, to complete this supervised field experience as required by regulations.

The act conforms to existing regulations by allowing asbestos consultant licensure applicants to apply in one or more disciplines, including as an inspector, management planner, project designer, or project monitor.

The act also makes minor and clarifying changes to licensure qualifications, such as eliminating a separate exam requirement (in practice, the training program includes an examination).

Asbestos Training Providers (§ 14)

As part of the eligibility criteria to become a certified asbestos training provider, the act specifically requires the applicant to have complied with requirements in DPH regulations, including standards for instructor qualifications, record keeping, and course completion documentation.

Existing law subjects training programs to DPH's approval. Under the act, these programs and courses must comply with EPA's model accreditation plan, as well as DPH regulations as under prior law. The act also requires training providers to submit programs to DPH for reapproval every three years.

The act specifies that when asbestos training providers issue a certification of training completion (for abatement workers, site supervisors, or consultants), this must be done in line with requirements under EPA's model accreditation plan or equivalent DPH-recognized standards.

Regulations (§§ 15 & 27)

Existing law requires DPH to adopt regulations on specified matters related to asbestos professionals. The act generally conforms to existing practice by requiring the regulations to set:

1. licensure standards in each of the four consultant disciplines,
2. certification standards for asbestos abatement workers and site supervisors, and
3. approval standards for training providers.

The act repeals and replaces a provision on permissive regulations on training, specifying that the regulations may address (1) training, not just retraining, and (2) retraining requirements for contractors' employees.

As is already the case for the mandatory regulations, the act allows the commissioner to implement policies and procedures while adopting the permissive regulations, as long as she posts her intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations system within 20 days after the policies and procedures are implemented. The policies and procedures are valid until regulations are adopted.

Application Denials or Disciplinary Action (§ 16)

The act makes various clarifying changes to DPH's disciplinary authority regarding asbestos professionals. These include specifying that:

1. DPH's authority to deny applications for specified misconduct applies to entities, not just individuals (for example, a company applying for a contractor license) and
2. DPH may deny an application or take other disciplinary action for violations of separate laws on asbestos abatement, not just the laws on professional credentialing.

Professionals Credentialed Elsewhere (§ 8)

The act removes asbestos professionals from a law that generally requires DPH to issue a credential to someone credentialed in another state who meets specified experience and background requirements (for example, having practiced under their current credential for at least four years and having no disciplinary history).

It retains separate existing provisions on DPH's authority to issue certain asbestos-related licenses or certifications by endorsement to applicants credentialed in states whose standards are the same as, or higher than, Connecticut's.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 17 & 18 — ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS AND CREMATORIES

Exempts crematories that perform only alkaline hydrolysis at funeral homes from the law's general restrictions on crematories being near residential properties and allows DPH to adopt regulations on crematories, including on alkaline hydrolysis and other chemical cremation processes

PA 24-68 added alkaline hydrolysis to the statutory definition of cremation and allows a crematory to perform alkaline hydrolysis only if it is located on the grounds of a licensed funeral home. Generally, "alkaline hydrolysis" is a flameless cremation method that uses water, chemicals, heat, and pressure to accelerate a body's natural decomposition.

The act exempts crematories that perform only alkaline hydrolysis at funeral homes from the law's prohibition on crematories being within 500 feet of residential structures or residential-zoned land not owned by the crematory's owner.

The act also allows the DPH commissioner to adopt regulations on crematories, including to set technical standards for alkaline hydrolysis and other chemical cremation processes and the disposal of products or by-products used in these processes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 21-25 — SUBSURFACE SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CERTIFICATION

Creates a three-phase DPH certification program for subsurface sewage enforcement officers who review plans, conduct inspections, investigate complaints, and perform similar work related to subsurface sewage disposal systems

The act creates a three-phase certification program for subsurface sewage enforcement officers who perform inspections and similar work related to subsurface sewage disposal systems (septic systems). Starting on October 1, 2026, it generally requires anyone performing the duties of a subsurface sewage enforcement officer to (1) become certified by DPH and (2) be appointed by a local health director as the local department's or district's employee or contractor. It provides a grace period for people approved before October 1, 2026, under existing regulations to serve in a similar role.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except conforming changes are effective July 1, 2026.

Certification Requirement and Exceptions (§ 21(b) & (c))

Starting October 1, 2026, the act generally requires anyone (including a licensed environmental health specialist) working as a subsurface sewage enforcement officer to be (1) certified by DPH and (2) appointed by a local health director to perform these duties as the local health department's or district's employee or contractor. It requires the local health director to keep records of these appointments and give DPH, upon request, a copy of the records or access to them.

But under the act, if a local health director's agent is approved by DPH before October 1, 2026, under existing regulations to investigate, inspect, and approve plans for subsurface sewage disposal systems, the agent may work as a subsurface sewage enforcement officer before getting certified. To continue working in this role, these agents must apply for the appropriate certification by October 1, 2027. Once the commissioner begins granting certifications under the act,

she can no longer issue approvals under existing regulations.

The act allows applicants, before getting certified, to work as subsurface sewage enforcement officers as part of a DPH-developed training course taught by department staff or an approved training provider holding the appropriate certification level (see below).

Also, the act allows DPH employees or contractors, without getting certified, to perform regulatory inspections and investigate complaints about subsurface sewage disposal systems.

Scope of Duties (§ 21(a) & (g))

Under the act, a subsurface sewage enforcement officer can do the following tasks relating to subsurface sewage disposal systems within the local health director's jurisdiction: (1) review and approve plans, (2) conduct regulatory inspections, (3) investigate complaints, and (4) perform other related duties the commissioner requires.

The act creates a three-phase certification program, with the phases corresponding to different systems as shown in the table below.

Certification Phases

Certification	System Type and Maximum Size (Based on Building Design Flow)
Phase I	Subsurface sewage disposal system (up to 2,000 gallons per day), but not these systems designed by a state-licensed professional engineer
Phase II	Subsurface sewage disposal system (up to 10,000 gallons per day)
Phase III	Alternative on-site sewage treatment system (up to 10,000 gallons per day)

The act allows someone to hold only one phase of certification at a time, and each phase allows the holder to perform activities at that phase or lower phases (for example, a Phase II enforcement officer can perform activities associated with Phase I or II).

Application Process (§§ 21(c)-(e) & (g)-(h), 24 & 25)

The act requires DPH to develop applications for:

1. initial certification as a Phase I, II, or III subsurface sewage enforcement officer;
2. initial certification as a Phase I or II enforcement officer for agents approved under existing regulations before October 1, 2026 (and the application must attest to that approval);
3. renewal certification; and
4. training providers (see below).

The act prohibits anyone from applying for Phase II certification unless the person was previously certified at Phase I or served as an approved agent before October 1, 2026. It bars anyone from applying for Phase III certification (1) unless the person was previously certified at Phase II and (2) until DPH sets the minimum requirements for alternative on-site sewage treatment systems, as existing law requires.

Under the act, an agent approved under the existing regulations must seek initial certification at Phase I or II, depending on the specifics of their prior approval. After initially becoming certified, these agents must renew their certification in the same way as other certificate holders. There is no fee for an initial or renewal certification, and certifications must be renewed every three years.

Before applying for initial certification, a person (other than an agent approved under the existing regulations) must first complete a training course and pass an exam at the appropriate phase, with DPH setting the course and exam.

Conferences, Training Courses, and Examinations (§ 21(f) & (i))

Under the act, the DPH commissioner may require subsurface sewage enforcement officers to attend conferences providing information and updates on on-site sewage treatment systems, such as a review of the department's technical standards for the siting, design, and installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems. The act allows the commissioner to hold up to two of these conferences per calendar year and specifies that they may be in-person or online (live or pre-recorded).

The act requires the commissioner to develop training courses (which may include a practical component, plan reviews, and homework) and corresponding exams for the three enforcement officer phases. She may approve training providers to

teach the courses, with approval expiring after three years. To be approved, a training provider must show that the course and its materials are consistent with the department's technical standards for subsurface sewage disposal systems.

The commissioner may administer training courses or certification exams or contract with a testing center to do so.

Regulations; Policies and Procedures (§§ 21(j), 22, & 23)

The act allows the commissioner to adopt regulations on the certification of subsurface sewage enforcement officers. If adopted, the regulations must include:

1. the scope of duties performed with each enforcement officer certification,
2. requirements and procedures for initial and renewal certifications,
3. exam standards and procedures,
4. required training standards for initial and renewal certification, and
5. standards and procedures for approving training providers and courses.

The commissioner may adopt implementing policies and procedures while in the process of adopting the regulations, as long as she posts her intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations System within 20 days after adopting the policies and procedures. The policies and procedures are valid until the final regulations are adopted.

The act specifies that no new regulatory board is created for subsurface sewage enforcement officers.

Disciplinary Actions (§ 21(k))

The act allows the commissioner to take disciplinary actions available to her (other than assessing a civil penalty) against a subsurface sewage enforcement officer for:

1. fraud or material deception in obtaining initial, renewal, or reinstated certification;
2. fraudulent practices, including accepting bribes in performing professional activities;
3. incompetent, negligent, or illegal performance of duties;
4. a felony conviction; or
5. failure to complete mandatory training or attend mandatory conferences.

The act also allows the commissioner to take disciplinary action (other than assessing a civil penalty) against a training provider if she determines that (1) a training course's hours or materials were inconsistent with DPH's technical standards for subsurface sewage disposal systems or (2) the provider engaged in incompetent, negligent, or illegal activities in providing training courses.

By law, disciplinary actions available to DPH include, among other things, (1) revoking or suspending a credential, (2) censuring the violator, (3) issuing a letter of reprimand, or (4) placing the violator on probationary status.

§ 26 — WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

Creates a specific pathway for water treatment plant, water distribution system, or small water system operator certification after the applicant completes an apprenticeship; sets related supervision requirements for these apprenticeships

The act allows DPH, as an exception to existing certification requirements, to certify individuals as water treatment plant, water distribution system, or small water system operators after the applicant completes an applicable apprenticeship.

Specifically, to qualify for certification under the act, an applicant must (1) be a state Department of Labor (DOL)-registered apprentice who completed a DOL-approved apprenticeship for the applicable system type and (2) have passed a written exam (set in state regulations) after completing the apprenticeship. Unlike the standard certification process, there is no application fee.

Under the act, the apprentice must notify DPH in writing, in a way the commissioner sets, at least 10 days before participating in the apprenticeship program. The notification must include information on the entity providing the program and the certified water operator or operators directly supervising it. The apprentice must (1) be directly supervised by a certified water operator of the system type for which the apprentice is seeking certification and (2) not make any process or system integrity decisions about water quality or quantity that affect public health. If the certified operator fails to provide the apprentice with the required supervision, the operator may be subject to disciplinary action (such as suspension of their certificate).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-45—sHB 5291

Public Safety and Security Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS STATUTES RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

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Requires the state civil preparedness plan and program to have provisions on targeted violence and terrorism prevention and allows local emergency operations plans to include them; eliminates the requirement that local emergency operations plans have a domestic terrorism strategy

§ 19 — POLICE TRAINING CENTER

Requires DESPP to establish a police training center at any CSCU institution, instead of Central Connecticut State University

SUMMARY: This act makes assorted changes related to public safety, as shown in the below section-by-section analysis.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§ 1 — MUNICIPAL FIRE CHIEF APPOINTMENTS

Requires municipal fire departments to notify DESPP about their appointments of a new or interim fire chief within 10 business days after the appointment

The act requires municipal fire departments that appoint a new or interim fire chief to notify the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) within 10 business days after the appointment. Notifications must be made on a form the DESPP commissioner sets and include the appointee's name, appointment's effective date, department name, mailing and email address, mobile telephone number, dispatch contact number, and any other information the commissioner deems necessary for the department's records. The act also allows him to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

Under the act, "municipal fire departments" are departments, agencies, and organizations of a municipality, fire district, or other Connecticut political subdivision that provide fire suppression or fire protection services and are staffed by career or volunteer personnel or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 2 & 3 — BLOOD AND URINE TEST RESULTS TIMING

Limits, to chemical breath tests, which DUI-related test results must be sent to defendants within a specified timeframe

The act eliminates a requirement that blood and urine test results be delivered to defendants within a certain timeframe for the tests to be admitted as evidence in court for driving under the influence (DUI), impaired boating, or impaired hunting criminal prosecutions.

Existing law establishes several conditions that generally must be met in order to admit into evidence breath, blood, or urine tests indicating the amount of alcohol or drugs in a defendant's system. One condition is that a true copy of the test result report was mailed or personally delivered to the defendant within 24 hours or by the end of the next regular business day after the result was known, whichever is later. The act narrows this condition to only apply to chemical tests of the defendant's breath.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 4 & 5 — DNA TESTING

Requires certain convicted felons and others to submit to DNA testing within six months after sentencing or entering into specific supervision or custody; requires the DESPP commissioner to conduct a study on the DNA obtained

Existing law generally requires the collection of DNA from offenders convicted of felonies, criminal offenses against minors, non-violent sexual crimes, or sexually violent crimes. For these offenders who have (1) been sentenced to the custody of the Department of Correction (DOC) and (2) not had a blood or other biological sample taken after they were arrested, prior law required they provide a sample of sufficient quality for DNA analysis before being released from custody. The act instead requires that this sampling be done within six months after sentencing.

The act imposes similar six-month requirements for samples taken from offenders convicted of these crimes who (1) were not sentenced to confinement or (2) are serving a period of probation or parole. Specifically, it requires samplings to be done within six months after sentencing or entering supervision, respectively. Prior law only required that samplings be done as a condition of sentencing or prior to discharge, respectively.

For anyone convicted, or found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, of these crimes (or crimes that are substantially the same) in another state or jurisdiction, prior law required they submit to DNA testing before being discharged from DOC custody, Judicial Department or Board of Pardons and Paroles supervision, or the Psychiatric Security Review Board's jurisdiction, as applicable. The act instead requires samples to be taken within six months after being placed with those entities.

Relatedly, the act requires the DESPP commissioner to conduct a study of "lawfully owed DNA," which the act defines as a DNA sample obtained under the above mandated collection law. The study must include:

1. an audit of current DNA collection and submission practices across local and state law enforcement agencies, the Division of Criminal Justice, DOC, the Department of Developmental Services, and the Judicial Branch;
2. a census of individuals from whom DNA is lawfully owed but not collected;
3. an analysis of systemic barriers to collection, timelines, interagency coordination, and data sharing;
4. a definition of agency responsibilities at each stage of the criminal justice process;
5. standard timelines and procedures for collecting and submitting DNA;
6. recommendations for data tracking and reporting protocols to ensure and facilitate transparency and compliance; and
7. any information the commissioner deems relevant.

The commissioner must report on the study's findings and any recommendations to the Judiciary and Public Safety and Security committees by July 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provisions requiring that DNA samples be taken within six months are effective October 1, 2026.

§ 6 — POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Replaces, on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the State Police Academy commanding officer with the State Police deputy commissioner

The act changes the composition of the 23-member Police Officer Standards and Training Council by replacing the State Police Academy commanding officer with the State Police deputy commissioner or the deputy commissioner's designee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — NUMBER OF STATE POLICE

Eliminates the requirement that the DESPP commissioner appoint and maintain a number of sworn State Police personnel according to the recommended standards developed by PRI in 2013

Existing law requires the DESPP commissioner, according to his determination, to appoint and maintain enough sworn State Police personnel to efficiently maintain the operation of their division. The act removes the requirement that he make his determination according to recommended standards the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) developed in a 2013 study. It relatedly deletes the study's requirement and obsolete language.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 8 — SCHOOL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Transfers authority over bond proceeds for the school security infrastructure competitive grant program from SDE to DESPP

By law, DESPP, the Department of Administrative Services, and the State Department of Education (SDE) collectively administer the School Security Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program. The program reimburses approved applicants, within certain limits, for developing or improving security infrastructure, related training, or portable entrance security devices. Grants can be given to various entities, such as towns (for their public schools), private schools, and certain licensed childcare centers.

Existing law authorizes \$107 million in bond funding for the program. Prior law required SDE to use the bond proceeds for the program. The act instead requires DESPP to do so, in consultation with SDE.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 9 & 10 — FIREWORKS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS DISPLAYS

Conditions certificates of competency to handle or fire certain fireworks and special effects displays on applicants submitting to state and national criminal history record checks and providing evidence of good moral character and competence in the control and handling of the respective devices; eliminates the authority of local fire marshals to suspend or revoke a fireworks permit

Existing law authorizes the DESPP commissioner to issue permits for certain fireworks and special effects displays. It also prohibits anyone from handling, discharging, or firing these displays unless it is done under the supervision of someone who has a certificate of competency from the commissioner.

The act requires that these certificates only be granted after an applicant has submitted (1) to state and national criminal history record checks and (2) evidence of good moral character and competence controlling and handling fireworks (or special effects).

Additionally, the act (1) specifies that fireworks certificates of competency are not transferable, (2) eliminates the authority of local fire marshals to suspend or revoke a fireworks permit, and (3) makes technical and conforming changes.

State regulations, unchanged by the act, set several requirements for certificate applicants, including:

1. providing evidence of at least three years of employment on a professional fireworks or special effects crew with responsibility for at least 10 supervised displays;
2. producing a letter from the chief of police of the municipality in which the applicant resides attesting to the applicant's good character and suitability to handle fireworks or special effects; and
3. receiving a passing grade on a written examination administered by the state fire marshal (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 29-357-6b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 11 — DESTRUCTION OF RISK PROTECTION ORDER ITEMS

Extends, generally from one year to two years, the length of the existing prohibition against DESPP and local police departments destroying firearms, deadly weapons, and ammunition held under a risk protection order; requires the departments to notify the owner in writing at least 90 days before destroying the items

Existing law allows any police officer or state's attorney or assistant state's attorney, under limited circumstances, to apply to court for a warrant ("risk warrant") to seize firearms, deadly weapons, and ammunition from someone who poses an imminent risk of injuring himself or herself or someone else (CGS § 29-38c(a)). Under existing law, the court in the geographical area where the person lives must hold a hearing within 14 days after a risk warrant's issuance to determine if the state should continue to hold the seized items or return them.

If DESPP or a local police department is holding the seized items under a risk warrant, prior law prohibited them from destroying the items until at least one year after the warrant's termination date. The act changes this provision by prohibiting the destruction until at least two years after the above hearing. It additionally requires DESPP and local police departments, at least 90 days before destroying the items, to notify the owner in writing about the date his or her items will be destroyed.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 12 — SECURITY OFFICER TRAINING AND LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Makes several changes related to security officers, such as expanding who is eligible for training waivers to include certain correction, parole, and police officers, and judicial marshals who present proof of completing equivalent training

Existing law requires, among other things, security officer license applicants to have successfully completed, within the two previous years, at least eight hours of training in basic first aid, search and seizure laws and regulations, use of force, basic criminal justice, and public safety issues. If they intend to carry a “less lethal weapon” (baton or pepper spray) while on duty, they must receive and complete additional DESPP-approved training. The act specifies that the required search and seizure training is on state laws and regulations.

Under existing law, active military members and veterans are exempt from these training requirements if they received equivalent training while serving and apply within two years after their discharge. The act also exempts the following people if they present proof that they completed training equivalent to the training required for the license:

1. anyone currently employed, or separated from service in good standing within the past two years, as a DOC correction officer or parole officer, or Judicial Branch judicial marshal; and
2. anyone who is separated from service in good standing within the past two years as a police officer and is not prohibited from being hired by a law enforcement unit (due to serious misconduct, for example).

Relatedly, the act requires incomplete license applications to be completed within 10 calendar days from when the DESPP commissioner notifies the applicant (or security service employing the applicant who submitted the application) that an application is incomplete. For re-submissions, if the commissioner determines the application is still incomplete, he may, in his discretion, deny the application.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 13 — ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON TRAINING

Prohibits professional bondsmen, surety bail bond agents, and bail enforcement agents from carrying an electronic defense weapon unless they obtain a special permit

Existing law prohibits professional bondsmen, surety bail bond agents, and bail enforcement agents from carrying a pistol, revolver, or other firearm while working unless they obtain a special permit from the DESPP commissioner. The act extends this prohibition to them carrying electronic defense weapons. It allows the commissioner to grant them a special permit to carry those weapons if they prove to his satisfaction that they have successfully completed a commissioner-approved course on safely using an electronic defense weapon. As is the case for permits with the other weapons, the act requires permit holders to successfully complete an annual electronic defense weapons safety refresher course to renew their permits.

The act makes technical and conforming changes, including extending to electronic defense weapons (1) other existing provisions on permit expiration notices and timing and (2) the commissioner’s authority to adopt safety course regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 14 — CIVIL AIR PATROL YOUTH CAMP

Authorizes a Civil Air Patrol youth camp

The act allows the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol to open, operate, and maintain a youth camp without an Office of Early Childhood (OEC) license. However, to be exempt, the camp must (1) be opened, operated, and maintained on state-owned or -leased property and use a facility operated exclusively by the Connecticut Military Department or U.S. Armed Forces, and (2) comply with the guidelines set forth in the “CAPP 79-10 Cadet Medication Management” Civil Air Patrol pamphlet during any overnight youth camp.

Generally, the current, April 2025 version of the pamphlet outlines tasks to be done by commanders, project officers, and event health service officers before, during, and after an overnight activity, such as (1) receiving, appropriately labeling, and securely storing all received medications; (2) supervising cadets as they self-administer their medications and maintaining a log of all self-administered medications; and (3) contacting parents or guardians when the cadet does not show up at the appropriate time for medication self-administration, or when there are lost, damaged, contaminated, or refused medications. Among other things, it requires that state laws be followed, regardless of the guidelines in the pamphlet.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Civil Air Patrol & Youth Camps

The Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered, federally funded nonprofit corporation and serves as the volunteer civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force (see 36 U.S.C. § 40301, et seq.).

By law, among other criteria, a “youth camp” is any regularly scheduled program or organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during school vacations or on weekends by a person, entity, or state or municipal agency for recreational or educational purposes that accommodates at least five children from ages 3 through 15 (CGS § 19a-420).

For youth camps to operate in the state, they generally must complete a comprehensive licensing process OEC runs, including background checks for employees who provide care or have unsupervised access to a child. There is generally a license fee of \$315 or \$815 depending on the entity.

§ 15 — DASHBOARD CAMERAS AND POLICE PATROL VEHICLES

Specifies, for the purposes of the law requiring police patrol vehicles to use dashboard cameras, what a police patrol vehicle is not

Under existing law, each state and local law enforcement unit must require the use of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder in each police patrol vehicle used by any of the police officers it employs (CGS § 29-6d(c)). The act modifies the definition of “police patrol vehicle” to explicitly exclude the following types of vehicles: (1) administrative vehicles with a body camera-wearing occupant, (2) bicycles, (3) motor scooters, (4) all-terrain vehicles, (5) electric personal assistive mobility devices, and (6) animal control vehicles. In effect, a “police patrol vehicle” is any state or local police vehicle besides these excluded vehicles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 16-18 — STATE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS PLAN AND PROGRAM AND LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

Requires the state civil preparedness plan and program to have provisions on targeted violence and terrorism prevention and allows local emergency operations plans to include them; eliminates the requirement that local emergency operations plans have a domestic terrorism strategy

The act requires any state civil preparedness plan and program prepared on or after July 1, 2027, to have provisions on targeted violence and terrorism prevention. It also allows local emergency operations plans to include the same and eliminates a requirement that plans submitted on or after January 1, 2025, have a domestic terrorism prevention strategy. Under the act, “targeted violence” is a premeditated act of violence (1) directed at an individual, group of individuals, event, or location, regardless of motive and (2) typically not done to further, or in connection with, other criminal activity.

The act also makes several technical changes, including specifying that local emergency operations plans must be submitted in a form and manner set by the DESPP commissioner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 19 — POLICE TRAINING CENTER

Requires DESPP to establish a police training center at any CSCU institution, instead of Central Connecticut State University

The act makes changes to a law that requires DESPP, in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, to establish a police training center to train and educate police officers in crime scene processing, the collection and analysis of forensic evidence, and criminal investigations. Under prior law, the center had to be located at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and the DESPP commissioner had to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with CCSU to establish it. The act instead requires the (1) center to be located at any Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) institution and (2) associated MOU be entered into with that institution by January 1, 2027.

By law, unchanged by the act, the MOU must require the commissioner’s written authorization for any use of center funding for a purpose other than training or educating police officers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-58—sHB 5401

Public Safety and Security Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE, STATE FIRE PREVENTION CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE

SUMMARY: This act makes identical changes to when the State Building Code, State Fire Prevention Code, and Fire Safety Code must be updated. Under existing law, each of these codes must be updated whenever the nationally recognized model code it is based on is revised to incorporate changes that are deemed necessary. The act generally extends the deadlines to make these updates from 18 months after a revision's first publication to two years after its first publication. The act also adds an exception to each code's update requirement so that none are required between the first publication of revisions to the respective 2024 model codes and the 2030 model codes' first publication of revisions.

The act additionally requires the Department of Administrative Services commissioner, in consultation with the state building inspector, Codes and Standards Committee, and state fire marshal, to submit a report to the six legislative leaders and the Public Safety and Security Committee on the effects of extending the cycles for updating these three state codes and any recommendations for amending the cycles. She must do this by January 1, 2029.

Lastly, the act makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-84—sSB 369

Public Safety and Security Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ELEVATORS

SUMMARY: This act assigns several elevator-related maintenance, repair, notice, and other duties to owners of residential elevator buildings, including requiring them to give tenants a notice within 24 hours after an elevator is first reported as inoperable and not restored to service.

Under the act, a "residential elevator building," is generally any building in Connecticut that is wholly or partly used for residential purposes with at least one elevator used to enter or exit any floor above or below the ground floor, including a garage. But it does not include buildings located on municipal- or state-owned property or a building or structure undergoing remodeling, restoration, repair, or renovation under a current building permit.

The act authorizes the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to impose specific fines and take certain other enforcement actions to address violations. It also requires "local building officials" (municipal-appointed officers responsible for administering the State Building Code) to investigate any complaint received about inoperable elevators subject to the act and gives them other responsibilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

DEFINITIONS

The act adds several terms, including "residential elevator building" and "local building official" described above, that apply to its provisions as well as other existing public safety laws regulating elevators, escalators, and lifts. This includes "owner," which is one or more individuals or entities who own, jointly or severally, all or part of (1) a property's legal title or (2) the beneficial ownership and a right to present use and enjoyment of the premises and includes a mortgagee in possession. The act applies this definition to several existing provisions (CGS §§ 29-194 to 29-197 & 29-199).

The act also defines "inoperable" as operating in a way that materially and consistently limits reliable access to dwelling units served by an elevator, and extends this definition to an existing provision governing elevator inspections in privately owned multifamily housing projects that requires inspectors to estimate how long inoperable elevators are expected to remain so (CGS § 29-195).

The act also adds other definitions as described below.

DUTIES OF RESIDENTIAL ELEVATOR BUILDING OWNERS

Elevator Maintenance

The act requires residential elevator building owners to maintain each elevator in their buildings in continuous working order in compliance with applicable “building and housing codes,” which are any law, ordinance, or governmental regulation on fitness for habitation or the construction, maintenance, operation, occupancy, use, or appearance of any premises or dwelling unit. The act separately specifies that this term includes the Connecticut Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators.

The act also requires owners to give tenants 24 hours’ advance written notice about any scheduled elevator maintenance.

Signage by Elevator

Under the act, residential elevator building owners must also post specific signage as close as possible to the call buttons of the elevators in their buildings, but not higher than 60 inches from the floor. The signage must state the following in English and Spanish:

If this elevator is not working and it is an emergency, dial 911. If it is not an emergency and you do not have access to another working elevator for at least forty-eight consecutive hours, call (THE APPLICABLE MUNICIPALITY) at (THE APPLICABLE PHONE NUMBER).

Inoperable Elevators

If an elevator in a residential elevator building is reported as being inoperable and it is not restored to service within 24 hours after that reporting, the act requires the building’s owner to give each tenant whose dwelling unit is served by that elevator a notice stating, at least, the:

1. cause of the inoperability, if known;
2. estimated time for repair, if known;
3. name and contact information for someone who will provide current information on the repair’s status, and
4. name and contact information of the local building official to report any violation of the act or applicable building and housing codes.

Within 48 hours after an elevator being first reported as inoperable and not restored to service, the act requires the owner to submit to the local building official the above inoperability notice the owner gave to tenants and a repair plan prepared by an “elevator contractor” (a person licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection to perform elevator installation, repair, and maintenance work). The repair plan must include the (1) cause of the inoperability, (2) nature of the repair required, and (3) date the elevator repairs are expected to be completed.

Until the inoperable elevator is restored to service, owners must comply with the plan for periodic updates the act requires their local building officials to prepare (see below).

Penalty

The act makes violations of the above requirements subject to a fine of up to \$250 for the first offense and up to \$500 for any subsequent offense.

DAS ENFORCEMENT

The act authorizes DAS to impose the above penalty or take any action authorized by the public safety laws regulating elevators, escalators, and lifts to enforce compliance with the act, including (1) requiring more frequent elevator inspections, (2) revoking a certificate to operate an elevator, or (3) requiring an elevator to stop service.

LOCAL BUILDING OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The act requires local building officials, after receiving a notice and repair plan for an inoperable elevator in a residential elevator building, to contact the building’s owner or the elevator contractor, as needed, within two business days to establish a plan for periodic updates about the repair plan’s status.

Additionally, the act requires local building officials to investigate any complaint received about inoperable elevators in residential elevator buildings. If an official finds an elevator to be inoperable, and, presumably, the building owner has not complied with the act's requirements for inoperable elevators, the official must issue a written request to the owner. The request must require the owner to comply with the act within five business days after the date of the request and specify that if the owner does not do so, the owner may be subject to the penalties for violating the public safety laws regulating elevators, escalators, and lifts, which are a fine up to \$250 for the first offense and a class B misdemeanor for any subsequent offense (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

The act also requires local building officials to notify DAS, in a form and manner the commissioner sets, about:

1. receiving a notice and repair plan for an inoperable elevator;
2. receiving a complaint about an inoperable elevator in a residential elevator building; and
3. any instance of a residential elevator building owner not complying with (a) the act's duties imposed on residential elevator building owners, (b) a repair plan for an inoperable elevator, (c) a plan for periodic updates, or (d) a request for compliance.

RELATED LAW

The act's provisions are in addition to existing landlord and tenant law under which residential dwelling unit, building, and premises owners (and lessors and sublessors) must maintain elevators they supply (or are required to supply) in good and safe working order and condition (CGS § 47a-7).

PA 26-110—sSB 277

Public Safety and Security Committee

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CODE OFFICIAL CAREER PATHWAY, THE FIRE SAFETY CODE, BURN INJURY REPORTS AND STATE BUILDING CODE PROVISIONS RELATING TO ACCESSIBILITY

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes, including several that affect the state fire marshal by setting new requirements and expanding her authority. Generally, the act:

1. requires her to convene a working group within the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to study the code official career pathway;
2. authorizes her to issue, upon anyone's request, official interpretations of the Fire Safety Code, including on the applicability of any code provision;
3. requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to annually report to her on burn-related injuries and deaths, smoke inhalation-related deaths, and injuries and deaths from fireworks or explosives; and
4. repeals provisions that required (a) certain health officials to report if they treated certain burn victims or fireworks-related injuries and (b) the state fire marshal to compile that reporting.

Separately, the act also repeals and makes conforming changes to several building code statutes related to accessibility, including eliminating a secondary process for the state building inspector to consider variations of and exemptions from any provision of the State Building Code relating to accessibility to, and use of, buildings and structures by people with disabilities. The act effectively replaces the repealed process with another existing process for variations and exemptions that generally has a different standard for approval and no deadline for decision making.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the working group provision is effective upon passage.

§ 1 — CODE OFFICIAL CAREER PATHWAY WORKING GROUP

Under the act, the working group's members are the state fire marshal, all members of the Fire Marshal Training Council, and three members of the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations appointed by the joint council. The state fire marshal must schedule the working group's first meeting, which must be held by August 3, 2026.

The working group's study must include an analysis of any statutory or regulatory changes needed to create a more accessible entry into the code official career pathway in Connecticut, as informed by national professional qualifications and best practices for professional development.

By January 1, 2027, the working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee and the DAS commissioner, including any recommended statutory or regulatory changes needed for a more

accessible career pathway for code officials in Connecticut. The working group ends on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

§ 2 — FIRE SAFETY CODE INTERPRETATIONS

The act's authorization for the state fire marshal to issue official interpretations of the Fire Safety Code upon request is in addition to two similar provisions under existing law that allow the (1) state fire marshal to issue official interpretations of the State Fire Prevention Code and (2) state building inspector to do the same for the State Building Code (CGS §§ 29-291a & 29-252). Similar to existing law's provisions, the act requires the state fire marshal to compile and index each Fire Safety Code interpretation and publish them at periodic intervals at least every four months.

§ 3 — DPH REPORTING TO THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Starting by January 1, 2027, and annually after, the act requires DPH to report to the state fire marshal's office on (1) all burn injuries and injuries resulting from fireworks or explosives, (2) any death resulting from those injuries or smoke inhalation, and (3) any death to which those injuries or smoke inhalation contributed.

The act also requires DPH to use death certificate information and hospital discharge data provided to it, compile the information contained in the report, publish a statistical abstract, and annually submit the abstract to each local fire marshal and the legislature.

§§ 4-7 — REPEALERS AND CONFORMING CHANGES

Health Care Providers' Burn Injury-Related Reports

The act eliminates requirements for attending physicians, health care institution directors (and their designees), and health care providers to report on treatment provided for (1) a second or third degree burn to 5% or more of the body, (2) any burn to the upper respiratory tract, (3) laryngeal edema due to the inhalation of superheated air, (4) each case of a burn injury which is likely to or may result in death, and (5) any injury resulting from the use of fireworks. Under prior law, they had to report immediately by telephone to the local fire marshal of the jurisdiction where the incident that caused the burn occurred, and within 48 hours in writing to the state fire marshal's office. The act also eliminates the requirement for the state fire marshal's office to compile the reported information and publish a statistical abstract to be submitted annually to local fire marshals and the legislature (CGS § 19a-510a).

Accessibility and the State Building Code

Separately, the act repeals another law that, generally:

1. required that the State Building Code be in substantial compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and federal Fair Housing Act (FHA);
2. set a secondary process for the state building inspector to consider variations of and exemptions from any provision of the State Building Code relating to accessibility to, and use of, buildings and structures by people with disabilities; and
3. prohibited State Building Code variations and exemptions from requiring the construction of a "visitable feature" in a residential home, such as interior doorways with certain widths, accessible ways to exit such as ramps, or full or half bathrooms on the first floor that are compliant with the ADA (CGS § 29-269).

The act makes conforming changes to replace references to this repealed statute, substitutes a specific reference to another accessibility-related building code statute (CGS § 29-273) with a more general one to provisions in the State Building Code on accessibility and adaptable dwelling units, and repeals another building code-related statute (CGS § 29-274) that, in combination with the other repeal, is obsolete because it exempts buildings from the other statute's requirements.

In effect, the conforming changes replace the repealed statute's process for the above types of variations and exemptions with another existing process for all other types. The two processes are similar except the repealed process required the state building inspector to review and decide on an application within 30 days after receiving it and allowed her to approve a variation or exemption if she determined that the standard or specification would not be feasible or would unreasonably complicate the construction, alteration, or repair in question. The existing process does not set a deadline for the inspector to make a decision and instead only allows granting variations and exemptions if strict compliance would

entail practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship or is otherwise unwarranted, and only so long as the intent of the law is observed, and public welfare and safety is assured.

PA 26-115—SB 370

Public Safety and Security Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HOURLY COMPENSATION FOR ADJUNCT FIRE INSTRUCTORS

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Administrative Services commissioner, beginning July 1, 2026, and every fiscal year after, to adjust each Connecticut Fire Academy adjunct fire instructor's hourly compensation by the same percentage as the general wage increase and cost-of-living adjustment included in the most recently ratified agreement between the state and the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

PA 26-116—SB 375

Public Safety and Security Committee

Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL MAPPING DATA SERVICES

SUMMARY: Beginning with FY 27, this act allows the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), annually and within available appropriations, to administer a program that gives municipalities and municipal police departments grants for services that will provide school mapping data for one or more schools within their respective municipality.

By October 1, 2026, the department must create eligibility criteria for the grants; develop application forms and deadlines; and post a description of the program on DESPP's website that includes the criteria, forms, and deadlines.

The act also requires the department, starting by January 1, 2028, to annually report on the program to the Public Safety and Security Committee. The reports must include, for the prior calendar year, the number of applications received and grants awarded and a list of the grantees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

SCHOOL MAPPING DATA REQUIREMENTS

Under the act, any municipality or municipal police department may apply for a program grant on the condition that the school mapping data that will be provided:

1. is compatible with software platforms used by local, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the school (collectively "PSAs" for the purposes of this public act summary) without requiring the agencies to buy more software or pay a fee to view or access the data;
2. is compatible with security software platforms used by the school without requiring the local or regional board of education or PSAs to buy more software or pay a fee to view or access the data;
3. is in a printable format and, if requested, in a digital file format that can be integrated into existing interactive mobile platforms;
4. is verified for accuracy by the entity producing the data through a walk-through of the school buildings and grounds being mapped;
5. is oriented true north and overlaid with gridded "x" and "y" coordinates;
6. includes accurate floor plans overlaid on current, verified aerial imagery of the school campus;
7. has site-specific labels that match the (a) structure of school buildings, including room labels, hallway names, external door or stairwell numbers, and the location of hazards, critical utility locations, key boxes, automated external defibrillators, and trauma kits, as well as (b) school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads, and neighboring properties;
8. cannot be independently modified or updated without corresponding updates to the data held within the software platforms used by the PSAs; and
9. will be permanently available to the local or regional board of education and PSAs at no charge other than the initial cost of producing the data.

PA 26-144—sHB 5460

*Public Safety and Security Committee
Appropriations Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE FIRE PROTECTION

SUMMARY: This act expands existing, and creates new, fire protection programs and requirements, including by:

1. requiring (a) entities responsible for fire protection services within one or more geographic areas of a municipality to register annually with that municipality beginning by July 1, 2027, and (b) municipalities to enter this information in the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) (§ 1);
2. requiring municipalities to establish local fire protection plans beginning by July 1, 2027, and review them every five years starting on July 1, 2032 (§ 1);
3. requiring the state fire administrator to review and rate these plans at least once every five years after the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (commission) develops review standards (§ 1);
4. requiring the commission to recommend minimum standards for firefighter safety and emergency response protocols (§ 2);
5. allowing the commission to (a) require municipalities to submit local fire protection plans and related revisions to the state fire administrator; (b) establish, in coordination with the state fire administrator, a standard protocol for reviewing these plans; (c) require fire protection entities to submit operational data; and (d) specify how these submissions are to be done (§ 2);
6. generally requiring all municipalities to exercise their authority to provide fire protection if fire protection services in a municipality are discontinued or disrupted (§ 3);
7. establishing a Connecticut Fire program to be overseen by the state fire administrator to create a framework for the state to assist municipalities and fire authorities (§ 4);
8. establishing a Connecticut Fire grant program to incentivize regionalized services and resource sharing (§ 5);
9. establishing a working group to develop the Connecticut Fire program (§ 6);
10. establishing volunteer, unpaid regional fire coordinators to act as liaisons between the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESPP) Division of Fire Services Administration and local fire departments to (a) facilitate the Connecticut Fire Program and (b) coordinate fire protection resources in Connecticut (§ 7);
11. requiring DESPP, in coordination with the state comptroller, to establish and maintain a system to collect computer-aided dispatch data from municipalities to aggregate and monitor information on emergency service requests managed by fire departments and emergency medical service providers (§ 8);
12. modifying the contents of, and expanding the entities required to submit, quarterly reports concerning certain emergency service requests (§ 9);
13. requiring the comptroller to study, in coordination with DESPP, and report on the feasibility of centralizing all public benefits available to firefighters within one state agency (§ 10);
14. requiring, by July 1, 2027, DESPP's Division of Fire Services Administration to establish, maintain, and annually update as necessary, a registry identifying the fire chief of each municipality and fire district in Connecticut (§ 11);
15. requiring, by July 1, 2027, the comptroller, in coordination with DESPP, to establish and maintain a registry of all of Connecticut's career and volunteer firefighters to verify their training, credentials, and benefit eligibility (§ 12); and
16. expanding which officials may use certain steady and flashing colored lights on vehicles (§ 13).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provisions concerning emergency dispatch reports are effective July 1, 2026, and provisions on the (1) Connecticut Fire program, (2) creation of regional fire coordinators, (3) feasibility study on the consolidation of first responder health benefits, and (4) registries of fire chiefs and firefighters are effective upon passage.

§ 1 — FIRE PROTECTION REGISTRATION

The act requires, starting by July 1, 2027, each fire protection entity responsible for providing fire protection services within one or more geographical areas of a municipality to register annually with that municipality. Under the act, an "entity" is any person; business entity; state or local government agency, political subdivision, or authority; or religious, social, or union organization. "Fire protection" is preventing and suppressing fires, investigating their origin and cause, responding to hazardous materials incidents, and technical rescues. The registration must at least include the (1)

demographic information of the geographic area served by that entity and (2) name and contact information for it. The entity must amend its registration to report any material change within 30 days after the entity knows, or should know, of the change.

The act requires each municipality to (1) enter the information it receives from these entities with NERIS and (2) maintain the data and review it at least yearly. “NERIS” is the national data system developed or designated by the United States Fire Administration, or its successor system, to collect, report, and analyze fire and emergency incident data.

§ 1 — MUNICIPAL LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION PLAN

The act requires all municipalities, by July 1, 2027, to establish a local fire protection plan and submit it to the municipality’s (1) chief elected officer, (2) legislative body, and (3) emergency management director. The municipality may submit the plan to the state fire administrator, but it must do so if the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control requires it. In that case, the plan must be submitted in a way set by the commission.

The plan must at least:

1. generally state how fire protection services are provided in the municipality;
2. disclose the municipality’s subdivisions or districts responsible for fire protection services throughout all geographic areas of the municipality (a subdivision or district is an entity or municipal subdivision responsible for fire protection services under statute, charter, or ordinance);
3. name each fire protection entity responsible for the municipality’s primary response for fire protection services;
4. describe any written agreements or contracts between the municipality and the entities that provide fire protection services to it;
5. identify the specific municipal geographic boundaries that each entity providing fire protection services covers;
6. name each person, including the fire chief, responsible for each fire protection services entity in the municipality;
7. describe the municipality’s fire protection performance standards, including response times, minimum fireground (the physical area where firefighters work to control and put out a fire) staffing levels, and apparatus requirements;
8. describe the process for collecting and tracking personnel and response data, including any software used; and
9. describe the municipality’s mutual aid agreements.

State Fire Administrator and Municipal Review

Under the act, if the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control establishes a standardized protocol, the state fire administrator must review and assign a rating to each local fire development plan submitted to the administrator at least every five years, under protocols the commission may develop (see below). The administrator (1) may require municipalities with an unsatisfactory plan rating to submit a performance improvement plan within 90 days after being assigned that rating and (2) must help municipalities develop it.

Beginning July 1, 2032, and every five years after, each municipality must review and revise, as needed, its local fire protection plan and may report any substantial changes to the state fire administrator.

§ 2 — COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

By law, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control must perform several duties relating to fire protection in the state, including recommending minimum education and physical condition standards for firefighter candidates, setting training and education program standards, and conducting training programs. The act additionally requires the commission to recommend minimum standards for firefighter safety and emergency response protocols, including (a) operational safety strategies for fire suppression operations, hazardous materials mitigation, and technical rescue operations and (b) ways to ensure the health and wellness of fire service personnel.

The act allows the commission to:

1. require municipalities to submit local fire protection plans and any revisions to the state fire administrator;
2. establish, in coordination with the state fire administrator, a standardized (a) protocol the administrator will use to review and rate local fire protection plans at least once every five years, and (b) classification system the administrator may use to evaluate and grade the operational performance of the fire protection services provided by each municipality or fire district, considering nationally recognized standards (for example, standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the Center for Public Safety Excellence); and
3. require fire protection entities in the state to submit operational data and set the form and manner of those submissions.

As with other commission responsibilities under existing law, the act allows the commission to recommend, and the

DESPP commissioner to adopt, necessary regulations. If the commission requires operational data submissions, the DESPP commissioner must forward the requirement to the state fire administrator for adoption.

§ 3 — MUNICIPAL FIRE PROTECTION

By law, municipalities have the authority to provide fire protection services, including organizing, maintaining, and regulating people providing fire protection; providing the necessary fire apparatus; and doing other things to protect the municipality from fire.

The act requires, if fire protection services are discontinued or interrupted (for example, the dissolution or the end of operations of a fire department, district, or company), municipalities to take actions necessary to ensure that fire protection services within the municipality continue uninterrupted, except as otherwise provided by special act or their charter. These actions may include establishing or operating a municipal fire department, entering contracts or agreements for fire protection services, designating a temporary or permanent provider, or participating in a mutual aid or regional fire service arrangement.

§§ 4-6 — CONNECTICUT FIRE

Program Establishment (§ 4)

The act creates the Connecticut Fire program within DESPP's Division of Fire Services Administration, which is overseen by the state fire administrator.

Under the act, the program must establish a framework for the state to give administrative and operational assistance to municipalities or fire authorities that want assistance. The program must at least include provisions for resident firefighters to staff and augment volunteer fire departments and fire districts with paid personnel, while preserving their local autonomy and command structures.

Once the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control approves the framework (see below), the state fire administrator may, in the budget request for the subsequent fiscal year, include the cost of implementing that framework. When funds are appropriated for it, the administrator must implement the framework. The program may use facilities and equipment of the Connecticut Fire Academy, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Forestry Division, and the regional fire schools.

Connecticut Fire Grant Program (§ 5)

The act requires, when the Connecticut Fire program is implemented by the state fire administrator, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to administer a Connecticut Fire grant program to give participating municipalities grants to incentivize (1) the regionalization of fire protection services and (2) sharing fire protection resources. Municipalities may apply in a way set by the secretary.

The act requires the secretary, by the start of the next fiscal year after awarding the first grant under the program, to annually report to the Public Safety and Security Committee on the program, including (1) information on grants paid by the program and (2) an evaluation of the program's success and the fire protection services funded by it.

Connecticut Fire Working Group (§ 6)

The act requires the comptroller to establish a working group to develop the administrative, operational, fiscal, and personnel framework for the Connecticut Fire Program. Under the act, the working group must at least consist of three members of the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations, appointed by the council, and the following individuals or their designees:

1. the comptroller,
2. the OPM secretary,
3. the DESPP commissioner,
4. the state fire administrator,
5. the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control chairperson and vice-chairperson,
6. the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities executive director, and
7. the Council of Small Towns executive director.

The comptroller must (1) schedule the first meeting, which must be held by August 3, 2026, and (2) select two co-chairpersons from among the members.

By September 1, 2027, the comptroller must submit the recommended framework for the Connecticut Fire Program developed by the working group to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. By January 1, 2028, the commission must (1) review the recommended framework, (2) approve it with or without modifications, and (3) submit the approved framework to the state fire administrator.

The comptroller may end the working group when the commission approves the framework or on January 1, 2028, whichever is later.

§ 7 — REGIONAL FIRE COORDINATORS

The act establishes the voluntary, non-salaried position of a regional fire coordinator and requires each coordinator to serve as the primary liaison between DESPP's Division of Fire Services and the local fire departments within their region to (1) facilitate the Connecticut Fire program, and (2) coordinate their region's fire protection resources.

The act requires the state fire administrator to coordinate with DESPP's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to establish fire service regions that match the division's five emergency preparedness regions. The administrator must appoint a regional fire coordinator for each region and the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control must confirm each appointment. In regions with a recognized regional fire chiefs' organization, the organization may submit recommendations for coordinator candidates for their region to the state fire administrator.

The administrator may submit a plan to the DESPP commissioner on transitioning the regional fire coordinator positions to salaried positions. When the plan is approved, the commissioner may include those positions in his estimates of expenditures.

§§ 8 & 9 — COMPUTER-AIDED DISPATCH DATA SYSTEM

The act requires DESPP, in coordination with the state comptroller, to establish and maintain a system to collect computer-aided dispatch data. DESPP must do so within available appropriations provided for this purpose. DESPP must aggregate the data and monitor the information on emergency service requests managed by fire departments and emergency medical service providers.

Dispatch Data

Existing law requires public safety answering points to submit to the Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (DSET), quarterly, a report with certain information on all 9-1-1 calls for services received through the enhanced 9-1-1 service and the next generation 9-1-1 telecommunication system. The act requires:

1. regional emergency telecommunication centers to also file this report;
2. the report to include any other information requested by DSET to be included in the computer-aided data dispatch system;
3. the report's information to be produced using data generated from that system if the answering point or regional emergency telecommunications center uses the system; and
4. DSET, quarterly, to make the information available to the public and input it into the system.

By law and extended to regional emergency telecommunication centers under the act, the information may be submitted in any written or electronic form the entity chooses and DESPP approves. The commissioner must take into consideration the needs of the public safety answering point or regional emergency telecommunication center in approving the written or electronic form.

The act also removes the requirement that DSET post the information on its website.

§ 10 — FIRST RESPONDER HEALTH AND BENEFIT FEASIBILITY STUDY

The act requires the comptroller, in coordination with DESPP, to study the feasibility of centralizing within one state agency access to all public benefits for firefighters, including claims for the firefighters cancer relief account and the Fallen Hero Fund, and injury, disability, and workers' compensation claims. This access must at least include the state agency (1) making eligibility determinations, (2) receiving applications, and (3) disseminating information about those benefits. By July 1, 2027, the comptroller must report the study results to the Public Safety and Security Committee.

§§ 11 & 12 — FIRE FIGHTER AND CHIEF REGISTRIES

The act requires, by July 1, 2027, (1) DESPP's Division of Fire Services Administration to establish and maintain a

registry identifying each municipal and fire district fire chief in Connecticut, and (2) the comptroller, in coordination with DESPP, to establish and maintain a registry of all of Connecticut's career and volunteer firefighters to verify their training, credentials, and benefit eligibility.

§ 13 — STEADY AND FLASHING COLORED LIGHTS ON VEHICLES

The law generally requires a permit to use colored or flashing lights on motor vehicles or equipment. The act allows certain fire and emergency medical service personnel and certain constables during traffic operations who are authorized to use flashing blue or red lights to also use steady lights in those colors.

It also eliminates a provision that only police officers and Department of Motor Vehicles inspectors operating a state or local police vehicle may use steady red, blue, or red and blue lights, visible from the vehicle's front. By law, unauthorized use of colored or flashing lights is an infraction (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

The act also specifies that the "directors of emergency management" that may receive a permit to use red flashing or steady lights includes DESPP's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (1) deputy commissioner and (2) regional coordinators.

PA 26-147—sSB 407

Public Safety and Security Committee

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE PERMITS ALLOWING ORGAN TRANSPORT VEHICLES TO USE CERTAIN LIGHTS

SUMMARY: The law generally requires a permit to use colored or flashing lights on motor vehicles or equipment. This act allows the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner to issue permits for organ transport vehicles to use any combination of steady or flashing blue, red, yellow, or white lights, unless specifically restricted for use by police officers or DMV inspectors (however, this limitation is eliminated by PA 26-144, § 13). By law, using unauthorized colored or flashing lights is an infraction (see [Table of Penalties](#)).

Under the act, an organ transport vehicle is any vehicle driven by a licensed organ procurement organization's employee to transport body parts (an organ, eye, or human tissue, but not a whole human body).

The act also specifies that the law on use of colored or flashing lights does not give drivers the privileges of emergency vehicle operators (for example, parking their vehicle regardless of motor vehicle laws affecting other vehicles, going through red lights and stop signs, or exceeding speed limits under certain circumstances).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-21—sSB 9

Transportation Committee

Appropriations Committee

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT SUPPORTING COMMUTERS AND MICROTRANSIT SERVICES AND CONCERNING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes in laws related to, among other things, commuters, transit, and the Department of Transportation (DOT), including:

1. allowing certain employers to claim tax credits for providing qualifying transportation benefits to employees for commuting to and from work (§ 1);
2. requiring the DOT commissioner, in consultation with chambers of commerce and community-based and business advocacy organizations, to create a public awareness campaign informing employers about the tax credit described above (§ 2);
3. repealing statutes on an inactive, DOT-administered voluntary traffic reduction program for certain employers that included a tax credit incentive (§ 10);
4. requiring the DOT commissioner, by January 1, 2027, to submit a report to the Transportation Committee detailing the (a) status of potential transit-oriented development (TOD) sites; (b) request for proposals timelines for these TOD developments, if any, including for reviewing and evaluating the responses; and (c) estimated number of housing units associated with these potential developments (§ 3);
5. extending, from two to three years, the length of DOT's microtransit pilot program (for multi-passenger vehicles that use a digital network or software to offer fixed or dynamic routes) and delaying DOT's deadline to report on the program to the Transportation Committee, from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2028 (§ 4);
6. earmarking from DOT's FY 27 Rail Operations appropriation (a) \$4 million for Shore Line East and (b) \$3 million for increasing service on the line (§ 5) (PA 26-68, § 480, as amended by PA 26-76, § 55, has identical provisions);
7. specifying that notice requirements for DOT mass transit fare changes apply only to fare increases, and modifying how the department must advertise the notice (§§ 6 & 9); and
8. establishing a free bus pass program for students and requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to provide free bus passes for veterans (§§ 7 & 8).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provisions (1) establishing new tax credits are effective January 1, 2027, and applicable to income years starting on or after that date; (2) on (a) a related tax credit public awareness campaign and (b) Shore Line East are effective upon passage; (3) on (a) transit-oriented development and (b) transit fare changes are effective October 1, 2026; and (4) repealing statutes on an inactive DOT program are effective January 1, 2027.

§§ 1 & 10 — QUALIFIED COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT TAX CREDITS

Starting with the 2027 income year, the act allows an eligible employer to claim a tax credit for the first five income years in which the employer provides a qualified commuter transportation benefit according to an "approved commuter benefit plan" (a written proposal submitted by the employer and approved by the DOT commissioner). Employers can claim these credits against the corporation business tax, insurance premium tax, or affected business entity tax. The employer-provided benefits must generally be for an employee's commute between home and work, including for:

1. participation in the CTpass program for state agency employees, which provides discounted monthly local bus passes, and
2. any other qualified transportation fringe under federal law.

Under the act, fuel or mileage reimbursement for commuting to and from work in a single-occupancy vehicle are not qualifying benefits.

Eligible employers must (1) be an entity licensed to operate in Connecticut that is subject to the corporation business tax, insurance premiums tax, or affected business entity tax; (2) have at least five employees in the state (based on their average employee number during the prior 12 months); and (3) provide benefits as described above.

Tax Credit Amount, Application, and Approval

Under the act, an eligible employer may claim a tax credit in an amount equal to (1) 25% of the qualified commuter benefit expenditures made in the first income year in which these expenditures are made, (2) 20% in the second income year, (3) 15% in the third income year, (4) 10% in the fourth income year, and (5) 5% in the fifth income year. "Qualified

commuter benefit expenditures” are amounts an eligible employer pays or incurs during the income year to provide a qualified commuter transportation benefit to participating employees under an approved commuter benefit plan.

The act caps the total amount of these tax credits that the DOT commissioner can reserve at \$7.5 million. Credits may be carried forward and credited against the taxes imposed for the three immediately succeeding income years or until the full credit has been allowed, whichever happens first. They may also be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred (in whole or in part) to one or more taxpayers subject to corporation business tax (who may also sell, assign, or transfer the credits).

To claim the credit, an eligible employer must apply to the DOT commissioner. Applications must describe the eligible employer’s proposed commuter benefit plan and include:

1. the type of qualified commuter transportation benefits the employer will create or expand,
2. the projected qualified commuter benefit expenditures over the five-year period,
3. the number of “participating employees” expected to be covered (those who work at least 20 hours per week in the state and receive qualified commuter transportation benefits), and
4. any additional information the commissioner requires.

After the commissioner approves an employer’s application and commuter benefit plan, he must determine and reserve the credit amount the employer will be entitled to claim over the five-year period.

Verification and Compliance

Under the act, an eligible employer must submit documentation to the DOT commissioner on an annual basis that shows actual qualified commuter transportation benefit expenditures made according to the approved commuter benefit plan. After verifying these expenditures, the commissioner must issue the employer a voucher in the amount of the applicable credit percentage as discussed above.

If an eligible employer notifies the DOT commissioner that it is ending its approved plan or does not submit the required annual documentation within a reasonable time period (as set by the commissioner), he must give the employer a written notice of noncompliance. If the employer fails to address this within 90 days after the notice, the commissioner must revoke approval of the plan and any reserved credit associated with the employer.

The act allows the DOT and revenue services commissioners to examine any books, papers, or records related to an approved commuter benefit plan or any credit claimed under the act, to verify compliance and accuracy.

Repeal of DOT Voluntary Traffic Reduction Program

Relatedly, the act also repeals several statutes on an inactive DOT-administered voluntary traffic reduction program related to achieving the Clean Air Act’s goals. Under prior law, this program allowed certain employers to submit plans to DOT describing the steps they will take to (1) reduce employees’ single-occupancy vehicle trips to and from work and (2) relieve traffic congestion. Prior law made these employers eligible for certain incentives if DOT approved their plans, including tax credits that could be claimed against the corporation business tax. (In practice, no one has claimed this credit since 2005.)

Among other things, the act repeals statutes that (1) required the labor commissioner to give DOT information needed to carry out its responsibilities under the Clean Air Act and (2) specified how DOT had to use certain federal funding, including requiring that a portion be used for the voluntary traffic reduction program.

§§ 6 & 9 — DOT MASS TRANSIT FARE INCREASE NOTICE

The act specifies that the (1) requirement that DOT follow a notice process before changing fares for mass land transportation (rail and bus services) applies only to fare increases and (2) notice must include both the date and time the increase will take effect, rather than just the date as under prior law.

The act also modifies how DOT must advertise this notice by requiring the department to do so in one or more newspapers with circulation in all areas that would be affected by the proposed fare increase. Under prior law, DOT had to do so in at least one newspaper with general circulation in all areas of the state that might be affected by the fare change. As under existing law, unchanged by the act, DOT must advertise this notice at least once.

The act specifies that the advertised notice must also include the date (in addition to the time and place) that a public hearing will be held on the proposed fare increase.

Additionally, the act makes a technical change by specifying that the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) does not apply to the law on mass land transportation fare changes. Existing law on these fare changes already exempts them from UAPA.

§ 7 — FREE BUS PASS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

The act requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to administer a program to give local or regional boards of education (“school boards”) grants for (1) purchasing passes for state-owned or -controlled public buses (CTtransit buses) and (2) distributing them without cost to their public school students in grades 9-12. (PA 26-76, § 64, requires DOT, rather than SDE, to administer this program, thus assigning to DOT the responsibilities discussed below. It also expands the program to include transit district-provided public bus service.)

The act authorizes SDE to develop guidelines and grant criteria needed to administer the program, including setting the application process. Each school board that receives a grant must submit to SDE any reports and financial statements the department requires. If SDE finds that a grant is being used for purposes not allowed by the act, the department may require the school board to repay the state.

The act requires SDE, starting by July 1, 2027, to annually report on the program to the Education and Transportation committees, including on the number of grants it awarded during the prior year and the program’s impact on student outcomes.

PA 26-76, § 65, requires DOT to spend \$2.5 million of its FY 27 Bus Operations appropriation to (1) award grants under the student bus pass program described above and (2) provide discounted CTtransit bus fares for veterans and public school students in grades 9-12 (see BACKGROUND).

§ 8 — FREE BUS PASSES FOR VETERANS

The act requires DVA to purchase passes for CTtransit buses and distribute them without cost to Connecticut veterans. It relatedly (1) requires veterans to apply to DVA for the bus passes and (2) allows DVA to develop guidelines and criteria needed to distribute the passes, including setting the application process.

The act requires DVA, starting by July 1, 2027, to annually report to the Transportation and Veterans’ and Military Affairs committees on the number of passes it purchased and distributed during the prior year and the impact on veterans.

Under the act, a “veteran” is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service).

BACKGROUND

Related Law on Reduced Fares for Public Buses

Existing law generally requires the DOT commissioner to give up to a 50% fare discount for CTtransit buses to veterans, seniors, youth, and people with disabilities. It also allows school boards to buy passes for use on these buses at the discounted rate and give them for free to their public school students in grades 9-12 or sell them to these students at cost or for a reduced cost (CGS § 13b-38j).

PA 26-24—sSB 413

Transportation Committee

AN ACT REVISING VARIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES, IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONCERNING YOUTH INSTRUCTION PERMITS, AUTOMOBILE DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS AND THE TOWING AND STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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Limits the circumstances under which manufacturers may require car dealers to construct, renovate, or substantially alter their dealerships; establishes new requirements related to consumer data sharing between dealers and manufacturers; entitles new vehicle dealers to compensation when used vehicles in their inventories are recalled and the necessary parts or remedies are not available for a while

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§§ 29 & 41 — ELECTRONIC TOWED VEHICLE PORTAL

Requires DMV to create and maintain an electronic portal on its website, available 24 hours a day, to provide information on vehicles subject to nonconsensual towing; sets design requirements; generally requires towing companies to upload information on towed vehicles within 48 hours after the tow

§§ 30 & 32 — TOWING RATES

Modifies towing rate setting procedures by (1) requiring DMV to give at least 14 days' notice before holding a public hearing on towing rates; (2) adding an additional comment period when the commissioner amends the rates proposed by the POTC beyond certain parameters; (3) requiring that towing rates be adjusted for inflation in years two and three of the rate-setting cycle; and (4) allowing anyone aggrieved by a rate setting decision to appeal to the Superior Court

§§ 31 & 43 — POLICE-ORDERED TOWING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Adds a consumer advocate to the POTC and requires the council to study operational considerations of towing and storing EVs and the cost of doing so

§ 33 — LIMITATION ON CONSUMER TOWING COMPLAINTS

Limits the timeframe for filing customer complaints about police-ordered towing to two years after the date the vehicle was towed

§ 34 — NOTICE OF DMV TOWING-RELATED CHANGES

Requires DMV to (1) give 60 days' written or electronic notice to towers before implementing applicable new or modified internal policies, procedures, or forms and (2) consult with the Towing Advisory Council before making these changes

§§ 35 & 36 — TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM) TRAINING FOR TOWING COMPANIES

Requires owners and employees of towing companies on the state or a municipal tow rotation list to take DOT-provided traffic incident management training

§ 37 — UNCLAIMED VEHICLE DISPOSAL PROCESS

Modifies procedures for disposing of unclaimed vehicles, including by (1) allowing garage owners to start the process 30 days after towing a vehicle, rather than after 15 or 45 days (depending on value); (2) requiring vehicles less than 15 model years old (rather than those worth more than \$1,500) to be initially offered at public auction; and (3) modifying when and how garage owners must send notices of a vehicle's sale

§§ 38, 41 & 42 — NOTICE OF TOW REQUIREMENTS

Generally requires notices of tow to (1) include the towing bill of rights and an itemized towing bill and (2) be sent by regular mail, in addition to certified mail as existing law requires; eliminates the requirement that towing companies that store vehicles towed under certain police or parking authority orders send a notice of tow (but the department or authority must send the notice and upload vehicle information to the portal)

§§ 39 & 40 — TOWING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Creates a Towing Advisory Council to advise DMV on laws and best practices for motor vehicle towing and storage and the redemption and sale of unclaimed vehicles

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to motor vehicle and transportation laws. A section-by-section analysis follows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§§ 1 & 2 — ACCESSIBLE PARKING PLACARDS

Requires DMV to redesign placards so the expiration date is prominent; specifies that the Accessible Parking Advisory Council's duty to make educational materials includes videos or online trainings; and generally requires that people who certify eligibility for placards select which criterion an applicant meets

The act modifies laws on accessible parking application forms, placard design, and the duties of the Accessible Parking Advisory Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision on council educational materials is effective upon passage.

Placard Design

The act requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in consultation with the Accessible Parking Advisory Council, to redesign the accessible parking windshield placard so the placard's expiration date is in bold font, prominent, and clearly visible from outside the vehicle. Starting January 1, 2027, DMV must only issue placards in the redesigned format, but previously issued placards that are otherwise valid remain so until they expire.

Advisory Council Duties

Under existing law, the Accessible Parking Advisory Council must make educational materials for medical professionals, law enforcement officers, and the general public about proper placard issuance and use. The act specifies that these materials include videos or online trainings.

Placard Application Form

By law, applicants for accessible parking placards must submit DMV's application form, which generally must be signed by a qualified person (such as a licensed physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse) to certify that the applicant meets the federal definition of a person with a disability that limits his or her ability to walk and, consequently, is eligible for a placard. In practice, the application form lists the criteria contained in this definition and requires the person certifying the applicant's eligibility to sign under the criteria.

The act (1) codifies the requirement that the form list each eligibility criterion in this definition and (2) requires the form to also instruct the person certifying eligibility to initial which criterion the applicant meets. It also requires the form to have a QR (quick response) code or something similar that allows health professionals and others who use it to access educational materials the advisory council develops on eligibility requirements.

As under existing law, certifications are signed under penalty of false statement, and those provided by health care professionals must be based on their professional opinion after completing a medically reasonable assessment of the applicant's medical history and current condition in the context of a bona fide health care professional-patient relationship.

Background — Disability That Limits or Impairs Ability to Walk

By law, a person has a disability that limits or impairs their ability to walk if the person:

1. cannot walk 200 feet without resting;
2. cannot walk without (a) the use of a cane, brace, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device or (b) help from another person;
3. is restricted by lung disease based on certain measures;
4. uses portable oxygen;
5. has a heart condition that creates functional limitations falling within the American Heart Association's Class III or IV severity classification; or
6. is severely limited in walking ability due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition (23 C.F.R. § 1235.2).

§ 3 — RECIPROCITY FOR Q ENDORSEMENT

Requires DMV to waive the skills test requirement for a Q endorsement to operate a fire apparatus for people with an out-of-state credential that is substantially equivalent, as determined by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

By law, a Q license endorsement indicates that a person is qualified to operate a fire apparatus (fire truck). To get an

endorsement, a person generally must pass a skills test, but the test is waived for people with qualifying military training and experience.

The act requires DMV to also waive the skills test requirement and issue a Q endorsement to out-of-state license holders that have a substantially equivalent credential from that state. The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control determines which states' credentials have standards that meet or exceed Connecticut's licensing standards and so qualify for reciprocity. EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§ 4 — E-SCOOTER WEIGHT LIMIT

Increases prior law's e-scooter weight limit from 100 pounds to 110 pounds

The act increases prior law's weight limit for "electric scooters" (e-scooters) from 100 pounds to 110 pounds. In addition to meeting the weight limit, existing law defines an e-scooter as a device that (1) has two or three wheels and handlebars; (2) is designed to be ridden in an upright or seated position; (3) is powered by an electric motor and human power; and (4) has a maximum speed of up to 20 mph, with or without human propulsion on a paved level service. E-bikes and one-wheeled vehicles are not considered e-scooters.

Existing law excludes e-bikes and e-scooters from the definition of a motor-driven cycle. (E-bikes and e-scooters are regulated more similarly to bicycles.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 5 — VEHICLE RENTALS

Adds open air all-terrain, sport, and convertible to the list of vehicle categories for which a short-term car rental company may require a customer to provide proof of a credit card before renting

Existing law generally prohibits short-term car rental companies from requiring customers to show proof of a credit card as a condition for renting a vehicle. However, it allows them to require this proof for (1) passenger motor vehicles ACRISS (formerly, the Association of Car Rental Industry System Standards) or a successor organization classify as full-size elite, premium, premium elite, luxury, luxury elite, oversize, or special or (2) sport utility vehicles designed to transport six or more people.

The act additionally allows these car rental companies to require proof of a credit card to rent vehicles ACRISS classifies as open air all-terrain, sport, or convertible.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 6 — LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Modifies the definition of "eligible bridges" that may receive grants under the state's Local Bridge Program

The Local Bridge Program gives grants to municipalities to remove, replace, reconstruct, rehabilitate, or improve local bridges. By law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner makes a priority list of eligible bridges, based on their physical condition, and may generally award grants to municipalities in the order of priority (CGS § 13a-175s).

Prior law defined an "eligible bridge" under the Local Bridge Program as a bridge located in one or more Connecticut municipalities that must be removed, replaced, reconstructed, rehabilitated, or improved due to its physical condition, as determined by the DOT commissioner. The act modifies this "eligible bridge" definition by (1) specifying it applies to vehicular bridges, (2) expanding it to include "vehicular structures," and (3) expressly requiring that these bridges and structures be municipally owned.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 7-11 — VESSEL RECORD PRIVACY

Generally subjects records relating to vessels and vessel titles to the privacy protections that apply to personal information in DMV records under existing law, but allows the disclosure of certain information to a vessel owner

Existing law generally prohibits DMV from disclosing personal information in its records unless the disclosure is specifically authorized by state law. The prohibition applies to records related to any DMV-issued document, including driver's licenses, learner's permits, identity cards, registrations, and title certificates, but prior law specifically excluded

records relating to vessels or vessel titles. (Although boating and vessel regulation generally falls under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), DMV handles vessel registration and titles.)

The act eliminates this exclusion and, in doing so, prohibits DMV from disclosing personal information in vessel-related records unless it is disclosed for a purpose authorized in law. It also (1) specifies that DMV may disclose the name and address of the person who last registered a vessel to anyone who proves they currently own it and (2) specifically allows DEEP to do the same.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 12-14 — DEFINITION OF “COMMISSIONER” IN CERTAIN LAWS REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS

Specifies that “commissioner” refers only to the commissioner or a DMV employee acting on his behalf in several statutes with national background check requirements

Generally, for the purposes of motor vehicle laws, the term “commissioner” refers to the DMV commissioner and any assistant to the commissioner who is designated and authorized by the commissioner and is acting for the commissioner under a designation.

The act specifies that “commissioner” refers only to the DMV commissioner or DMV employees acting on his behalf for the purposes of statutes on electronic issuance licenses (§ 12), dealer and repairer licenses (§ 13), and driving instructor licenses (§ 14). Each of these statutes require applicants to undergo a fingerprint-based national criminal records check. Under P.L. 92-544, the FBI requires state laws requiring national criminal records checks to meet several criteria before the state may receive criminal history record information from the FBI. Among other things, statutes requiring these records checks may not authorize the receipt of criminal history record information by a private entity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 15 — REPLACEMENT TITLES

Requires DMV, before issuing a replacement title, to check the VIN against certain databases

By law, before issuing an original title certificate, DMV must check the vehicle identification number (VIN) against DMV’s title records and its records of stolen, recovered, unclaimed, and abandoned vehicles. (In practice, DMV implemented the National Motor Vehicle Titling Information System, which is a consolidated database of vehicle title information submitted by states that helps identify vehicle fraud and theft.)

The act additionally requires DMV to run this check before issuing a replacement title certificate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 16 — ACCESSIBLE PARKING AWARENESS DAY

Requires the governor to proclaim the second Monday in July each year as Accessible Parking Awareness Day

The act requires the governor to proclaim the second Monday in July each year as Accessible Parking Awareness Day. He must do so to promote accessible parking’s value, encourage responsible use, and strengthen public education and collaboration. The act allows suitable observance exercises to be held in the State Capitol and other locations, as the governor designates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 17 — YOUTH INSTRUCTION PERMIT HOLDERS AND PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS

Allows youth instruction permit holders to have their sibling as a passenger during driving instruction if the sibling also holds a learner’s permit

The act allows youth instruction permit holders to have their sibling as a passenger during driving instruction if the sibling also holds a youth instruction permit. By law, these learner’s permit holders may drive only if they have a licensed driving instructor or licensed driver meeting certain requirements riding with and instructing them. The licensed driver must be at least age 20 with (1) at least four years of licensure and (2) no license suspensions during the prior four years.

Unchanged by the act, these permit holders may also have their parents or legal guardians in the vehicle during instruction (in addition to the person instructing). The passenger limitations do not apply if they are being instructed by a

licensed driving instructor (for example, as a part of a driver's education course).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 18 & 19 — DEALER CONVEYANCE FEES

Requires car dealers to include their dealer conveyance fee or processing fee, if any, in the price they advertise or quote for a motor vehicle and prohibits them from pre-printing vehicle orders and invoices with the dealer conveyance fee amount

The act modifies requirements related to dealer conveyance fees and motor vehicle prices, generally aligning these requirements with those that apply to fees for add-on consumer goods and services under existing law. By law, a "dealer conveyance fee" or "processing fee" is a fee dealers charge to recover reasonable costs for processing all documentation and performing services related to closing a sale, including registration and transferring vehicle ownership.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Advertisements

Under prior law, dealers had to (1) exclude conveyance or processing fees from a vehicle's advertised price and (2) separately state the fee amount next to the phrase "Dealer Conveyance Fee." The act instead requires dealers to include these fees in the advertised price but keeps the requirement to also separately state the fee amount.

By law, dealers similarly must include fees for any add-on consumer good or service in the advertised price of the vehicle and also separately state the amount of these fees next to the phrase "Additional Fees, Charges and Costs."

By law, and unchanged by the act, dealers who violate these laws are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 and may have their license suspended or revoked.

Quoted Price

When quoting a selling price to prospective buyers, prior law required dealers to include, separately stated, the amount of any dealer conveyance fee. The act requires dealers to both (1) include the dealer conveyance fee in the quoted amount and (2) separately state the amount. As under existing law, the latter must also state that the conveyance fee is negotiable.

By law, dealers must include fees for any optional add-on consumer good or service in the quoted price and also separately state (1) the amount of each fee and (2) that it is optional.

Under existing law, and unchanged by the act, a dealer must give a buyer a written statement and prominently display a sign specifying (1) the conveyance fee or processing fee amount; (2) the included services; (3) that the fee is negotiable; (4) that the fee is not payable to the state; and (5) that the buyer may choose, where appropriate, to submit registration and title documents to DMV themselves, in which case the dealer will reduce the fee by a proportional amount (CGS § 14-62(c)).

Pre-Printed Order and Invoice Forms

For each motor vehicle sale, state law requires dealers to give buyers an order and an invoice that contain the vehicle's cash selling price and other specified vehicle information and offer terms. Existing law prohibits dealers from pre-printing the vehicle order and invoice with fees for any optional, add-on consumer good or service before discussions with a prospective buyer. The act extends this prohibition to dealer conveyance fees.

§§ 20-25 — DEALER FRANCHISE ACT CHANGES

Limits the circumstances under which manufacturers may require car dealers to construct, renovate, or substantially alter their dealerships; establishes new requirements related to consumer data sharing between dealers and manufacturers; entitles new vehicle dealers to compensation when used vehicles in their inventories are recalled and the necessary parts or remedies are not available for a while

Alterations to Dealerships (§§ 20, 21 & 25)

The act limits the circumstances under which manufacturers may require car dealers to construct, renovate, or substantially alter ("alter") their dealerships. Substantial alterations are generally those that majorly impact the architectural

features, characteristics, appearance, or integrity of the dealership facility or lot.

Under the act, a manufacturer can only require dealers to alter their facilities if it (1) demonstrates the alteration is reasonable and justifiable based on a reasonable business consideration (such as economic condition projections) and (2) agrees to make a good faith effort to make new vehicles available to the dealer, at the dealer's option, to support the dealer's alteration costs. The new vehicles must be provided in an amount and mix that is projected, based on a reasonable market analysis, to meet the sales level necessary to support these costs.

The act also prohibits a manufacturer from requiring a dealer to alter its dealership if it completed a manufacturer-required alteration to the same component of the facility within the last 10 years.

Exclusions. The act's limitations do not apply to:

1. routine maintenance reasonably necessary to keep the dealership in attractive condition,
2. changes to items protected by intellectual property rights, or
3. reasonable facility improvements and technological upgrades needed to support technology in a manufacturer's vehicles.

If a manufacturer requires improvements or upgrades to support vehicle technology and a dealer chooses not to make them, the act allows the manufacturer to refuse to give the dealer any vehicles that require them.

The act also specifies that it does not allow a dealer to (1) impair or eliminate a manufacturer's intellectual property or trademark rights or interests, including sign design and use, or (2) refuse to change the design or branding of any signs or other branded items, as long as the requirement applies to all dealers nationally.

Incentive Programs. Under the act, if a dealer alters its facility under an incentive program, the manufacturer may not deny a dealer any payment or benefits that were part of the program's terms when the dealer started participating in it. If a dealer alters its facility under an incentive program on or after October 1, 2026, and the program does not specify a time period during which the dealer will receive payments or benefits, manufacturers must provide them to the dealer for 10 years after the manufacturer made the program available to the dealer, even if the manufacturer changes or cancels the program. Manufacturers must do so under the terms of the incentive program, as it existed when the dealer began to perform under the program.

The act specifies that it does not prohibit manufacturers from denying payment or benefits if the dealer changes its facility (after manufacturer approval) in a way that makes it noncompliant with the manufacturer's standards or plans, regardless of whether or not the program changed. Facility changes needed because of damage from natural disasters or required safety upgrades cannot make a dealer noncompliant with a manufacturer's standards or plans, as long as the changes substantially restore the facility to compliance.

The act's provisions on facility-related incentives do not apply to (1) lump sum payments for facility upgrade costs and (2) any facility incentive program in effect on October 1, 2026.

Purchase of Goods, Building Materials, or Services. The act prohibits manufacturers from requiring dealers who are altering their dealerships to buy goods, building materials, or services (such as flooring and wall coverings) from a manufacturer-chosen vendor if the:

1. dealer can get, from other sources, goods, materials, and services that are substantially similar in appearance, function, design, and quality to the ones from the manufacturer's vendor and
2. manufacturer approves them.

The act prohibits manufacturers from unreasonably delaying or withholding approval. If a manufacturer denies a dealer's request, it must give the dealer a detailed list of the reasons it did so in writing at the time of the denial.

Consumer Data (§§ 20 & 24)

The act establishes several requirements related to consumer data sharing between manufacturers (including third parties acting on their behalf) and their dealers. It requires manufacturers to comply with applicable state and federal restrictions on reusing or disclosing consumer data and prohibits them from causing a dealer to violate these restrictions.

Under the act, manufacturers must indemnify the dealer for any claims against the dealer, or damages it incurs, to the extent caused by the manufacturer's disclosure, access, or use of dealer-provided data in violation of the act.

Scope. The act's data protections apply to nonpublic, personally identifiable financial information that a dealer collects and gives directly to a manufacturer, factory branch, or third party acting on their behalf. It does not apply to data the manufacturer receives from another source, even if it is the same as or similar to data the dealer has.

Statement on Procedures for Safeguarding Consumer Data. The act requires manufacturers (or third parties acting on their behalf) to give dealers, upon request, a written statement describing the manufacturer's procedures to safeguard consumer data. These procedures must meet or exceed any federal or state requirements, including those in the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which requires companies that offer consumers financial products and services (such as loans) to explain their information-sharing practices to consumers and to safeguard personally identifiable information.

List of Parties With Whom Manufacturer Shared Data. Under the act, upon a dealer's written request, a manufacturer (or a third party acting on its behalf) must give the dealer a written list of all the consumer data it received from the dealer and all the parties the manufacturer gave the data to in the previous six months. Dealers may only request this information once every six months.

The act requires that this list indicate specific fields of consumer data that were given to each party. But it does not have to include any party (or the data given to that party) who:

1. was providing services for a manufacturer or dealer and received the data while doing so, as long as the parties had an agreement requiring the service provider to comply with federal and state data privacy requirements, or
2. was previously authorized by the dealer, in writing, to receive the data, as long as the dealer has not withdrawn the authorization in writing.

Access to Dealer's Data Management System. The act prohibits manufacturers from requiring dealers to allow them direct or indirect access to the dealer's data management system to get consumer data. However, under the act, manufacturers may get consumer data from the dealer's system if the dealer gives express consent in a written document, separate from the franchise agreement, that may be withdrawn with 30 days' written notice to the manufacturer. Manufacturers cannot require this consent as a condition for participating in an incentive program that begins on or after October 1, 2026, unless the consent is necessary to get consumer data to implement the program.

If a dealer does not allow a manufacturer access to its system, the manufacturer must allow the dealer to give them consumer data in a widely accepted file format and through a third-party vendor the dealer chooses.

When Manufacturers May Require Data Sharing. Under the act, manufacturers may require dealers to give them, or allow them to use, customer information related solely to the manufacturer's vehicle makes to the extent necessary to:

1. satisfy manufacturers' legal notice obligations, including safety or recall notices;
2. complete vehicle sale and delivery;
3. validate and pay customer or dealer incentives;
4. submit claims for services supplied by the dealer for any claim for warranty parts or repairs;
5. analyze the market;
6. evaluate sales and customer satisfaction with the dealer (including surveys); or
7. achieve reasonable marketing purposes that benefit the dealer.

Compensation for Recalled Vehicles in Inventory (§§ 22 & 23)

The act generally entitles a new vehicle dealer to compensation from a manufacturer when used vehicles in its inventory are subject to a "stop-sale order" or a "do-not-drive order" because of a federal safety or emissions recall and the necessary parts or remedies are not available for a while.

Eligible Vehicles. Under the act, if the necessary parts or remedies are not available within 30 days after issuing the recall, a new vehicle dealer franchised to sell and service new vehicles from the manufacturer may file a claim for each recalled vehicle that (1) was in its used vehicle inventory on the date the stop-sale order or do-not-drive order was issued or (2) it took into its used car inventory as a consumer trade-in or a leased vehicle return after the date the order was issued. The claim must be filed in a way the manufacturer sets, and the manufacturer may specify how dealers must show eligibility for the compensation, but the requirements cannot be overly burdensome.

Compensation Amount. Under the act, the compensation must equal at least 1% of the used vehicles' value per month, starting 30 days after the recall is issued and ending when the (1) parts are, or remedy is, available to the dealer or (2) dealer sells, trades, or otherwise gets rid of the vehicle, whichever is sooner. Like other claims by dealers under existing law, the act requires manufacturers to pay these claims within 30 days after approving them.

Instead of compensation calculated as described above, a manufacturer may (1) compensate a dealer under a national recall compensation program, as long as the amount is at least equal to what a dealer would otherwise receive, or (2) enter into an agreement with a dealer for compensation in an alternate form or amount. Compensation provided to the dealer is otherwise exclusive and cannot be combined with other state or federal recall remedies.

Under the act, a dealer is not entitled to compensation higher than the vehicle's value. The vehicle's value, for purposes of calculating compensation, is the average trade-in value for the vehicle determined with nationally recognized industry data or pricing guides.

The act prohibits manufacturers from offsetting or reducing the compensation they owe to dealers under the act, including (1) through a charge-back program, (2) any reduction in an amount owed to a dealer through an incentive program, or (3) the removal of a dealer from an incentive program if it is done because the dealer applied for compensation. These limitations do not apply to manufacturer actions that apply uniformly to all new vehicle dealers of the same line and make of vehicles in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 26 & 27 — E-BIKE AND MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLE DEFINITIONS

Modifies the motor capacity limits for e-bikes and motor-driven cycles

The act makes bicycles with electric motors of exactly 750 watts e-bikes under the law. It does so by modifying the motor limit in the e-bike definition from less than 750 watts to 750 watts or less. As under existing law, e-bikes must also have operable foot pedals and meet the requirements applicable to a class 1, class 2, or class 3 e-bike.

The act also modifies the definition of motor-driven cycle by eliminating the five brake horsepower limit for these vehicles. It retains existing law's requirement that they have a motor capacity less than 50 cubic centimeters (cc) or a wattage of 3,700 watts or less, as applicable. As under existing law, motor-driven cycles are generally motorcycles, motor scooters, or bicycles with attached motors, that have a (1) seat height of at least 26 inches and (2) gasoline, electric, or hybrid motor.

Existing law excludes e-bikes and e-scooters from the definition of a motor-driven cycle. (E-bikes and e-scooters are regulated more similarly to bicycles.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 28 — WAIVER OF NEW PHOTO REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN ID CARDS

Gives the DMV commissioner discretion to waive this requirement for people age 65 or older or with certain disabilities or medical conditions who are (1) renewing an ID card or (2) replacing their driver's license with an ID card

Existing law generally requires someone to get a new picture taken in person every other time they renew a driver's license or non-driver ID card (generally, every 16 years). The act gives the DMV commissioner discretion to waive this requirement for people age 65 or older or with certain disabilities or medical conditions who are (1) renewing an ID card or (2) replacing their driver's license with an ID card.

Under the act, the commissioner can waive the new photo requirement and use the picture the department has on file if he determines the person is age 65 or older or has a medical condition or disability that substantially impairs mobility or the ability to appear in person. The person requesting a waiver must meet all other requirements for renewing or receiving an ID card. The act specifies that it does not require the ID card to be compliant with the federal Real ID law. (Under this law, a person must have their photo updated at least every 16 years.)

The act (1) requires DMV, if it will give these waivers, to establish procedures to renew or issue the ID cards by mail or electronic communication and (2) allows the department to require any documentation necessary to determine eligibility for the waiver. It also specifies that it does not require the commissioner to grant any waiver that would compromise ID card integrity or facilitate fraud or misuse.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 29 & 41 — ELECTRONIC TOWED VEHICLE PORTAL

Requires DMV to create and maintain an electronic portal on its website, available 24 hours a day, to provide information on vehicles subject to nonconsensual towing; sets design requirements; generally requires towing companies to upload information on towed vehicles within 48 hours after the tow

Starting January 1, 2027, the act requires DMV to create and maintain an electronic portal on its website, available 24 hours a day, to provide information on vehicles subject to nonconsensual towing. The portal's goal is to help the public figure out if their vehicle was towed and, if so, where it is stored. The act specifies that the portal provisions do not apply to consensual towing or to repossession.

Portal Design and Features

The act requires the portal to be publicly accessible and searchable and prohibits it from requiring people to create an account to access the information. It must also (1) be easily operated and accessible, both when submitting and searching for information on towed and stored vehicles and (2) allow towing companies, garage owners, police departments, and parking authorities to submit information to the portal electronically.

When designing or significantly updating the portal, DMV must consult with the Towing Advisory Council the act establishes (see below) to ensure the portal meets these requirements. DMV must also consider whether the portal may be used to allow towing companies to electronically file DMV forms (such as a notice of tow) and whether doing so may

substitute for mailing them.

Uploading to the Portal

Starting January 1, 2027, the act requires towing companies and garage owners to upload information to the portal within 48 hours after a vehicle is towed. The portal must require submission of enough information to identify the vehicle, the storage location, the towing company's or garage's identity and contact information, and any other information DMV, in consultation with the Towing Advisory Council, requires. Towing companies and garage owners must also update the portal with changes in the vehicle's status, as DMV requires.

The act prohibits DMV from imposing a civil penalty for violating the uploading requirements if the towing company or garage owner (1) failed to upload information due to a documented technological issue with the portal or a temporary power or internet outage and (2) uploads the information as soon as possible after the issue is resolved or power or internet is restored.

Towing Bill of Rights

The act requires DMV, by January 1, 2027, to add a link to the portal on the towing bill of rights and a description of the information available on the portal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provision on the towing bill of rights is effective October 1, 2026.

§§ 30 & 32 — TOWING RATES

Modifies towing rate setting procedures by (1) requiring DMV to give at least 14 days' notice before holding a public hearing on towing rates; (2) adding an additional comment period when the commissioner amends the rates proposed by the POTC beyond certain parameters; (3) requiring that towing rates be adjusted for inflation in years two and three of the rate-setting cycle; and (4) allowing anyone aggrieved by a rate setting decision to appeal to the Superior Court

By law, nonconsensual towing and storage rates are set every three years by the DMV commissioner, with different processes for (1) vehicle storage rates and private property trespass towing rates and (2) police-ordered towing rates. In the latter case, the commissioner's rates are based on recommendations from the Police-Ordered Towing Council (POTC). (In practice, the commissioner generally delegates his authority to make rate decisions to a hearing officer.)

The act modifies these rate setting processes by (1) requiring DMV to give at least 14 days' notice before holding a public hearing on police-ordered towing rates or private property trespass towing rates, (2) establishing an additional procedural step in the police-ordered towing rate process if the commissioner adjusts the rate schedule beyond certain parameters, (3) requiring that private property trespass towing rates and police-ordered towing rates be adjusted in years two and three of the three-year rate setting cycle, and (4) allowing anyone aggrieved by a towing rate decision to appeal to the Superior Court.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Notice of Hearing

The act requires DMV to give at least 14 days' notice before any public hearing on police-ordered towing rates or private property trespass towing rates by (1) posting it on its website and (2) giving notice to each member of the Towing Advisory Council (see below) or POTC, as applicable.

Annual Adjustment

The act requires police-ordered towing rates and private property trespass towing rates to be automatically adjusted in years two and three of the three-year rate setting cycle. Specifically, in these years, the commissioner must (1) adjust the prior year's rates by a percentage equal to the average of the increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers and the increase in the transportation producer price index and (2) post the new rates on DMV's website by December 1, which is one month before the adjusted rates take effect.

The adjustment applies immediately to police-ordered towing rates but not until the next three-year cycle (starting January 1, 2029) for private property trespass towing rates. (In practice, the private property trespass towing rates that took effect in January 2026 already include an annual adjustment.)

Police-Ordered Towing Rate Procedures

Under existing law, the DMV commissioner receives a recommended rate schedule from the POTC and, after holding a public hearing on the proposed schedule, may adjust any rate included on the schedule. The act establishes an additional comment period that is triggered when the commissioner (1) increases or reduces any rate or charge on the proposed schedule by more than 10% or (2) eliminates or adds any specialized equipment charge in the proposed schedule.

If he does either of these things, he must (1) issue a preliminary rate schedule, (2) post it on DMV's website and give notice to each POTC member, and (3) allow at least 15 days for public comment. After the comment period ends, DMV must review comments received, consider whether to modify the preliminary schedule, prepare a written response to the comments, and post it on DMV's website (and give a copy to POTC members). After he does these things, he must set and publish the final rate schedule.

The act also shortens, from within 90 days to within 60 days, the time period within which the commissioner must hold a hearing on the proposed POTC rate schedule and make a final decision.

Appeal

The act allows anyone aggrieved by any police-ordered towing or private property trespass towing rate setting action by the commissioner to appeal to the New Britain Superior Court.

§§ 31 & 43 — POLICE-ORDERED TOWING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Adds a consumer advocate to the POTC and requires the council to study operational considerations of towing and storing EVs and the cost of doing so

Membership

By law, the POTC develops proposed rate schedules for police-ordered towing and advises DMV on policies affecting police-ordered towing.

The act adds a consumer advocate to the POTC, increasing council membership from 12 to 13. As with other POTC appointees, the consumer advocate is appointed by the governor, who must make his initial appointment by October 15, 2026.

The act also specifies that the transportation, energy and environmental protection, emergency services and public protection, and insurance commissioners must each designate an agency employee with relevant experience to be a member of the POTC. Prior law made these commissioners members of the council but allowed them to appoint a designee in their place.

Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the other members of the POTC are:

1. three representatives from towing and recovery organizations,
2. two representatives from commercial trucking organizations,
3. one representative from a police chiefs' association and one from a fire chiefs' association, and
4. one representative of the insurance industry.

Study on EV Rates

The act requires the POTC to study the operational considerations of towing and storing electric vehicles (EVs), including (1) comparing the operating costs of towing an EV to those for towing a vehicle with an internal combustion engine and (2) determining whether the hourly police-ordered towing rates cover those costs. By January 1, 2027, the POTC must submit the report and any recommendations to the Transportation Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the study provision is effective upon passage.

§ 33 — LIMITATION ON CONSUMER TOWING COMPLAINTS

Limits the timeframe for filing customer complaints about police-ordered towing to two years after the date the vehicle was towed

Under existing law, DMV receives, processes, and investigates customer complaints about licensed dealers and repairers. (By law, towing companies must be licensed as a dealer or repairer.) The act limits the timeframe for filing

complaints about police-ordered towing to two years after the relevant tow.

By law, these complaints are generally handled by DMV through proceedings governed by the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 34 — NOTICE OF DMV TOWING-RELATED CHANGES

Requires DMV to (1) give 60 days' written or electronic notice to towers before implementing applicable new or modified internal policies, procedures, or forms and (2) consult with the Towing Advisory Council before making these changes

The act requires DMV to consult with the Towing Advisory Council the act creates (see below) before adopting new, or modifying existing, internal policies, procedures, or forms that affect towing companies. It also requires the commissioner to give towing companies with a registered tow truck at least 60 days' written or electronic notice before implementing these new or modified policies, procedures, or forms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 35 & 36 — TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM) TRAINING FOR TOWING COMPANIES

Requires owners and employees of towing companies on the state or a municipal tow rotation list to take DOT-provided traffic incident management training

The act requires individual owners and employees of towing companies that are included in the State Police's rotational system for summoning wreckers (tow rotation list) or a municipal tow rotation list to take TIM training provided by DOT. Individual owners must take the training by July 1, 2027, or prior to being placed on a rotation list (whichever is later). Employees who tow for the towing companies on these rotation lists must take the training by July 1, 2027, or within one year of the date of hire (whichever is later).

In practice, DOT provides this training, for free, on a regular basis. It is targeted to emergency management professionals, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, towing and recovery professionals, and transportation and public works employees. It covers (1) responder safety; (2) safe, quick clearance practices; and (3) communication and coordination between all those responding to traffic incidents.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 37 — UNCLAIMED VEHICLE DISPOSAL PROCESS

Modifies procedures for disposing of unclaimed vehicles, including by (1) allowing garage owners to start the process 30 days after towing a vehicle, rather than after 15 or 45 days (depending on value); (2) requiring vehicles less than 15 model years old (rather than those worth more than \$1,500) to be initially offered at public auction; and (3) modifying when and how garage owners must send notices of a vehicle's sale

Timeframe for Disposal

Under prior law, towing companies and garage owners (hereinafter collectively, "garage owners") could start the process of selling an unclaimed vehicle (such as by submitting required forms) after they had it for (1) 15 days, if the vehicle's market value was \$1,500 or less, or (2) 45 days, if the vehicle's market value was more than \$1,500. But they had to hold it for at least 30 days or 60 days, respectively, before they could complete the sale.

The act instead allows garage owners to start the process of selling unclaimed vehicles after 30 days, regardless of value. It correspondingly eliminates requirements related to valuing unclaimed vehicles and the specific amount of time a garage owner must hold a vehicle before completing the sale (based on value). However, as under existing law, garage owners must still wait until they receive required documentation from DMV (such as the affidavit of compliance) and meet all notice requirements and waiting periods (such as the minimum five-day waiting period after notifying the owner of the proposed sale) before selling the vehicle.

Auction Requirements

The act requires unclaimed vehicles that are less than 15 model years old, rather than those valued at more than \$1,500, to initially be offered for sale at a public auction at the garage owner's place of business. Vehicles 15 model years old or

older (rather than those valued at \$1,500 or less) may be sold or scrapped by the garage owner without first being offered at auction.

The act also restores a provision eliminated in PA 25-55 allowing a garage owner to (1) set a minimum auction bid equal to the accumulated charges for the tow and storage and (2) sell or dispose of the vehicle if he or she does not get this bid.

The act also requires garage owners to give notice of each public auction by (1) submitting information to the portal the act creates (see § 29 above) and (2) publishing notice in a newspaper of general circulation or by prominently posting it on the garage owner's website.

Notice of Intent to Sell and Notice of Proposed Sale

By law, garage owners must send to vehicle owners, lienholders, and DMV a (1) notice of intent to sell and (2) notice of proposed sale. The notice of intent to sell starts the disposal process, providing information on the process to vehicle owners and lienholders and acting as an application to get the DMV documentation (affidavit of compliance) needed to sell the vehicle. The notice of proposed sale informs owners and lienholders that the vehicle will be sold (including date, time, and location).

When Notices are Not Required. In practice, garage owners send the notice of intent to sell and the notice of proposed sale to the address on file with DMV for the current or most recent registered owner. The act exempts garage owners from sending these notices to these individuals if (1) they notify the garage owner in writing that they do not currently own the vehicle or do not want to receive further notices about the vehicle's disposal or (2) the notice of tow was returned as undeliverable. In these cases, garage owners still must update the towed vehicle portal and keep records of the written notice or returned mail for three years.

Method of Mailing. Under prior law, garage owners had to send these notices by certified mail, return receipt requested. The act instead requires sending them through regular mail, postage prepaid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 38, 41 & 42 — NOTICE OF TOW REQUIREMENTS

Generally requires notices of tow to (1) include the towing bill of rights and an itemized towing bill and (2) be sent by regular mail, in addition to certified mail as existing law requires; eliminates the requirement that towing companies that store vehicles towed under certain police or parking authority orders send a notice of tow (but the department or authority must send the notice and upload vehicle information to the portal)

Under the act, starting October 1, 2026, towing companies must include a copy of DMV's towing bill of rights (which generally outlines consumers' rights and obligations after a nonconsensual tow) and an itemized towing bill in each notice of tow it mails to vehicle owners and lien holders. The towing bill must include the (1) towing charges for towing the vehicle and (2) daily storage rate, with an explanation that storage charges will accumulate at that rate until the vehicle is redeemed. It must also explain that charges for necessary administrative services will be charged at the time of vehicle redemption.

The act generally requires that notices of tow be mailed by regular mail, postage prepaid, in addition to certified mail as existing law requires. This applies to notices of tow sent by wreckers, as well as those police departments and parking authorities must send. Generally, for vehicles with known owners, these notices must be sent within 48 hours after the vehicle is towed or taken into custody.

The act also eliminates prior law's requirement for towing companies that store vehicles taken into custody under an order by a police department or parking authority to (1) make a reasonable effort to identify vehicle owners and lienholders and (2) send a notice of tow. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the department or authority is responsible for sending the notice of tow. The act additionally requires them to upload vehicle information to the towed vehicle portal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 39 & 40 — TOWING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Creates a Towing Advisory Council to advise DMV on laws and best practices for motor vehicle towing and storage and the redemption and sale of unclaimed vehicles

The act creates a Towing Advisory Council to advise DMV on laws, regulations, and best practices related to nonconsensual towing and towed vehicle storage, redemption, and sale.

Membership

The DMV commissioner must appoint to the council (1) two DMV employees with relevant experience; (2) three towing and recovery professionals in the state, with the advice and consent of an organization representing a majority of towing and recovery professionals in the state; (3) two consumer advocates; (4) two law enforcement officers; and (5) two insurance industry representatives.

Appointments must be made by August 1, 2026, and members serve for three-year terms and until a successor is appointed. The commissioner must fill any vacancy within 30 days.

The commissioner must schedule the council's first meeting by September 1, 2026, and at the first meeting, the council must select a chairperson from its members. The council may consult with any other agencies, officials, or interested parties the council deems appropriate to complete its work.

Required Study

Under the act, the council must evaluate ways to:

1. make sure vehicle owners get notified when their vehicles are towed;
2. improve owners' ability to redeem their towed vehicles; and
3. modernize and improve the process of selling vehicles at public auction, including (a) evaluating the feasibility of online auctions and third-party auctions and (b) recommending changes to the law.

The council must submit to the Transportation Committee an interim report by January 1, 2027, and a final report by January 1, 2028.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, for the provision establishing the council and October 1, 2026, for the study provision.

PA 26-63—sHB 5464

Transportation Committee

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONCERNING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES, TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES AND RIDER SAFETY, TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM, ENCAMPMENTS, MARINE PILOT LICENSE FEES, MOTOR VEHICLE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT, DISTRACTED DRIVING, A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ACCESS TO PARKING FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES AND A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOL BUS FLEETS

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Allows the state to procure diesel-fueled transit buses by eliminating a prohibition on doing so that had begun January 1, 2024

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Allows plug-in hybrid and battery EVs to park in spots with state agency EV charging stations while not actively charging, at the discretion of the applicable state agency

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Changes the EV charging station requirement for new state facilities that cost over \$100,000 by generally requiring that 8% of their car parking spaces be EV capable, rather than requiring that 20% of certain parking spaces be installed with level two EV charging stations; requires certain commissioners to periodically make recommendations on revising the EV charging station requirement

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Eliminates a provision that exempted district improvements in East Hartford's Port Eastside Infrastructure Improvement District from specified traffic control and highway safety laws

§§ 5-11 & 13 — DYNAMIC PART-TIME LANES (FLEX LANES)

Authorizes OSTA to temporarily designate any highway lane or shoulder as a “flex lane” for certain uses and sets restrictions on motor vehicle operation in a designated flex lane; allows (1) DOT to establish a program to enforce these restrictions with automated flex lane control systems and (2) municipalities meeting certain requirements to participate in this program; sets various requirements and procedures for control system operation, violation enforcement, and data collection and retention

§ 12 — GOVERNOR’S TRAVEL RESTRICTION ORDERS

Sets in statute the maximum fine for violating a governor-issued travel restriction order at \$250

§§ 14 & 38 — ROAD AND BRIDGE NAMING

Names a portion of Route 163 in Montville the “Kevin Ryan Memorial Highway”; repeals a duplicative bridge naming in Newington

§§ 15 & 16 — UCONN STUDY AND DOT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Delays the due date for a UConn final report on its carbon sequestration study and requires it to also submit the study results and related recommendations to DOT; requires the DOT commissioner to consider the results of UConn’s study and determine whether DOT’s vegetation management guidelines need to be accordingly revised

§§ 17-21 — SAFETY AND NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TNCs

Requires TNCs (such as Uber and Lyft) to implement certain additional rider and driver safety measures; increases the frequency of criminal history records checks for TNC drivers; and requires TNCs to adopt a service animal nondiscrimination policy

§§ 22 & 23 — TRAFFIC SIGNAL GRANT PROGRAM

Requires DOT’s traffic signal modernization grant program to give priority to projects located in heavily congested areas, rather than to applications submitted by two or more municipalities

§§ 24 & 37 — ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUSES

Requires 90%, rather than 100%, of school buses to be zero-emission by 2040 and sets an interim deadline for distressed municipalities; eliminates the requirement that environmental justice communities fully transition to zero-emission school buses by 2030; requires municipalities to submit plans outlining how they will meet the zero-emission requirements; modifies zero-emission school bus grant program requirements, including broadening its purposes beyond providing matching funds for federal grant applications; requires schools to implement safety plans before using a zero-emission school bus

§ 25 — FREIGHT RAIL, SEA LANES, AND PORTS WORKING GROUP

Requires the CPA executive director, or his designee, to convene a working group to study, among other things, policies to encourage the use of freight rail, sea lanes, and ports to transport goods in the state

§§ 26 & 27 — DOT ENCAMPMENT REMOVALS

Establishes a notice requirement generally applicable to DOT’s (or their agents’ or contractors’) removal of encampments located on a state highway right-of-way; requires the DOT and DMHAS commissioners to study and make recommendations on best practices and standards for addressing these encampments

§§ 28 & 29 — MARINE PILOT LICENSE FEES

Eliminates the fee for issuing or renewing a marine pilot license (previously \$105.48 annually)

§ 30 — INCREASED FINES FOR VIOLATING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Increases the fine, from \$150 per offense to \$300 per offense, for violating certain requirements under existing law related to motor vehicle mechanical equipment, primarily involving mufflers and exhaust pipes

§§ 31-34 — REVISIONS TO THE DISTRACTED DRIVING LAW

Updates and reorganizes the distracted driving law to reflect current device and vehicle technology and how it is used; generally prohibits driving while a video is visible to the driver in the normal driving position, regardless of the technology used to play the video; prohibits holding or supporting a mobile electronic device with any part of the body while driving and failing to maintain a proper lookout

§ 35 — TASK FORCE ON PARKING CHALLENGES FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES

Creates a task force to study and make recommendations to the Transportation Committee on parking access challenges for home health agencies delivering services in residential settings

§ 36 — DEEP WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL BUS ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Requires the DEEP commissioner to create a working group to evaluate and make recommendations on Connecticut school bus fleets' increased use of alternative fuels and technologies

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes in transportation-related laws. It also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes. A section-by-section analysis follows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§ 1 — DIESEL-FUELED TRANSIT BUSES

Allows the state to procure diesel-fueled transit buses by eliminating a prohibition on doing so that had begun January 1, 2024

The act allows the state to procure, purchase, or lease diesel-fueled transit buses by eliminating a prohibition against it doing so that had begun January 1, 2024. Existing law, unchanged by the act, requires at least 30% of state-purchased or -leased buses to be zero-emission buses on and after January 1, 2030, with certain exceptions (such as emergency vehicles and buses or vans that transport people in wheelchairs).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 2 — STATE AGENCY EV CHARGING STATION PARKING SPOTS

Allows plug-in hybrid and battery EVs to park in spots with state agency EV charging stations while not actively charging, at the discretion of the applicable state agency

The act allows plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles (EVs) to be parked in spots with state agency EV charging stations while not actively charging, at the discretion of the state agency that designated the charging station as available for public use. Prior law prohibited parking in these spots unless the vehicle was charging.

By law, state agencies may designate their EV charging stations as available for use by the public, only state employees, or a combination of both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 3 — EV CHARGING STATIONS AT CERTAIN NEW STATE FACILITIES

Changes the EV charging station requirement for new state facilities that cost over \$100,000 by generally requiring that 8% of their car parking spaces be EV capable, rather than requiring that 20% of certain parking spaces be installed with level two EV charging stations; requires certain commissioners to periodically make recommendations on revising the EV charging station requirement

Starting July 1, 2026, the act changes the EV charging station requirement for new state facilities projected to cost more than \$100,000 by requiring these facilities to be constructed so that at least 8% of their designated car parking spaces are EV capable parking spaces (if the facility will have public parking). “EV capable parking spaces” are those with equipment installed during construction to support future implementation of charging, including the conduits and electrical panel space needed for installing an EV charging station.

Prior law instead required new state facilities with total costs above \$100,000 to have level two EV charging stations installed in at least 20% of parking spaces designated for cars or light-duty trucks. (Level two EV charging stations must supply 208- to 240-volt alternating current.)

By January 1, 2029, and then every three years after that, the act requires the transportation, administrative services, and energy and environmental protection commissioners to jointly submit recommendations on the act's EV capable parking space requirement to the Environment, Government Administration and Elections, and Transportation committees. These recommendations must propose an appropriate requirement for future EV charging infrastructure at new state facilities based on the:

1. current public prevalence of EVs and market conditions for buying them;
2. expected future growth in EV ownership by state employees and the public;
3. current and future use of EV charging spaces at state facilities;
4. similar requirements for new construction in neighboring states and nationally recognized model building codes; and
5. state goals for reducing transportation sector pollution, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 4 — PORT EASTSIDE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Eliminates a provision that exempted district improvements in East Hartford's Port Eastside Infrastructure Improvement District from specified traffic control and highway safety laws

PA 25-90 authorizes East Hartford's Port Eastside Infrastructure Improvement district as a special taxing district to provide services and finance infrastructure improvements within the district. Among other things, it (1) sets an expedited process for state agency administrative actions, permit issuances, and approvals related to specified infrastructure improvements ("district improvements") for the Port Eastside district that supersedes all statutory requirements for these approvals and (2) exempts these improvements from specified traffic control and highway safety laws.

The act eliminates the traffic control and highway safety-related exemptions for district improvements. Under prior law, these included exemptions from laws:

1. requiring major traffic-generating developments to get a certificate of operation from the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA);
2. authorizing OSTA and local traffic authorities to require traffic controls for access to and from specified parking areas or commercial establishments with an entrance or exit on or near a state or local road, as applicable;
3. establishing a 60-day timeframe for the Department of Transportation (DOT) and OSTA to make a final determination on economic development project petitions, applications, or requests;
4. authorizing traffic authorities to make and enforce temporary regulations to cover emergencies and special conditions;
5. allowing anyone aggrieved by a traffic authority's order or regulation under the traffic control and highway safety laws to appeal it;
6. setting penalties for failing to comply with traffic control and safety orders and damaging or removing traffic control devices, signs, or lights;
7. requiring OSTA, if requested, to put up special warning signs near the residences of children who are deaf; and
8. allowing OSTA or a local traffic authority to designate locations on roads within their respective jurisdictions where signs saying "State Law Requires Use of Signal Lights When Changing Lanes" may be put up.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 5-11 & 13 — DYNAMIC PART-TIME LANES (FLEX LANES)

Authorizes OSTA to temporarily designate any highway lane or shoulder as a "flex lane" for certain uses and sets restrictions on motor vehicle operation in a designated flex lane; allows (1) DOT to establish a program to enforce these restrictions with automated flex lane control systems and (2) municipalities meeting certain requirements to participate in this program; sets various requirements and procedures for control system operation, violation enforcement, and data collection and retention

The act authorizes OSTA to temporarily designate any highway (public road) lane or shoulder for certain specified uses to control and manage traffic (a "dynamic part-time lane," also known as a flex lane). Specifically, OSTA may do so for the following uses: (1) as a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane, dedicated lane for bus rapid transit or other motor or

service bus use, or dedicated lane for authorized emergency vehicles responding to an emergency call; or (2) to redirect an opposing highway lane into a one-way lane. The act also generally allows OSTA to do this as needed to maintain the function of the state's highway system. It allows OSTA to adopt implementing regulations.

Relatedly, the act sets restrictions for driving in flex lanes and allows (1) DOT to establish a program to operate flex lane control systems (automated enforcement systems) and (2) municipalities meeting certain requirements to participate in this program.

The act also sets various conditions, requirements, and procedures for operating a flex lane control system, issuing tickets and enforcing violations, and collecting and retaining data.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027, except the provision applying Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB) procedures to violations is effective October 1, 2026.

Motor Vehicle Operation Restrictions in Designated Flex Lanes (§ 6)

The act establishes restrictions on motor vehicle operation in OSTA-designated flex lanes that vary based on the flex lane's designated use.

HOV Lanes. The act limits HOV flex lanes to vehicles with at least one passenger and blood transport vehicles transporting human blood and blood products between a collection point and a hospital or storage center according to existing law's requirements.

Bus Use. The act limits flex lanes dedicated to bus rapid transit or other bus use to:

1. operators or passengers in state-authorized public transit vehicles, authorized emergency vehicles responding to an emergency, vehicles operated by DOT or a DOT contractor authorized to maintain the roadway, or motor vehicles the DOT commissioner specifically allows in writing to enter or travel on these lanes and
2. motor vehicle operators directed to stop or park by a law enforcement officer or "official traffic control device" (such as signs, traffic signals, or other markings).

Emergency Use. The act limits flex lanes dedicated for authorized emergency vehicles responding to an emergency to these operators or motor vehicle operators obeying a law enforcement officer's direction.

Other Uses. Under the act, flex lanes dedicated for redirecting an opposing highway lane into a one-way lane or maintaining the function of the state's highway system are limited to motor vehicle operators obeying an official traffic control device or law enforcement officer's direction.

Flex Lane Control Systems (§§ 5, 7 & 10)

The act allows DOT to establish a program to operate flex lane control systems, which are devices with one or more sensors connected to a camera system that can produce images indicating the date, time, and location that a motor vehicle allegedly violated the act's flex lane restrictions (or a related municipal ordinance).

It also allows any municipality operating a bus in a flex lane to participate in DOT's flex lane control system program if it adopts an ordinance meeting certain requirements, for example, specifying that a motor vehicle owner violates the ordinance if his or her vehicle is captured violating the act's flex lane restrictions by a flex lane control system that DOT operates on the municipality's behalf. The municipality must also enter into an agreement with DOT for flex lane control system design, installation, operation, and maintenance. The act specifies that no person may be subject, for the same offense, to both a fine for violating a municipal ordinance and a fine for violating the act's flex lane restrictions.

The act places various conditions and requirements on flex lane control system operation, including that:

1. control systems must be operated by someone trained and certified to do so (a "dynamic part-time lane control system operator");
2. control systems may only record images of motor vehicles allegedly operating in violation of the act's flex lane restrictions or a related municipal ordinance, and the images may not be used for surveillance;
3. drivers must be notified through signs and DOT's website; and
4. control system operators must meet certain training, record keeping, and system testing requirements.

The act also allows the DOT commissioner to (1) adopt implementing regulations and (2) establish standards and procedures for flex lanes and their control systems.

Notice Requirements. For a flex lane with a control system, the act requires (1) at least two clearly visible road signs to be placed at a reasonable distance before the flex lane and (2) an appropriate, clearly visible sign to be placed at its end point if it has an operational control system. The first sign must indicate why OSTA designated the flex lane and the second must indicate whether or not the control system is operating.

The act also requires DOT to post a notice identifying the locations of flex lane control systems on its website.

Vendors and Contracts. The act allows DOT to (1) enter into agreements with vendors for flex lane control system design, operation, maintenance, or a combination of them, and (2) retain and employ consultants and assistants for legal, financial, professional, technical, or other services necessary for control system design, operation, and maintenance. If a vendor provides, deploys, or operates a control system, the vendor's fee may not be contingent on the number of violations issued or fines paid under the act (including under a municipal ordinance).

A "vendor" is someone who (1) provides flex lane control system-related services; (2) operates, maintains, leases, or licenses a control system; or (3) reviews and assembles the images the control system records.

Training and Record Keeping. The act requires flex lane control system operators to complete training from the system's manufacturer, or the manufacturer's representative, on the system's setup, testing, and operating procedures. The training must also cover any devices critical to a system's operation. Upon training completion, the manufacturer or its representative must issue a signed certificate to the operator.

Flex lane control system operators must complete and sign a daily log for the control system that (1) states the date, time, and location of its setup; (2) states that they successfully performed, and the control system passed, the testing specified by the manufacturer; and (3) must be kept on file at the operator's principal office.

The act also requires flex lane control systems to have an annual calibration check done at a calibration laboratory. The laboratory must issue a signed certificate of calibration after the check, which must be kept on file.

Under the act, the operator training certificates, control system daily logs, and certificates of calibration discussed above must be admitted as evidence in any (1) court proceeding for a violation of the act's flex lane restrictions or (2) municipal citation hearing procedure for a violation of a municipal ordinance, as applicable.

Ticket Issuance and Processing (§§ 7, 8 & 13)

When a flex lane control system detects and produces images of a vehicle allegedly violating the act's flex lane restrictions or a related municipal ordinance, the images must be reviewed by a (1) sworn or authorized member of the State Police or (2) sworn member or employee of the municipality's police department or traffic authority-designated municipal employee, as applicable. After review, if the member or employee determines there are reasonable grounds to believe a violation occurred, he or she may issue a written violation notice. The notice must be sworn or affirmed by the member or employee and treated as prima facie evidence of the facts in it.

Under the act, the notice must include:

1. a copy of the image showing the vehicle and its license plate;
2. the vehicle's registration number and issuing state;
3. the dates of the most recent calibration check and inspection and written verification that the control system was operating correctly during the alleged violation; and
4. the date, time, and location of the alleged violation.

For vehicles registered in Connecticut, the act requires the violation notice to be sent by first class mail to the address on file with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) within 30 days after the alleged violation occurred or the vehicle owner's identity is ascertained, whichever is later. For vehicles registered elsewhere, the notice must be similarly sent to the address on file with the issuing jurisdiction within 30 days after ascertaining the owner's identity. However, the act makes notices of violation invalid if they are mailed later than 90 days after an alleged violation. Manual or automatic records of mailing prepared by the flex lane control system operator in the ordinary course of business are prima facie evidence of mailing and are admissible in any court proceeding as to facts the notice contains.

The act requires DMV to give DOT and vendors information on owners of vehicles captured allegedly violating the act's flex lane restrictions or a related municipal ordinance, including the (1) vehicle's make and license plate number and (2) owner's name and address.

Under the act, owners who receive violation notices must generally follow CIB procedures for mail-in violations (see *Background — Centralized Infractions Bureau*), but a different procedure applies to violation notices issued under a municipal ordinance (see below).

Enforcement and Penalties (§§ 6-8 & 10)

Under the act, owners of motor vehicles that a control system captures violating the flex lane restrictions discussed above must be fined (1) \$75 for a first violation and (2) up to \$200 for a subsequent violation that happens within one year of their most recent violation (subsequent violations that happen after this period are treated as a first violation). The owner is liable for the fine unless the driver received a citation from a law enforcement officer when the violation occurred. For motor vehicles leased for more than 30 days, the lessee is considered the owner.

All fine revenue must be deposited into the Special Transportation Fund (STF), except any revenue from fines imposed under a municipal ordinance must be deposited into the municipality's general fund or a municipally designated special fund. (These municipal ordinances cannot set fines in excess of those described above.)

The act prohibits flex lane violations (including under a municipal ordinance) from being (1) included in the driver's driving control record (driver history), (2) the subject of merit rating for insurance purposes, or (3) used to impose surcharge points for auto insurance coverage.

It makes the following two defenses specifically available to owners of vehicles captured allegedly violating the act's flex lane restrictions:

1. the violation happened while the vehicle was reported stolen to law enforcement and had not yet been recovered or
2. the control system used did not comply with the act's requirements on accuracy testing, certification, or calibration.

DMV may refuse to register a vehicle or suspend its registration if the vehicle's owner fails to (1) pay the fine imposed for a violation (or conviction) of the act's flex lane restrictions, (2) submit a not guilty plea by the answer date, or (3) appear for a scheduled court appearance. (This provision does not apply to violations of a municipal ordinance.)

Privacy (§§ 5 & 9)

The act prohibits DOT, municipalities, and vendors from selling or disclosing "personally identifiable information" to any person or entity unless the disclosure is made in connection with charging, collecting, and enforcing fines imposed for violations of the act's flex lane restrictions or a related municipal ordinance. It also (1) prohibits DOT, municipalities, and vendors from storing or keeping this information unless it is needed to collect and enforce these fines and (2) exempts this information from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Under the act, "personally identifiable information" is information DOT, a municipality, or a vendor creates or maintains that identifies or describes a vehicle owner and includes the owner's address; phone number; license plate; photo; bank account information; credit card or debit card number; and the date, time, location, or direction of travel on a highway.

The act requires DOT, municipalities, and vendors to destroy personally identifiable information and other data specifically identifying a motor vehicle and relating to an alleged violation within 30 days after a (1) fine is imposed or (2) trial or hearing is resolved, whichever is later. However, it allows these entities to retain a portion of personally identifiable information for determining subsequent violations but requires that they destroy this information within one year after someone's most recent violation.

Municipal Participation in Flex Lane Control System Program (§§ 10 & 11)

Under the act, a participating municipality's ordinance must specify the following:

1. a motor vehicle owner violates the ordinance if his or her vehicle is captured violating the act's flex lane restrictions by a flex lane control system that DOT operates on the municipality's behalf;
2. a fine, if any, for an owner of a motor vehicle that violates the ordinance, which (a) cannot exceed the fine amounts the act establishes for first and subsequent violations of flex lane restrictions and (b) must treat subsequent violations as a first violation if they happen more than one year after an owner's most recent violation;
3. fines may be paid electronically; and
4. the defenses available to owners of vehicles captured allegedly violating the ordinance, which must at least include those described above.

Citation Hearing Procedure. The act requires any municipality that adopts an ordinance to also adopt, for alleged ordinance violations, a municipal citation hearing procedure meeting requirements set in existing law.

Existing law allows municipalities to establish by ordinance a hearing procedure for citations they issue and authorizes the Superior Court to enforce fines and judgements imposed through the citation hearing procedure. Among other things, the law generally requires (1) the municipal chief executive officer to appoint citation hearing officers, (2) municipalities to inform the person who was issued a citation about his or her right to contest it at a hearing, (3) the issuing police officer or official to attend the hearing if the violator requests it, and (4) the hearing officer to conduct the hearing in the manner and with methods of proof he or she deems fair and appropriate. The law also allows people found liable for a penalty through the citation hearing procedure to appeal to the Superior Court. The act extends these provisions to citations issued under a municipal ordinance authorizing participation in DOT's flex lane control system program.

Background — Centralized Infractions Bureau

By law, individuals charged with a motor vehicle violation may, generally, pay the fine through CIB without appearing in court. Payment is considered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) and is not admissible in any civil or criminal proceeding. If an individual pleads not guilty, CIB must send the plea and request for trial to the clerk of the geographical area court where the trial is to take place. The practice, procedure, rules of evidence, and burden of proof applicable in criminal proceedings apply in the trial (CGS § 51-164n).

§ 12 — GOVERNOR’S TRAVEL RESTRICTION ORDERS

Sets in statute the maximum fine for violating a governor-issued travel restriction order at \$250

The act sets in statute the fine for violating a governor-issued travel restriction order at up to \$250. Under prior law, violations were infractions (see [Table on Penalties](#)), so the fine (\$50 as of October 2025) was set administratively. Under the act, these violations are still processed through CIB (see *Background — Centralized Infractions Bureau* above).

By law, whenever extreme weather conditions or other acts of nature cause an emergency situation that requires restricting the use of state streets and highways, the governor may generally issue an order restricting the people and vehicles allowed to use them and specifying the routes they must follow.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 14 & 38 — ROAD AND BRIDGE NAMING

Names a portion of Route 163 in Montville the “Kevin Ryan Memorial Highway”; repeals a duplicative bridge naming in Newington

The act names a portion of Route 163, between the intersection of Route 32 traveling in a northwesterly direction to the intersection of Route 82 in Montville, the “Kevin Ryan Memorial Highway.”

It also repeals a duplicative bridge naming in Newington.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 15 & 16 — UCONN STUDY AND DOT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Delays the due date for a UConn final report on its carbon sequestration study and requires it to also submit the study results and related recommendations to DOT; requires the DOT commissioner to consider the results of UConn’s study and determine whether DOT’s vegetation management guidelines need to be accordingly revised

The act delays, from July 1, 2025, to October 1, 2026, the due date for the UConn Department of Natural Resources and the Environment’s final report on its study of carbon sequestration by trees and other vegetation along highways and other areas in Connecticut. Along with the final report, the act also requires the UConn department to submit its study results and any related recommendations to DOT, in addition to the Environment and Transportation committees as existing law requires.

Relatedly, the act requires the DOT commissioner, by February 1, 2027, to consider the results of UConn’s study and determine whether DOT’s vegetation management guidelines need to be accordingly revised. If the commissioner determines that the guidelines do not need to be revised, he must report to the Environment and Transportation committees explaining why. Alternatively, if he revises the guidelines based on UConn’s study, he must submit them to these legislative committees, which may then hold a joint public hearing for the commissioner to present on the revised guidelines.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provisions related to UConn’s study are effective July 1, 2026.

Background — DOT Vegetation Management Guidelines

Existing law requires DOT to develop, and revise as necessary, guidelines on tree and vegetation management, removal, and replacement along state highways for its employees and contractors to use for maintenance and construction projects. The guidelines must include certain components and aim to ensure that maintenance and construction projects’ impacts on the environment, landscape, and noise pollution are balanced or outweighed by measures taken to avoid and minimize them. The guidelines apply to construction projects financed, wholly or partially, with federal funds to the extent that they do not conflict with federal laws and regulations. They do not apply to tree or vegetation removal that is (1) needed to maintain

public safety or (2) due to a weather-related civil preparedness emergency.

§§ 17-21 — SAFETY AND NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TNCs

Requires TNCs (such as Uber and Lyft) to implement certain additional rider and driver safety measures; increases the frequency of criminal history records checks for TNC drivers; and requires TNCs to adopt a service animal nondiscrimination policy

The act makes changes in laws on Transportation Network Companies (TNCs, such as Uber and Lyft; see below) by generally requiring them to implement certain additional rider and driver safety measures. Among other things, the act (1) requires TNCs to have certain safety features for riders and notify them about these features; (2) increases the frequency of criminal history records checks for TNC drivers; and (3) requires TNCs, when TNC drivers are offered a prearranged ride, to indicate on the offer whether the requesting rider is verified by the company.

The act also requires TNCs to (1) adopt, maintain, and enforce a service animal nondiscrimination policy meeting certain requirements and (2) provide an annual training on sexual assault prevention and driver education, which they must require each TNC driver to complete. The training must include information on preventing, identifying, and reporting sexual assault and instruction on appropriate interactions with riders.

Additionally, the act delays, from January 1, 2026, to February 1, 2027, the deadline for Connecticut-registered TNCs to begin annually reporting certain aggregate data to the transportation commissioner (the average fare collected from TNC riders, the total time TNC drivers spent giving prearranged rides, and the total compensation paid to drivers for these rides). EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027, except the provisions on TNC nondiscrimination policies are effective October 1, 2026.

Transportation Network Companies

By law, unchanged by the act, TNCs are business entities that operate in Connecticut and use a digital network (generally an online-enabled application, website, or system) to connect TNC riders to TNC drivers for prearranged rides. (They do not include taxicab certificate or livery permit holders.) TNC drivers are not TNC employees and use vehicles meeting certain requirements to provide these rides while connected to a digital network. A “prearranged ride” is one that starts when a TNC driver accepts a ride request through the digital network and ends when the rider exits the vehicle.

Rider Safety Requirements

Notice of Required Safety Features. After a potential TNC rider requests a prearranged ride, the act requires TNCs, through their digital networks, to notify the rider about any available safety features that can be used during the ride. The act requires TNCs to at least have the following features:

1. location sharing allowing a rider to share information about the ride with a third party;
2. an emergency assistance interface or other way to contact a public safety answering point (which is generally a facility that receives 9-1-1 calls and dispatches emergency response services or transfers calls to other public safety agencies);
3. optional audio recording, which must notify the driver when in use and comply with applicable state and federal laws on recording communications; and
4. available 24-hour support and resources for managing any ride-related incidents, accidents, or emergencies.

Telemetric Monitoring. The act requires TNCs, through their digital networks, to (1) have a telemetric monitoring system capable of providing an emergency assistance interface (see above) and (2) allow a third party, through an agreement with the company, to receive, review, and respond in real time to digital network-generated verified safety requests related to safety anomalies occurring during a prearranged ride.

Under the act, “telemetric monitoring” is the continuous, automated collection and evaluation of operational and system performance data that a digital network generates during a ride. A “safety anomaly” is generally an unexpected event, detected by a digital network, that deviates from a TNC’s performance baselines and may indicate a potential safety risk for a driver or rider (for example, indications of a vehicle accident, departure from the prearranged ride path, or prolonged period of inactivity on the digital network).

Driver Identity Verification, Background Checks, and Bans. Existing law prohibits TNCs from allowing someone to work as a TNC driver for various reasons, such as certain motor vehicle violations and offenses or their inclusion on a state or national sex offender registry. The act adds to this list failure to submit periodic identity verification when a TNC requests it through the digital network and the driver is connected to, and active on, the network.

The act increases the frequency of the criminal history records checks TNCs must conduct for each person permitted to drive for the company by requiring them annually rather than every three years as prior law required.

Additionally, the act requires TNCs to notify (or cause to be notified) each Connecticut-registered TNC within five days after completing an investigation resulting in the permanent ban of a driver's access to the company's digital network due to a sexual assault or assault resulting in another person's death connected with the driver's digital network use. Under the act, this notice must include the driver's first and last name, birthdate, and driver's license number. By law and under the act, a "sexual assault" includes 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th degree sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, or sexual assault with a firearm.

Rider Identity Verification

Under the act, when drivers are offered a prearranged ride, the TNC must indicate on the offer whether the requesting rider (or third party requesting the ride on their behalf) is verified by the company. A TNC must designate someone as verified if the company has authenticated their identity using certain means (submission of a valid photograph, comparison of the person's account with records another party maintains, or any other method that reasonably allows the company to confirm their identity).

The act specifies that if a driver declines a ride offer for someone who is unverified, this does not alone give the TNC grounds to take disciplinary action against the driver, including suspension or deactivation (restricting their access to the digital network).

Nondiscrimination Policies

Existing law requires each TNC to (1) adopt a broad nondiscrimination policy (based, for example, on riders' and drivers' destination, age, race or ethnicity, religion, disability status, sex or gender identity, or sexual orientation) and (2) notify all TNC drivers using a company's digital network about the policy. The act specifies that TNCs must maintain and enforce their policies. It also requires each of them to adopt, maintain, and enforce a service animal nondiscrimination policy that at least:

1. prohibits drivers from cancelling or refusing prearranged rides based on the potential rider being accompanied by a service animal, regardless of an allergy, fear, or religious or cultural objection to the animal;
2. requires the TNC, through its digital network, to (a) display an option for a potential rider to disclose that he or she is accompanied by a service animal and report when a driver cancels or refuses to provide a prearranged ride in violation of applicable laws on accommodating service animals and the company's service animal nondiscrimination policy, (b) notify a driver who attempts to cancel or refuse a prearranged ride with a rider who has disclosed he or she is accompanied by a service animal that doing so may violate the service animal laws and company policy and may result in a permanent ban from accessing the company's digital network, and (c) give drivers with an active account on the digital network periodic reminders about the rights of riders with disabilities and the applicability of laws on accommodating service animals;
3. requires the TNC to (a) investigate and respond to each report of a driver canceling or refusing a prearranged ride based on the rider being accompanied by a service animal and (b) maintain records of these reports and the company's investigation and response for at least three years after the reported cancellation or refusal; and
4. requires the TNC to permanently ban drivers who violate the company's service animal nondiscrimination policy from accessing its digital network.

By law, TNC drivers must (1) comply with all applicable laws related to accommodating service animals and (2) accommodate service animals at no additional charge.

§§ 22 & 23 — TRAFFIC SIGNAL GRANT PROGRAM

Requires DOT's traffic signal modernization grant program to give priority to projects located in heavily congested areas, rather than to applications submitted by two or more municipalities

Existing law (1) requires the DOT commissioner to establish a matching grant program to help municipalities modernize their traffic signal equipment and operations to make them responsive to congestion and to reduce idling and (2) reserves \$75 million from a DOT bond authorization for the program.

Prior law required DOT to (1) create incentives for projects undertaken by two or more municipalities and (2) prioritize grant applications submitted by them. The act instead requires DOT to give priority to projects located in heavily congested areas.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except a minor change to the bonding provision is effective July 1, 2026.

§§ 24 & 37 — ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUSES

Requires 90%, rather than 100%, of school buses to be zero-emission by 2040 and sets an interim deadline for distressed municipalities; eliminates the requirement that environmental justice communities fully transition to zero-emission school buses by 2030; requires municipalities to submit plans outlining how they will meet the zero-emission requirements; modifies zero-emission school bus grant program requirements, including broadening its purposes beyond providing matching funds for federal grant applications; requires schools to implement safety plans before using a zero-emission school bus

Zero-Emission School Bus Deadlines

Existing law requires school districts to gradually transition to zero-emission school buses and sets deadlines for doing so. By law, a zero-emission school bus is a school bus certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as having a drivetrain that does not produce any exhaust emission of any EPA-listed air pollutant or greenhouse gas under any possible operational mode or condition (42 U.S.C. § 16091(a)(8)).

Under prior law, 100% of school buses that provide transportation for school districts in the state had to be (1) either zero-emission or alternative-fuel (such as natural gas or propane) by January 1, 2035, and (2) zero-emission only by January 1, 2040. The act:

1. eliminates the 2035 requirement and
2. lowers the percentage of buses in each district that must be zero-emission by 2040 to 90%.

Requirement in Environmental Justice Communities and Distressed Municipalities. Prior law set an earlier deadline for some school districts, requiring that 100% of buses providing transportation for school districts located entirely within or containing at least one environmental justice community (as of July 1, 2022) be zero-emission by January 1, 2030. By law, an environmental justice community is (1) any U.S. census block group, as determined by the most recent census, for which at least 30% of the population is low-income people who are not institutionalized and have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level or (2) a distressed municipality (CGS § 22a-20a).

The act eliminates this requirement and instead sets an interim deadline for school buses in distressed municipalities. Because the definition of environmental justice community includes distressed municipalities, this change effectively reduces the number of municipalities who must meet earlier deadlines for transitioning to zero-emission school buses.

Under the act, 50% of buses providing transportation for each school district in a distressed municipality must be zero-emission by July 1, 2035. Like all school districts under the act, 90% of the school buses in a distressed municipality must also be zero-emission by January 1, 2040.

Transition Plans

The act requires municipalities to submit plans and schedules outlining how they will comply with the act's requirements to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner. Distressed municipalities must submit these materials by July 1, 2029, and all other municipalities must do so by July 1, 2035.

Changes to Grant Program

The law requires DEEP to administer a grant program to generally give municipalities, school districts, and bus operators funds for purchasing or leasing zero-emission school buses and related charging or fueling infrastructure.

The act makes several changes to this program. First, it broadens the purposes for which grants can be awarded by eliminating the requirement that the program provide matching funds for federal grants and instead requires that it provide a portion of funds needed to maximize federal, state, or other sources of funding or financing. (PA 26-124, § 4, makes a similar change to the program.)

The act also requires DEEP to (1) administer the program in consultation with the Connecticut Green Bank and (2) give preference to grant applications for zero-emission school buses that will operate in a distressed municipality rather than an environmental justice community, conforming with the change to the zero-emission school bus transition requirements (see above).

Safety Plans

The act requires local and regional school boards, before purchasing or using a zero-emission school bus, to develop and implement safety plans that (1) consider the ages and developmental needs of students transported on zero-emission school buses and (2) include fire evacuation procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the safety plan requirement is effective upon passage.

§ 25 — FREIGHT RAIL, SEA LANES, AND PORTS WORKING GROUP

Requires the CPA executive director, or his designee, to convene a working group to study, among other things, policies to encourage the use of freight rail, sea lanes, and ports to transport goods in the state

The act requires the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) executive director, or his designee, to convene a working group to study and make recommendations on:

1. potential state policies and incentives to encourage using freight rail, sea lanes, and ports to transport goods within the state, such as construction materials, industrial materials, agricultural and food products, and municipal solid waste;
2. opportunities to expand freight rail and port infrastructure in the state; and
3. the environmental, economic, and transportation impacts of increasing freight rail, sea lane, and port use.

Under the act, the CPA executive director serves as chairperson of the group, and the DEEP, DOT, and Department of Economic and Community Development commissioners (or their designees) must be members. The group must also include any other member the CPA executive director invites to participate, including representatives of manufacturer organizations, freight rail carriers, solid waste and recyclable collectors, and other members the executive director deems necessary.

The CPA executive director must schedule the working group's first meeting by September 1, 2026, and report the group's findings and recommendations to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 2027. The group ends when it submits its report on January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 26 & 27 — DOT ENCAMPMENT REMOVALS

Establishes a notice requirement generally applicable to DOT's (or their agents' or contractors') removal of encampments located on a state highway right-of-way; requires the DOT and DMHAS commissioners to study and make recommendations on best practices and standards for addressing these encampments

The act generally requires DOT, before removing an encampment located on any state highway right-of-way, to give at least 14 days' written notice stating (1) the removal's date and time and (2) that no person or personal property can remain on the right-of-way after the removal date. DOT must post this notice, printed in English and Spanish, at the encampment's apparent entry, exit, and common areas. When doing so, the department may also give oral or written notice to anyone present.

The act exempts DOT from this notice requirement if the DOT commissioner determines the removal is needed due to a transportation operations or infrastructure emergency or public safety emergency. In these instances, the commissioner must document the reasons for his determination in writing.

The act also requires the DOT and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) commissioners to jointly study and make recommendations on best practices and standards to use when responding to, managing, or removing encampments on state highway rights-of-way.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Definitions

Under the act, an "encampment" is any outdoor location where at least one person sleeps or resides using tents, tarps, bedding, or other temporary shelters or structures for habitation. It does not include a campground or other location authorized for recreational camping by a federal, state, or municipal agency or a private property owner.

A "state highway right-of-way" is land DOT owns or controls for highway purposes, including the traveled way, shoulders, medians, slopes, drainage areas, and areas under or next to bridges and overpasses. It does not include DOT-owned or -controlled land that is improved with a (1) safety rest area, (2) service plaza, (3) bus shelter, or (4) commuter

parking facility built according to applicable law.

A “removal” is the full or partial clearing of an encampment by DOT (or its agents or contractors), including requiring people to leave the property and collecting, relocating, discarding, or disposing of habitation-related structures or materials and “personal property” (non-hazardous items that can reasonably be identified as personal belongings and have apparent value or utility).

DOT and DMHAS Encampment Study

The act requires the DOT and DMHAS commissioners’ encampment study to at least identify:

1. best practices from other states or municipalities on (a) providing advance removal notices to someone living at an encampment, including methods and reasonable timeframes for giving these notices and their frequency, and (b) personal property treatment during an encampment removal;
2. outreach and engagement procedures for trained personnel that ensure respect for the personal dignity and property of those living at an encampment;
3. appropriate state and local agencies to offer immediate assistance and support to these individuals, both before and during an encampment removal, for emergency shelters, transitional or permanent housing, social services, or other interventions;
4. guidance, training, or technical assistance for state and local agencies and municipalities on humane and effective practices for responding to, managing, and removing encampments; and
5. ways to coordinate, before an encampment removal and as appropriate, with the municipality, community-based organizations serving people experiencing homelessness, housing authorities, other local service providers, and local law enforcement.

The act requires the commissioners to jointly submit the study results and any recommendations to the Transportation Committee by January 15, 2027.

§§ 28 & 29 — MARINE PILOT LICENSE FEES

Eliminates the fee for issuing or renewing a marine pilot license (previously \$105.48 annually)

The act eliminates the fee for issuing or renewing a marine pilot license (previously \$105.48 annually).

Marine pilots are experts in local conditions and navigating specific waters who board vessels to guide them safely through their area. By law, CPA licenses marine pilots for state ports and waters, and most registered vessels must have a licensed pilot on board if they embark or disembark from a port in the state or transit the Long Island Sound.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 30 — INCREASED FINES FOR VIOLATING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Increases the fine, from \$150 per offense to \$300 per offense, for violating certain requirements under existing law related to motor vehicle mechanical equipment, primarily involving mufflers and exhaust pipes

The act increases the fine, from \$150 per offense to \$300 per offense, for violating certain requirements under existing law related to motor vehicle mechanical equipment, primarily involving mufflers and exhaust pipes. As under existing law, these violations are (1) processed through CIB (see §§ 5-11 & 13 *Background — Centralized Infractions Bureau* above) and (2) subject to an STF surcharge of 50% of the fine (CGS § 13b-70).

The motor vehicle equipment offenses subject to the increased fine generally include the following:

1. operating, constructing, equipping, or adjusting a motor vehicle (or its devices) to cause unnecessary or unusual noise;
2. operating a motor vehicle with an improper muffler or failing to maintain a working muffler;
3. installing or using a (a) muffler without interior baffle plates or other effective muffling devices, (b) gutted muffler, (c) muffler cutout, (d) straight exhaust, or (e) mechanical device that amplifies the vehicle’s emitted noise;
4. removing or replacing all or part of a muffler except to repair or replace it;
5. using an extension or device on an exhaust system or tail pipe that will cause excessive or unusual noise;
6. operating a motor vehicle that emits excessive fumes or exhaust smoke;
7. violating requirements for constructing, placing, or positioning exhaust pipes on a motor vehicle;
8. operating a motor vehicle with a defective horn; and
9. illegally operating a warning siren, whistle, or bell on a motor vehicle.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 31-34 — REVISIONS TO THE DISTRACTED DRIVING LAW

Updates and reorganizes the distracted driving law to reflect current device and vehicle technology and how it is used; generally prohibits driving while a video is visible to the driver in the normal driving position, regardless of the technology used to play the video; prohibits holding or supporting a mobile electronic device with any part of the body while driving and failing to maintain a proper lookout

The act revises and updates the state's distracted driving law. Among other things, it explicitly prohibits:

1. driving while a video or moving image is visible to the driver on an installed screen or similar device, with certain exceptions;
2. driving while holding or supporting a mobile electronic device with any part of the body; and
3. failing to maintain a proper lookout.

The act reorganizes and makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes to the distracted driving law, including merging prior definitions into two terms ("mobile electronic device" and "hands-free mode"), deleting redundant language, and making technical corrections to statutory references. Broadly, these changes simplify and update the law to reflect current technology and its use.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

"Mobile Electronic Device" and "Hands Free Mode"

The act combines definitions, eliminates redundant ones, and generally updates them to reflect current device and vehicle technology and how it is used (for example, voice-activated vehicle technologies).

By law, a "mobile electronic device" is generally any handheld or portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communications between two or more people, including a number of specified devices. The act (1) eliminates the definition of mobile telephone and other associated definitions and instead includes mobile telephone as one of the specified devices and (2) adds equipment to display a video or moving image to the list of specified devices. It also clarifies that the law is not limited to only those listed in the definition.

The act defines the term "hands free mode" and eliminates prior law's definitions for handheld mobile telephone, hands-free accessory, and hands-free mobile telephone. "Hands-free mode" means the operation of a mobile electronic device where a user engages in voice communication or receives audio without touching or holding the device, other than to activate or deactivate it with a single touch or swipe. Compared to the definitions the act eliminates, this new definition focuses on how a person uses the technology, as opposed to the technology's features.

Prohibited Activities

Prior law prohibited drivers from using a mobile telephone to engage in a call or using a mobile telephone or mobile electronic device to type, send, or read a text message. It also (1) presumed that a driver who holds a phone near their ear is engaged in a call and (2) allowed an exception for using hands-free mobile telephones.

The act revises these prohibited activities by generally eliminating those under prior law and instead prohibiting (1) holding or supporting a mobile electronic device with any part of the body, regardless of whether the driver is using it; (2) using a mobile electronic device (unless it is in hands-free mode); or (3) reading, viewing, or typing a text message or other nonvoice message or communication on a mobile electronic device.

The act retains (directly or indirectly) existing law's exceptions to these prohibited activities (such as emergency calls) and special circumstances (such as prohibiting young drivers from using devices even if hands-free).

Driving With Video in Driver's View. The act explicitly prohibits driving while a video or moving image is visible to the driver, in the normal driving position, on a mobile electronic device, installed screen, or other similar device. This prohibition does not apply to (1) maps generated by GPS systems or applications, as long as the device or screen is mounted or attached to the vehicle's windshield, dashboard, or center console in a way that doesn't impede driving or (2) video or moving images used to help a driver while backing up or parking, enhance the driver's view of the road, or help the driver with object detection.

Presumably, much of the activity prohibited by this provision was considered using a mobile electronic device under prior law and, so, was already illegal. The act bans the activity, specifically, and applies it to video or moving images played on installed screens and similar devices.

Failure to Maintain Proper Lookout. Existing law also prohibits engaging in any activity that is not related to driving

and that interferes with safe driving. The act additionally prohibits failing to maintain a proper lookout while driving.

§ 35 — TASK FORCE ON PARKING CHALLENGES FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES

Creates a task force to study and make recommendations to the Transportation Committee on parking access challenges for home health agencies delivering services in residential settings

The act creates a task force to study and make recommendations on parking access challenges for home health agencies (licensed home health care or home health aide agencies) delivering services in residential settings. The study must at least:

1. assess parking restrictions, time limits, permit requirements, and enforcement practices affecting home health agencies;
2. analyze areas in the state where parking limitations most impact delivering home health care services; and
3. review other jurisdictions' parking accommodation programs, such as temporary permits and designated home health agency parking and enforcement exemptions.

The task force consists of 10 appointed members, as shown in the table below. Any of the non-governor-appointed members may be state legislators. All initial appointments to the task force must be made by June 26, 2026, and any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority.

Task Force Members

Appointing Authority	Number of Appointments	Appointee Qualifications
House speaker	Two	One home health agency employee and one person with expertise in municipal parking policy or enforcement
Senate president pro tempore	Two	One local traffic authority member of a municipality with a population of at least 100,000 and one person with expertise in municipal planning, transportation, or urban policy
House majority leader	One	Representative of a home health care agency
Senate majority leader	One	Municipal parking authority member
House minority leader	One	Representative of an association representing home health agencies
Senate minority leader	One	Representative of a statewide organization representing municipalities
Governor	Two	One representative of an organization advocating for patients receiving home health care services and one representative of a labor organization representing home health agency workers

Under the act, the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must choose the chairpersons from the task force members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the task force's first meeting by July 26, 2026. The Transportation Committee's administrative staff also serves in that capacity for the task force.

The act requires the task force to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 2027. The task force ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 36 — DEEP WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL BUS ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Requires the DEEP commissioner to create a working group to evaluate and make recommendations on Connecticut school bus fleets' increased use of alternative fuels and technologies

The act requires the DEEP commissioner, in support of administering the law on zero-emission school bus requirements and a related grant program (see § 24 above), to create a working group to evaluate and make recommendations on Connecticut school bus fleets' increased use of alternative fuels and technologies, including biodiesel, propane, and electric school buses.

The act requires the working group to:

1. review school bus fleets' (in Connecticut and other jurisdictions) use of alternative fuels and technologies, including biodiesel, propane, and electric school buses, and identify relevant case studies and best practices;
2. evaluate the technical, operational, environmental, and economic considerations for expanded use of alternative fuels and technologies in school bus fleets, including (a) emissions performance (and impacts on criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions); (b) fuel availability and supply constraints; (c) costs and potential savings, including lifecycle costs; (d) operational performance, including performance in cold weather; (e) impacts on engine durability and maintenance; (f) manufacturer warranty considerations; (g) fuel procurement and contracting practices for school districts and school transportation providers; and (h) a comparative assessment of alternative fuels and technologies, including renewable diesel and zero-emission school buses;
3. identify pathways and barriers to adopting alternative fuels and technologies in school bus fleets, including infrastructure, contractual, regulatory, and economic considerations;
4. develop recommendations to support biodiesel's increased use where appropriate, including potential incentive structures, funding mechanisms, and procurement strategies; and
5. evaluate the role of alternative fuels as a transitional strategy toward deploying zero-emission school buses, including impacts on Connecticut's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The act requires (1) the DEEP commissioner, or her designee, to convene the working group and serve as its chairperson and (2) DEEP to provide administrative staff support. The working group's membership must include:

1. the public health, education, and transportation commissioners (or their designees);
2. the Connecticut Green Bank's chief executive officer or his designee;
3. one representative of a school transportation provider operating in Connecticut;
4. one representative of a municipality or school board;
5. one representative of the alternative fuels industry;
6. one representative of an environmental organization with expertise in air quality;
7. one representative of a statewide or regional coalition with expertise in clean transportation and alternative fuel deployment; and
8. anyone else the commissioner believes is needed to carry out the working group's purposes.

The act requires the working group, by February 1, 2027, to submit a report to the Environment, Energy and Technology, and Transportation committees with the group's findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for regulatory or legislative action. The working group ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-35—sHB 5406

*Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED MEASURES RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE HEROISM OF VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND MAKING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO STATUTES RELATED TO VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

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Changes the required documentation that charitable organizations must submit to the state DVA to be listed on the department's website; permits the DVA commissioner to temporarily or permanently remove organizations from this list with good cause

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Establishes a task force to study ways to encourage nursing homes to contract with USDVA and provide care to eligible veterans

[§§ 7-9 — DMV GRACE PERIOD EXTENSION AND WAIVER OF ORIGINAL LICENSURE AND IDENTITY CARD FEES FOR VETERANS](#)

Increases, from 60 to 90 days after their release from qualifying service, the grace period active duty armed forces members have to get certain motor vehicle-related renewals or testing, and requires DMV to waive fees for the original issuance of a DVA-verified veterans' driver's license or identity card

[§ 10 — BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM](#)

Requires the state early intervention system to take steps to provide minimally disruptive transitions for military-connected children

[§ 11 — CONNECTICUT MILITARY STAFF](#)

Makes it optional, rather than mandatory, for the governor to appoint a military staff, allows the adjutant general to appoint honorary staff to the National Guard, and repeals certain provisions on the Governor's Foot and Horse Guards

[§§ 12 & 13 — TRAINING FACILITY IN NANTIC](#)

Renames the state military training facility in Niantic

[§§ 14-16 — TECHNICAL CHANGES](#)

Makes minor and technical changes to various veterans' and military affairs statutes

§ 17 — THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER IN THE TOWN OF PUTNAM.

Names the Connecticut National Guard Readiness Center in Putnam

§§ 18 & 19 — INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS

Establishes state income tax deductions for (1) compensation for an honor guard detail at a veteran's funeral and (2) pay a National Guard member receives for being ordered out for active service

§ 20 — LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN STUDY

Requires the Long-term Care Ombudsman to submit a report with recommendations on creating an Office of the Veterans' and Military Healthcare Ombudsman

§§ 21 & 22 — MILITARY DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACCOUNT

Creates the Military Department emergency response account, administered by the adjutant general, to cover state costs during certain emergencies

§ 23 — VETERANS ORGANIZATION SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION STUDY

Requires DRS to study the amount and fiscal impact of establishing a state sales and use tax exemption for federally exempt veterans organizations

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes to state law concerning veteran and military affairs, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§ 1 — AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Requires the state veterans affairs commissioner to conspicuously post certain plain language warnings and links on the Department of Veterans Affairs website

The act requires the state veterans affairs commissioner, starting July 1, 2026, to conspicuously post on the department website a plain-language warning to veterans about:

1. sharing their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) account or bank account login information with anyone (for example, usernames or passwords), and
2. people or entities acting as agents or attorneys to prepare benefits claims without USDVA recognition (offering these services without this recognition is federally prohibited).

The website must also have links to USDVA websites or online tools that allow users to (1) search for USDVA-recognized agents, attorneys, and entities; (2) report violators who offer these services without the required recognition; and (3) access the USDVA's final disciplinary decisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 2 — QUALIFIED VETERANS' CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS LIST ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WEBSITE

Changes the required documentation that charitable organizations must submit to the state DVA to be listed on the department's website; permits the DVA commissioner to temporarily or permanently remove organizations from this list with good cause

Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) commissioner to publish a list of veterans' charitable organizations. The act eliminates a requirement that the commissioner keep organizations on the list for three years after being approved. It allows the commissioner to remove organizations temporarily or permanently from this list with good cause at any time.

The act also changes the eligibility and application requirements. To be eligible under prior law an organization had to (1) hold itself out as a charitable organization serving veterans; (2) have been a nonprofit corporation or federally tax exempt for at least three years; and (3) give the commissioner information on the organization's status, on a form the commissioner

set. The act removes the three-year requirement and instead requires organizations to provide a complete copy of their most recently filed Internal Revenue Service Form 990 (a tax form for tax exempt organizations) and proof of their status as a federally tax-exempt organization.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 3 — OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE TRAININGS

Requires the OAA manager to add sections to existing training programs and compile a list of state and local resources

The act makes three changes to the training programs the Office of Advocacy and Assistance (OAA; see *Background*) must provide. First, it expands the OAA manager's annual training on governmental, community, and nonprofit programs and benefits to cover those for all veterans, not just women veterans as previously required. Instead, under the act, a portion of the training must be on how to help and advise women veterans on issues unique to them. The act also requires the training to include information on charitable or social service organizations that help with veterans' services or benefits. As under existing law, this training is for veterans' service officers, members of municipal veterans advisory committees, directors of municipal veterans services, municipal veterans representatives, or certain public higher education institution representatives.

Second, the act expands OAA's twice annual training for members of municipal veterans advisory committees, directors of municipal veterans services, or municipal veterans representatives. Under the act, this training must include information on community or nonprofit programs and charitable or social service organizations that may help veterans. As under existing law, the training must also address state and federal services and benefits and assistance provided by municipalities and OAA.

Lastly, the act requires OAA to (1) make a list of state and local resources (including community or nonprofit programs and charitable or social service organizations) that may help veterans in need, (2) include the list in the training programs, and (3) post it on the DVA website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — OAA

OAA is an office within the state DVA that serves veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents and family members.

§§ 4 & 5 — VETERAN DENTAL CARE ACCESS PROGRAM

Creates a Veteran Dental Care Access Program to help eligible veterans receive certain dental services, capped at \$3,000 a year per veteran and \$1 million per fiscal year for the program

The act creates a Veterans Dental Care Access Program, administered by the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund (SSMF) administrator and using money from the fund, to help eligible veterans get certain dental services. The act requires the administrator to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a statewide dental organization to (1) identify dental providers (dental practices, clinics, and licensed dentists) to participate in this program and (2) coordinate the program's operation, including processing applications, making referrals, reviewing treatment plans, and notifying treatment plan providers.

Under the act, eligible veterans must (1) be state residents; (2) have a service-connected disability rating of less than 100% and not already receive dental care from USDVA; (3) have a household income of up to 400% of the federal poverty level; and (4) submit proof of eligibility for assistance from the SSMF (see *Background — Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund*) under the American Legion's bylaws.

The act sets an annual program cap of \$3,000 per eligible veteran for covered services. Under the act, if an eligible veteran exceeds this annual cap, the administrator must refer the veteran to the statewide dental organization to discuss other sources of financial assistance. The act caps SSMF funding for the program at \$1 million per fiscal year.

Under the act, the program may cover dental services including biannual examinations, fillings, root canals, crowns, prosthetics (like dentures), and oral surgery. The program does not cover implants, fixed bridges, orthodontics, cosmetic services (for example, whitening or veneers), or telehealth services.

Beginning on January 1, 2027, the act allows eligible veterans to submit applications to the administrator on a form available at town clerks' offices (existing law requires a form to be kept in town clerks' offices for the SSMF).

The act requires the:

1. administrator to verify an applicant's eligibility and notify the applicant about the eligibility decision within 10

- days after receiving the application (approval is valid for two years and then veterans may reapply);
2. administrator to refer eligible veterans to providers within 30 days after approval;
3. provider to develop a treatment plan, including the dental services recommended for the eligible veteran and submit it for the administrator's review;
4. administrator to approve or modify treatment plans and notify the provider about his decision within 10 days after receipt;
5. provider to begin services only after receiving notification from the administrator;
6. providers to either bill (a) the fund within five days after providing services or (b) an eligible veterans' dental insurance first, if applicable, to determine if certain services are covered, then bill the fund for the remainder; and
7. administrator to pay the provider within 30 days after receiving a bill and notify the provider about the amount remaining on the veteran's annual benefit limit.

The act requires the administrator, beginning by January 15, 2030, to annually consult with the statewide organization with which it has an MOU and submit a report on the program's performance and any recommendations to the Public Health and Veterans' and Military Affairs committees.

The act authorizes the American Legion (which administers the SSMF) to use the fund to cover dental services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund

The Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund is a self-sustaining trust fund created by the legislature in 1919 to aid World War I veterans in need. By law, the fund may be used to provide temporary income, subsistence items (such as food, apparel, and shelter), funeral expenses, and medical care to Connecticut veterans of any wartime period, as well as their spouses and minor children. To qualify, applicants must complete an application with the American Legion and demonstrate financial need. By law, the American Legion must determine applicants' eligibility and disburse aid, to the extent funds are available. It does so in accordance with state laws and its bylaws.

§ 6 — STUDY ON INCENTIVIZING NURSING HOME CONTRACTS WITH USDVA

Establishes a task force to study ways to encourage nursing homes to contract with USDVA and provide care to eligible veterans

The act establishes a task force to study ways to encourage Medicaid-certified nursing homes in the state to contract with the USDVA to increase the number of nursing homes providing care to eligible veterans. The task force must consider financial incentives, including (1) assistance to supplement reimbursement for care; (2) tax credits; and (3) other ways of encouraging nursing homes to provide care to eligible veterans, covered by USDVA.

The act requires the task force to include the DVA commissioner, or his designee, and one member appointed by each of the six legislative leaders (the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, House majority and minority leaders, and Senate majority and minority leaders). All appointed members may be legislators, and all initial appointments must be made by January 1, 2027. Any vacancies must be filled by the appointing authority.

The act requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the task force's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the first meeting by February 1, 2027, and the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee's administrative staff must serve in this capacity for the task force. The act requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee by January 1, 2029, and the task force ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 7-9 — DMV GRACE PERIOD EXTENSION AND WAIVER OF ORIGINAL LICENSURE AND IDENTITY CARD FEES FOR VETERANS

Increases, from 60 to 90 days after their release from qualifying service, the grace period active duty armed forces members have to get certain motor vehicle-related renewals or testing, and requires DMV to waive fees for the original issuance of a DVA-verified veterans' driver's license or identity card

The act increases, from 60 to 90 days after their release from qualifying service, the grace period certain armed forces members have to get certain motor vehicle-related renewals or testing (driver's licenses, car registrations, and emissions testing). During this grace period, eligible service members are exempt from fines or late fees that would otherwise be

assessed for failing to get these renewals or testing. This applies to members of any state's armed forces or U.S. reserve called to active service in the armed forces of any state.

Under the act, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) must also waive the fee for the original driver's license or identity card for any DVA-verified veteran (see *Background — Veteran Designation*). Previously, DMV could waive the identity card fee for a blind veteran.

By law, a "veteran" is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service) (CGS § 27-103). Under the act, the term also includes certain retirees from the reserves (generally those who have at least 20 years of service that counts toward retirement pay under federal law).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Veteran Designation

By law, the DMV commissioner must include a person's status as a veteran on his or her state driver's license or identity card (certain Hmong Laotian special guerilla unit members that served during the Vietnam era are also eligible for this benefit). To qualify, veterans, eligible reservists, or guerilla unit members must submit a request to the DVA to verify their veteran status or qualifying service to the DMV commissioner.

Background — Qualifying Condition

A qualifying condition is a (1) post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury diagnosis by a licensed health care professional at a USDVA facility; (2) military sexual trauma disclosed to such a health care professional; or (3) determination by the Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge (CGS § 27-103).

§ 10 — BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM

Requires the state early intervention system to take steps to provide minimally disruptive transitions for military-connected children

The act requires the state early intervention system (Birth-to-Three Program) to take steps to provide a minimally disruptive transition for a relocating armed forces member's child who (1) is relocating due to new orders, (2) was previously enrolled in the program in another state or territory, and (3) had an individualized family service plan (IFSP) (see *Background — IFSP*).

Under the act, these steps include transferring records and prior assessments, performing any reassessments, and holding a meeting to develop an IFSP for the child within 45 days after the referral.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

Background — IFSP

An IFSP is a written plan that describes (1) the services and supports an eligible child, under age three, will receive in the early intervention program; (2) how often they will receive these services; and (3) where this will occur.

Background — Armed Forces

By law, the "armed forces" are the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service.

§ 11 — CONNECTICUT MILITARY STAFF

Makes it optional, rather than mandatory, for the governor to appoint a military staff, allows the adjutant general to appoint honorary staff to the National Guard, and repeals certain provisions on the Governor's Foot and Horse Guards

Prior law required the governor to appoint certain military staff, including an adjutant general, assistant adjutant generals, a chief of staff for the Air National Guard, and various aides-de-camp. The act instead allows the governor to

appoint a military staff and, if he does so, requires it to consist of the adjutant general, assistant adjutant generals, and other officers and senior enlisted noncommissioned officers the governor deems necessary. It also permits the adjutant general, in addition to the governor, to appoint honorary staff to the National Guard.

The act also eliminates a provision making majors from the Governor's Foot Guards and Horse Guards ex-officio members of the governor's military staff, among other things.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

§§ 12 & 13 — TRAINING FACILITY IN NIAN TIC

Renames the state military training facility in Niantic

The act renames the state military training facility in Niantic as "Camp Nett" to follow Army facility naming conventions. Under prior law, this facility was named Camp Nett at Niantic.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 14-16 — TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes minor and technical changes to various veterans' and military affairs statutes

The act makes minor and technical changes to various statutes affecting veterans' and military affairs, for example, eliminating the requirement that a specific separate, nonlapsing account be within the General Fund and making a technical change to clarify that the National Guard includes the Army National Guard.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 17 — THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER IN THE TOWN OF PUTNAM.

Names the Connecticut National Guard Readiness Center in Putnam

The act names the Connecticut National Guard readiness center in Putnam as the "Captain-General John Dempsey Putnam Army National Guard Readiness Center." PA 26-97 repeals this provision and names the readiness center the "John N. Dempsey Putnam National Guard Readiness Center."

John N. Dempsey was the 81st governor and captain-general of Connecticut and served as Putnam's mayor and state representative.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 18 & 19 — INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS

Establishes state income tax deductions for (1) compensation for an honor guard detail at a veteran's funeral and (2) pay a National Guard member receives for being ordered out for active service

The act establishes separate state income tax deductions for (1) compensation for an honor guard detail at a veteran's funeral and (2) any pay a National Guard member receives for being ordered out for active service, to the extent it is included as gross income for federal income tax purposes. Under existing law, (1) an honor guard detail has up to five members, plus a bugler, each of whom are paid \$60 per day (CGS § 27-76) and (2) the president or governor may order out the National Guard for active service when necessary or in time of war, invasion, rebellion, riot, disaster, or reasonable apprehension of these things (CGS § 27-16).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, and applicable to taxable years commencing on or after (1) January 1, 2026, for the honor guard provision and (2) January 1, 2027, for the National Guard provision.

§ 20 — LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN STUDY

Requires the Long-term Care Ombudsman to submit a report with recommendations on creating an Office of the Veterans' and Military Healthcare Ombudsman

The act requires the long-term care ombudsman to submit a report to the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee on her recommendations for (1) establishing an Office of the Veterans' and Military Healthcare Ombudsman; (2) appointing

a person to serve as the Veterans' Healthcare Ombudsman and head the office; and (3) the new office's powers, duties, and staffing requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 21 & 22 — MILITARY DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACCOUNT

Creates the Military Department emergency response account, administered by the adjutant general, to cover state costs during certain emergencies

The act establishes the Military Department emergency response account as a separate, nonlapsing account for the adjutant general to administer. Under the act, the account must cover costs when:

1. the Military Department or other state personnel incurs costs responding to an emergency (for example, a natural disaster or civil emergency);
2. federal funds are not immediately available for this purpose; and
3. the governor, in consultation with the emergency services and public protection commissioner, approves.

The act requires (1) the account to hold any money the law requires or allows to be deposited in it and (2) any balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year to be carried over for the next fiscal year. Under the act, the treasurer must transfer \$500,000 for FY 27 from the Military Relief Fund to the account.

By law, the Military Relief Fund gives grants to service members and their families who are experiencing financial hardship due to (1) military service or (2) a serious injury or illness or the death of the service member or immediate family member. By law, the Connecticut Military Department is responsible for determining applicants' eligibility and disbursing aid, to the extent funds are available (CGS § 27-100a; Conn. Agencies Regs., § 27-100a-1 et seq.).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 23 — VETERANS ORGANIZATION SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION STUDY

Requires DRS to study the amount and fiscal impact of establishing a state sales and use tax exemption for federally exempt veterans organizations

The act requires the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) commissioner, in consultation with the DVA commissioner and representatives of federally tax-exempt military and veterans organizations operating in the state, to conduct a study to (1) determine the amount of tangible personal property or services these organizations purchase annually and (2) evaluate the fiscal impact of establishing a state sales and use tax exemption.

The DRS commissioner must submit the study's findings and any legislative recommendations to the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 26-97—HB 5295

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

AN ACT NAMING THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER IN THE TOWN OF PUTNAM

SUMMARY: This act names the Connecticut National Guard readiness center in Putnam the "John N. Dempsey Putnam National Guard Readiness Center." John N. Dempsey was the 81st governor and captain-general of Connecticut and served as both mayor of and state representative for Putnam.

The act also repeals PA 26-35, § 17, which has a substantially similar provision naming the readiness center after Governor Dempsey.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PA 26-111—sSB 282

*Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee
Appropriations Committee*

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE NEGLECTED CEMETERY ACCOUNT AND CONCERNING CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF WARTIME VETERANS' GRAVES

SUMMARY: This act transfers \$100,000 for FY 27 from the General Fund to the neglected cemetery account and allows account funds to be used as grants to municipalities to care for and maintain graves for anyone who served in a time of war.

By law, the Office of Policy and Management may make grants from the neglected cemetery account to municipalities for maintaining neglected burial grounds and cemeteries with more than six places of interment. The municipal selectmen may use the funds to clear vegetation, mow lawn areas, repair fences or walls, and fix memorial stones.

Under existing law, municipalities (1) must appoint three veterans to form a committee that is responsible for making sure the graves of those who served in wartime are suitably kept and cared for and (2) are responsible for the cost of caring for and maintaining these graves if the services are not paid for by private individuals or the cemetery trustees. The act allows municipalities to apply for money available in the neglected cemetery account for grants for these maintenance purposes.

The act also requires the veterans affairs commissioner to make a form, which must be available on the department's website, that people may use to submit information about an unmaintained grave. The form must require the individual to include:

1. the burial ground or cemetery name,
2. the municipality where it is located,
3. the person's name interred in the grave, and
4. any other information the commissioner deems necessary.

The act requires the commissioner to notify the municipality's chief executive authority within seven days after receiving a submission about a grave located there. The notice must tell the municipality:

1. about the grave and information in the submission;
2. about its responsibilities for grave maintenance and any money that may be available to help it comply, including available funds in the neglected cemetery account; and
3. to notify the committee of veterans described above about the grave and to direct it to take any actions needed for the municipality to comply with the requirements.

The act also makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026
