STATE OF CONNECTICUT

QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET

House Bill No. 5523

Public Act No. 24-81

AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOCATIONS OF FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO GENERAL GOVERNMENT, HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 41 of special act 21-15, as amended by section 306 of public act 21-2 of the June special session, section 3 of special act 22-2, section 10 of public act 22-118, section 1 of public act 22-146, section 2 of public act 22-1 of the November special session, section 1 of public act 23-1, section 48 of public act 23-204 and section 1 of special act 24-1, is amended to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

The following sums are allocated, in accordance with the provisions of special act 21-1, from the federal funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
BOARD OF REGENTS				
Enhance Student Retention at Community Colleges	6,500,000	6,500,000	6,500,000	

Education Technology Training at Gateway		100,000		
CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES				
Healthcare Workforce Needs - both public and private schools		20,000,000	15,000,000	
Higher Education – CSCU	10,000,000	5,000,000	147,700,000	[~~48,800,000~~] 128,800,000
Provide Operating Support		118,000,000		
Provide Support to Certain Facilities		5,000,000		
Temporary Support - Charter Oak		500,000		
Temporary Support - CT State Universities		14,500,000		
Temporary Support - Community Colleges		9,000,000		
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
Senior Food Vouchers	100,000	100,000		
Farmer's Market Nutrition	100,000	100,000		
Farm-to-School Grant	250,000	500,000		
Food Insecurity Grants to Food Pantries and Food Banks	1,000,000			
Oyster Cultch Management Program			100,000	100,000
Container Gardens			2,000,000	
Nutrition Initiatives				200,000
Haven's Harvest Food Program				150,000
Food2Kids - Milford Food Insecurity Nonprofit				25,000
WHEAT - West Haven Food Insecurity Nonprofit				25,000

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES				
Enhance Community Engagement Opportunities		2,000,000		
Improve Camps		2,000,000		
Respite Care for Family Caregivers	**[**3,000,000**]** 2,475,000	-		
One Time Stabilization Grant		20,000,000		
Vista		500,000		
[Northwestern Transportation Service Pilot**]**			**[**250,000**]**	**[**500,000**]**
Adelbrook Behavioral and Developmental Services				50,000
Marrakesh Group Home				100,000
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT				
Beardsley Zoo	246,121	246,121		
Amistad	200,000	200,000		
Maritime Center Authority	196,295	196,295		
Mystic Aquarium	177,603	177,603		177,603
Music Haven	100,000	100,000		
Norwalk Symphony	50,000	50,000		
Riverfront Recapture	250,000	250,000		
Connecticut Main Street Center	350,000	350,000		
Middletown Downtown Business District	100,000	100,000		
CRDA Economic Support for Venues	5,000,000	2,500,000		
Working Cities Challenge	1,000,000	1,000,000		
Charter Oak Temple Restoration Association	100,000	100,000		

West Haven Veterans Museum	25,000	25,000		
VFW Rocky Hill	15,000	15,000		
Playhouse on Park	15,000	15,000		
Family Justice Center	50,000	**[**50,000**]** 25,000		
East Hartford Little League	50,000			
Hartford YMCA	1,000,000			
ESF/Dream Camp of Hartford	100,000			
Beta Iota Boule Foundation -Youth Services	100,000			
Legacy Foundation of Hartford	100,000			
Connecticut Center for Advanced Technologies	1,000,000			
Middlesex YMCA	50,000			
Shatterproof	100,000			
Summer Experience at Connecticut's Top Venues	15,000,000			
Statewide Marketing	7,107,000			
Governor's Workforce Initiatives	70,000,000			
CT Hospitality Industry Support	**[**30,000,000**]** 28,840,000			
[Regulatory Modernization**]**	**[**1,000,000**]**			
[Historic Wooster Square Association**]**	**[**500,000**]**			
Humane Commission/Animal Shelter of New Haven	500,000			
Ball and Sockets – Cheshire	200,000			
Junta for Progressive Action	750,000			200,000
International Festival of Arts and Ideas New Haven		200,000		

CT Summer at the Museum Program		15,000,000	10,000,000	
[CT Next]		[2,000,000]		
City of Hartford for Upper Albany Economic Development				1,700,000
Hartford YMCA Family Programming		500,000		
Future, Inc.		1,300,000		
Sons of Thunder		100,000		
Youth Service Corp		1,100,000		
Northside Institution Neighborhood Alliance - Historic Preservation		100,000		
Amistad Center for Arts and Culture		200,000		
Charter Oak Cultural Center		200,000		
City Seed of New Haven		200,000		
Beta Iota Boule Foundation		500,000		
Legacy Foundation of Hartford		[500,000] 150,000		
Bartlem Park South		250,000		
Team, Inc. - Derby		250,000		
YWCA of Hartford		250,000		
WBDC		250,000		
Concat New Haven		250,000		
Montville Parks and Rec Tennis Courts		500,000		
Vietnam Memorial Cheshire		200,000		
Norwich Historical Society		500,000		
Friends of FOSRV		44,000		
Dixwell Church Historic Preservation		2,000,000		
Opportunities Industrialization Center		150,000		
Bernard Buddy Jordan		50,000		
Bridgeport Arts Cultural Council		50,000		

McBride Foundation		100,000		
Artreach		300,000		
Ball and Sockets		400,000		
Bridgeport Youth LaCrosse Academy		25,000		
Cape Verdean Women's Association		25,000		
Cardinal Shehan Center		250,000		
Caribe		100,000		
Cheshire - Plan for Municipal Parking Lot		150,000		
Compass Youth Collaborative		350,000	350,000	350,000
Dixwell Community Center		200,000		
Emery Park		100,000		
[Farnam Neighborhood House**]**		**[**100,000**]**		
Flotilla 73, INC		5,000		
Municipal Outdoor Recreation		4,200,000		
Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises		50,000		
Lebanon Pines		300,000		
Madison Cultural Art		60,000		
Minority Construction Council, Inc		100,000		
Nellie McKnight Museum		25,000		
Blue Hills Civic Association	500,000	500,000		
IMHOTEP CT National Medical Association Society	200,000	200,000		
Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative	125,000	125,000		
Noah Webster		100,000		
Norwalk International Cultural Exchange / NICE Festival		50,000		
[Nutmeg Games**]**		**[**50,000**]**		

Parenting Center – Stamford		250,000		
Ridgefield Playhouse		100,000		
Sisters at the Shore		50,000		50,000
Taftville VFW Auxiliary		100,000		
[The Knowlton**]**		**[**25,000**]**		
The Legacy Foundation of Hartford, Inc	125,000	125,000	350,000	
The Ridgefield Theatre Barn		250,000		
Youth Business Initiative		50,000		
CT Main Street			350,000	350,000
Special Olympics			3,000,000	150,000
[CCAT**]**			**[**500,000**]**	**[**500,000**]**
Theaters			**[**3,500,000**]** 2,225,000	**[**2,625,000**]**
Masters Table Community Meals			5,000	
Real Art Ways			100,000	
New Britain Museum of Art			100,000	
Hartford Stage			75,000	
Other Expenses - Farmington Ave **[**in Hartford**]**			**[**1,800,000**]** 800,000	
Bushnell Theater			750,000	
Life Health and Wellness Center			5,000	
Other Expenses - Municipal Outdoor Recreation in Hartford and Manchester			4,500,000	**[**2,000,000**]** 1,000,000
Team, Inc			100,000	
West Indian Foundation, Inc.			150,000	
Lutz Childrens Museum			50,000	
Foundry 66			500,000	
Connecticut Humanities				700,000
Greater Hartford NAACP				500,000

Downtown Thursdays in Bridgeport				200,000
East Hartford Career Quest Camp				50,000
East Hartford Youth Sports				200,000
River House Greenwich				50,000
Community Gardens Trumbull				80,000
Calendar House Capital Improvements Southington				99,700
Twighlight Wish Foundation				50,000
Latino Community Services: Project Kiki				250,000
Connecticut Science Center				200,000
Forge City Works				50,000
Angel of Edgewood				100,000
AHM Nonprofit				250,000
Baltic American Legion Purple Heart Pavilion				100,000
Community Empowerment				150,000
Friendship Service Center				300,000
Grant Administrator for SB-1				260,000
Milford Boys and Girls Club Summer Programming				25,000
Meriden Boys and Girls Club				50,000
Norwich First Congregational Church Infrastructure				100,000

Norwich VFW Infrastructure				300,000
Ridgefield Meeting House				55,000
Waterford Upstart				375,000
United Way of Beacon Falls				100,000
United Way of Naugatuck				100,000
Trumbull Nature & Arts Center				100,000
Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse				100,000
Hoops & Dreams				75,000
Bridgeport Ballerz				25,000
Colors of the World				10,000
Elevate Bridgeport				100,000
Westville Village Renaissance Alliance				150,000
Mattatuck Museum				800,000
Naugatuck Little League - Peter J. Foley				200,000
Naugatuck Little League - Union City				200,000
AGO - Consultants to Prepare for AI Regs				250,000
Grants for Hospitals, Fire Departments, Schools to Integrate Algorithms and Utilize VR Training				600,000
Bridgeport - Pop Warner Football League				25,000
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church				40,000
The Kennedy Collective				25,000
Eastend Popup Market				10,000

East Haddam - I-Park Foundation				200,000
Cheney Hall Foundation				250,000
DECD Study				1,000,000
RF Youth Boxing, Inc.				40,000
Building One Community Corp				300,000
INTEMPO Organization, Inc.				25,000
SilverSource, Inc.				125,000
HomeFront, Inc.				100,000
Blue Hills Civic Association				5,000,000
Prosperity Foundation				1,300,000
Newington Children's Theatre Company Capital Improvements				300,000
Deming-Young Farm Foundation Barn Rehabilitation				100,000
Middletown Park Pavilions				300,000
Wethersfield - Keane Foundation				600,000
Town of Wethersfield Tourism				100,000
Heart and Purpose				60,000
ARTE, Inc.				25,000
BEDCO				350,000
East Hartford Public Schools Career Training				300,000
Lake Mohegan Playground Replacement Fairfield				75,000
DECD Temporary Grants Administration Staff				575,000

Stratford Civic Plaza				200,000
Summerfield United Methodist Church				125,000
Long Wharf Theater				75,000
Yale Rep. Theater				75,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				
Right to Read		12,860,000	12,860,000	
Faith Acts Priority School Districts	5,000,000	5,000,000		
CT Writing Project	79,750	79,750		
Ascend Mentoring – Windsor	150,000	150,000		
Women in Manufacturing – Platt Tech Regional Vocational Technical School	65,000	65,000		
Elevate Bridgeport	200,000	200,000		
Grant to RHAM Manufacturing Program	22,000	-		
East Hartford Youth Services	200,000			
[Student Achievement Through Opportunity]	[100,000]			
Summer Camp Scholarships for Families	3,500,000			
New Haven Police Athletic League			250,000	
Magnet Schools – New Britain, New London			[3,500,000] 1,000,000	
Hamden Before and After School Programming	400,000			
Hamden Pre-K Programming	100,000			
Expand Support for Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP)		7,000,000	7,000,000	

Increase College Opportunities Through Dual Enrollment		3,500,000	3,500,000	
Provide Funding for the American School for the Deaf		1,115,000		
Provide Funding to Support FAFSA Completion		500,000		
Big Brothers / Big Sisters		2,000,000		
Social Worker Grant SB 1		5,000,000		
School Mental Health Workers		15,000,000		
School Mental Health Services Grant		8,000,000		
RESC Trauma Coordinators		1,200,000		500,000
ParaEducational Professional Development HB 5321		1,800,000		
Leadership Education Athletic Partnership		400,000		
Sphere Summer Program		500,000		
Dream Camp Foundation		1,000,000		
Keane Foundation		300,000		
Greater Hartford YMCA		300,000		
Free Meals for Students		65,000,000	16,000,000	
Summer Enrichment Funds		8,000,000		
YWCA of New Britain		200,000		
FRLP/Direct Certification Census Assistance		200,000		
Drug and Alcohol Counseling – Woodstock Academy		200,000		
Hartford Knights		100,000		
[BSL Educational Foundation]		[100,000]		
Magnets-- Tuition Coverage for 1 year		11,000,000		
Bridgeport Education Fund		100,000		

Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department		15,000		
[Hall Neighborhood House]		[75,000]		
New Haven Board of Education Adult Education Facility		500,000		
New Haven Reads		50,000		
Solar Youth		100,000		
[Bullard-Havens Technical High School for Operating]		[50,000]		
Education Workforce Development			[5,000,000] 1,500,000	
Teacher Residency			1,500,000	[1,500,000]
Hartford Public Library – Flooding Restoration			1,795,000	
[CERC Public Transition Program Report]			[300,000]	
Ellsworth School Natural Gas Conversion				200,000
MLK Scholarship Fund				25,000
Sound Waters Summer Camp				50,000
South Windsor High School Chem Lab				200,000
Uniforms Grassroots Academy				8,000
Wilton High School Dishwasher/Utensils				20,000
Waterbury Robotics				400,000
Colchester-- Bacon Academy Carpet Replacement				200,000
Stamford Public Education Foundation				40,000
Cromwell Public Schools-- Social, Emotional, and				150,000

Behavioral support consultant				
Bloomfield Public Schools Playground Improvements				200,000
Windham Public Schools				140,000
Norwalk Housing Authority Scholarship				25,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
Swimming Lessons to DEEP	500,000	500,000	[500,000]	
Health and Safety Barriers to Housing Remediation	7,000,000	-		
Efficient Energy Retrofit for Housing	7,000,000	-		
Quinnipiac Avenue Canoe Launch	250,000			
Outdoor Recreation with $1,000,000 for East Rock Park and $1,000,000 for West Rock Park for maintenance, repair and renovations		[22,500,000] 10,667,430		
Engineering Study for Dam Removal on Papermill Pond		[500,000] 192,317		
Land Trust Boardwalk Installation		200,000		
Clinton Town Beach		55,000		
Crystal Lake & Bob Tedford Park Renovations		50,000		
Ludlowe Park		75,000		
Lighthouse Park		500,000		
Park Commission Edgewood Park		800,000		

[Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management]			[5,000,000]	
Accessibility Equipment for State Parks			500,000	
Climate Equity Urban Forestry			[500,000] 209,140	
Case Mountain Bridge Replacement and Masonry			330,000	
Nature Center at Keney Park			200,000	
Climate Initiatives				650,000
Milford Public Safety - Fire, Boat, Jetski, Fire Hydrant, Road Improvements Towards Boat Ramp				600,000
Clinton Town Beach				250,000
Charter Oak Park West - Expansion (Manchester)				200,000
Charter Oak Park (Manchester)				200,000
Farmington - Westwoods Recreation Complex Pickleball Courts				200,000
Farmington - Westwoods Recreation Complex Clubhouse Improvements				100,000
Lighthouse Point Park				100,000
East Shore Park				50,000
Fort Hale Park				25,000
Shelton Football Field				150,000
Shelton Soccer Field				150,000
Regional Deep River, Essex and Cheshire Dog Pound				100,000

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING				
Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen	200,000			
Hands on Hartford	100,000			
Homeless Youth Transitional Housing		1,000,000		
Homeless Services		5,000,000		3,500,000
Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance		500,000		
Support for Affordable Housing		50,000,000		
Flexible Funding Subsidy Pool for Housing and Homeless Support			2,000,000	
Housing Support Services			1,000,000	1,000,000
Rapid Rehousing			1,000,000	
Housing Initiatives			[10,000,000] 5,200,000	
Rocky Hill Senior and Disabled Housing			55,000	
Aging Homelessness Pilot-- South Park Shelter				170,000
Parsonage Cottage Roof				154,320
50 Nye Road Improvements				500,000
Homelessness				1,000,000
Columbus House Shelter				150,000
New Reach/Life Haven Shelter for Women and Children				150,000
Bethlehem House Bridgeport/Stratford				30,000
Christian Community Action				150,000

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH				
DPH Loan Repayment	500,000	5,100,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Obesity & COVID-19 Study	**[**500,000**]** <u>104,000</u>	**[**500,000**]**		
Cornell Scott - Hill Health	**[**250,000**]** <u>204,386</u>			
Community Violence Prevention Programs		1,000,000		
Promote Healthy and Lead-Safe **[**Homes**]** <u>Environments</u>		20,000,000	**[**10,000,000**]**	
Provide Funding to Address and Respond to an Increase in Homicides		1,500,000		
School Based Health Centers		10,000,000		
Storage and Maintenance Costs of COVID 19 Preparedness Supplies		325,000		
CCMC Pediatrician Training		150,000		
Gaylord Hospital Electronic Records		2,600,000		
HB 5272 - Menstrual Products		2,000,000		
Pilot Program for Promoting Social Workers and Pediatrician Offices		**[**2,500,000**]** <u>789,744</u>		
ICHC School Based Health Centers		604,000		
Durational Loan Manager		100,000		
[Connecticut Public Health Association**]**		**[**100,000**]**		
Child Psychiatrist Workforce Development		2,000,000		
CT VIP Street Outreach		300,000		
E-cigarette and Marijuana Prevention Pilot Program conducted by Yale to be in Stamford, Milford, East Haven		300,000		

Planned Parenthood				3,000,000
Men's Health				375,000
Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach				475,000
Printed Materials on Intimate Partner Violence				60,000
Center for Excellence				240,000
Data System				20,000
Data Analysis				20,000
Nursing Home Survey Teams				700,000
DPH Initiatives				200,000
Fair Haven Community Health Center				200,000
Town of Cheshire				350,000
Branford East Shore District Health Department Water Testing				10,000
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION				
Groton Water Taxi	100,000	100,000		
Free Bus Service for July and August 2022		5,000,000		
Outfit M8 Rail Cars with 5G		[2,750,000] 242,866		
Extend Free Bus Service		18,900,000		
[Replace Infrastructure Match]		[150,000,000]		
Free Bus Public Transportation Services	8,100,000			
[IDD Needs Transit Study]		[200,000]		
[IDD Non-Medical Transit Study]		[100,000]		
[Bus Stop Shelter Study]		[75,000]		
Car Seat Pilot				25,000

Farmington Dial-a-Ride Bus				85,000
Shoreline East				5,000,000
Regional Traffic Fatality Response Equipment				150,000
Rocky Hill - Beach Road Flood Remediation Design Work				250,000
West Hartford Vision Zero Action Plan				1,000,000
LABOR DEPARTMENT				
Domestic Worker Grants	200,000	200,000		
Opportunities for Long Term Unemployed Returning Citizens	750,000	750,000		
TBICO Danbury Women's Employment Program	25,000	25,000		
Boys and Girls Club Workforce Development - Milford	50,000	50,000		
Women's Mentoring Network - Strategic Life Skills Workshop	5,000	5,000		
Senior Jobs Bank - West Hartford	10,000	10,000		
Greater Bridgeport OIC Job Development and Training Program	250,000	100,000		
Unemployment Trust Fund	155,000,000	-		
Unemployment Support	15,000,000			
Reduce State UI Tax on Employers		40,000,000		
CDL Training [at Community Colleges]		1,000,000		
Bridgeport Workplace		750,000		
YouthBuild		750,000		

Infrastructure for MFT-Regional Workforce Training Initiative			800,000	
Build With Our Hands			500,000	
Temporary UI Staff			2,500,000	
Youth Employment for Regional Workforce Boards			500,000	
Waterbury OIC				200,000
Bloomfield Public Schools				200,000
Platform to Employment				500,000
Implementation of Paid Sick				150,000
LABOR DEPARTMENT - BANKING FUND				
Customized Services for Mortgage Crisis Jobs Training Program	550,000	550,000		
SECRETARY OF STATE				
Voting Access			1,680,447	1,379,128
Early Voting				1,000,000
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD				
Care4Kids Parent Fees	5,300,000	-		
Parents Fees for 3-4 Year Old's at State Funded Childcare Centers	3,500,000	-		
Universal Home Visiting	8,000,000	2,300,000		
Expand Access - Apprenticeship		5,000,000		
Care4Kids		10,000,000	35,000,000	18,800,000
Early Childhood - Facility Renovation and Construction		15,000,000		
Capitol Child Day Care Center		75,000		

Childcare Apprenticeship Program		1,500,000		
School Readiness		30,000,000		
Start Early - Early Childhood Development Initiatives		20,000,000		
Cradle to Career			150,000	
Childhood Collaboratives				2,000,000
Smart Start				1,200,000
AI and Digital Literacy For Schools				1,100,000
New London BOE at Early Childhood Center at B.P. Learned Mission				2,000,000
Capitol Child Development Center				100,000
Tri-share PILOT Program in Eastern Connecticut				1,800,000
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION				
Roberta Willis Need-Based Scholarships	20,000,000	40,000,000	18,000,000	
Summer College Corps	[1,500,000] 1,087,734	-		
Higher Education Mental Health Services		[3,000,000] 2,906,905		
University of Bridgeport				450,000
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT				
Private Providers	30,000,000	30,000,000		50,000,000
State Employee Essential Workers and National Guard Premium Pay	20,000,000	15,000,000		
Audits of ARPA Recipients		1,250,000		
COVID Response Measures		[34,900,000] 14,500,000		

Provide Funding for Medical Debt Erasure			6,500,000	
Housing Study			250,000	
Provide Private Provider Support - One Time Payments		20,000,000		
Evidence Based Evaluation of Initiatives		928,779		
Support ARPA Grant Administration		800,000		
Statewide GIS Capacity for Broadband Mapping/Data and Other Critical Services		9,532,000		
[Invest Connecticut**]**		-	**[**1,666,331**]**	
Bethany Town Hall Auditorium		350,000		
Bethany Town Hall Windows		350,000		
Durham Town Website		25,000		
[Hall Memorial Library Reading and Meditation Garden**]**		**[**66,626**]**		
Orange Fire Department Clock purchase		**[**10,000**]** <u>9,388</u>		
Resources to develop a combined Grammar School Support between Hampton and Scotland		25,000		
Senior Center Outdoor Fitness Area - Ellington		57,418		
South Windsor Riverfront Linear Park Study and Planning		100,000		
Valley Regional High School Tennis Courts		300,000		
Lebanon Historical Society		300,000		
Bloomfield Social and Youth Services		100,000		
Bridgeport – Revenue Replacement		2,200,000		

[Funding for Grants and Contracts Specialist Positions for State Agency Support]			[2,868,000]	
Provide Funding to Stamford			1,500,000	
IDD Employment Opportunities Study			50,000	50,000
Level of Needs and Statutory Definitions Study			100,000	100,000
CSCU System Study			250,000	
Vocational Village				8,679,000
Municipal Aid - Danbury				12,000,000
Municipal Aid - Bridgeport				7,000,000
Municipal Aid - Waterbury				5,500,000
Municipal Aid - New Haven				1,500,000
Municipal Aid - Norwalk				5,000,000
Municipal Aid - Meriden				500,000
Municipal Aid - City of Stamford				2,000,000
Working Cities				1,000,000
Windham				1,200,000
Manchester				900,000
Glastonbury				450,000
New Britain				4,000,000
Ansonia				750,000
Transit Oriented Development Consultant				200,000
Weston Emergency Operations				500,000

Grants to Nonprofits to Provide AI Training and Bridge Digital Divide				125,000
Newington - Town Signage Construction				45,000
Farmington Town Hall Council Chambers A/V Improvements				25,000
Farmington highway & Grounds Dept. P/T Seasonal Workers				20,000
Bloomfield Fire Alarm/ Communication Systems Upgrades				200,000
Hartford - Add Two Zoning Enforcement Officers				500,000
Hartford - Establish a Community Development Corporation				250,000
Lyme Public Library and Town Hall HVAC				250,000
Gatison Park Ansonia				100,000
Glastonbury Little League Riverfront Park/Heroes Field LED Lights				50,000
New Haven Youth at Work				1,000,000
Cromwell				300,000
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES				
IT Modernization		3,000,000		
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT				

Higher Education – UConn	20,000,000	5,000,000		
Temporary Support		33,200,000	42,200,000	[11,100,000] 68,800,000
[Social Media Impact Study]		[500,000]		
Puerto Rican Studies Initiative UConn Hartford		500,000		
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER				
Revenue Impact	35,000,000			
University of Connecticut Health Center	38,000,000	-		
Temporary Support		72,700,000	51,500,000	[25,700,000] 48,000,000
STATE LIBRARY				
[Mary Cheney Library]		[500,000]		
Stratford Library				25,000
Greenwich Library Elevators				400,000
Ferguson Library				400,000
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES				
Fostering Community	10,000	[10,000]		
Casa Boricua-Meriden	50,000	50,000		
Children's Mental Health Initiatives	10,500,000			
Child First	5,100,000	5,100,000		
Expand Mobile Crisis Intervention Services		8,600,000	8,600,000	8,600,000
Support Additional Urgent Crisis Centers and Sub-Acute Crisis Stabilization Units		21,000,000		
Support for Improved Outcomes for Youth (YSBs and JRBs)		2,000,000		

Social Determinant Mental Health Fund		1,000,000	1,000,000	
Family Assistance Grants		1,000,000		
Expand Access Mental Health		990,000		
Resource Guide		50,000		
Peer to Peer Training for Students		150,000		
Respite for non-DCF Children		[85,000] 84,996		
Children in Placement, Inc.		25,000		
Girls for Technology		100,000		
R-Kids		100,000		
Children's Behavioral Health				10,000,000
Urgent Crisis Centers				7,000,000
Middletown Office				667,856
Community Guidance Clinic				100,000
Fixing Fathers One Dad at a Time, Inc.				75,000
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT				
Mothers Against Violence	25,000	25,000		
Legal Representation for Tenant Eviction	10,000,000	10,000,000		1,000,000
New Haven Police Activities League	100,000			
Provide Funding to Build Out the Juvenile Intake Custody and Probable Cause Applications		377,742	363,752	
Provide Funding to Continue Temporary Staffing for the Foreclosure Mediation Program		3,410,901	3,444,293	
Provide Funding to Enhance Contracts for		200,000	200,000	

Direct Service Partnership for Households and Families				
Provide Funding to Enhance Technology for Citations and Hearings in the Criminal Infractions Bureau		606,915		
Provide Funding to Enhance the Department's Case Management and Scheduler Application		1,382,900		
Provide Funding to Establish Video Conferencing for Municipal Stations for Bail and Support Services		60,000		
Provide Funding to Expand Housing Opportunities for Individuals on Bail		2,915,614	2,915,614	
Provide Funding to Hire Assistant Clerks and Family Relations Counselors to Reduce Family and Support Matter Case Backlogs		3,294,851	3,294,851	
Provide Funding to Support Application Development for Monitor Note-Taking and Recording		923,467	226,337	
Provide Increased Funding for Victim Service Providers		14,865,300	13,175,000	20,000,000
Provide Remote Equipment to Reduce Child Support Backlog		**[**121,600**]** <u>121,599</u>		
Inspire Basketball		**[**2,000,000**]** <u>1,900,000</u>		
Children's Law Center		190,000		

Brother Carl Hardrick Institute - Violence Prevention		400,000		
Community Resources for Justice (Family Reentry)		300,000		
Equipment to Livestream Supreme Court Proceedings			**[**350,000**]** <u>50,182</u>	
Modernize and Upgrade IT and Courthouse Security			1,250,000	
Family Re-Entry of New Haven			350,000	
<u>Lawyers for Children</u>				<u>100,000</u>
<u>Police Activity Youth Program</u>				<u>200,000</u>
<u>Ball Headz</u>				<u>30,000</u>
<u>Hartford Police Athletic League</u>				<u>1,000,000</u>
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION				
TRUE Unit - Cheshire CI	500,000	500,000		
WORTH Program York CI	250,000	250,000		
Vocational Village Dept Corrections	**[**20,000,000**]** <u>8,796,000</u>	-		
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES				
Fair Haven Clinic	10,000,000	-		
[Workforce Development, Education and Training**]**	**[**1,000,000**]**			
Nursing Home Facility Support	**[**10,000,000**]** <u>9,529,201</u>			
MyCT Resident One Stop	2,500,000			
New Reach Life Haven Shelter	500,000			
Mary Wade	750,000			
Community Action Agencies	5,000,000			

Expand Medical/Psychiatric Inpatient Unit at Connecticut Children's Medical Center		15,000,000		
Provide Additional Supports for Victims of Domestic Violence		2,900,000		
Provide Support for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services		5,000,000		4,000,000
Strengthen Family Planning		2,000,000		
Community Action Agencies - Community Health Workers	3,000,000	4,000,000		
[Charter Oak Urgent Care**]**		**[**100,000**]**		
[Charter Oak Health Care**]**			**[**230,000**]**	
ROCA		500,000		
Waterbury Seed Funds for Wheeler Clinic		650,000		
Provide Support for Residential Care Homes (RCH)		3,700,000		
Brain Injury Alliance of CT		300,000		
Hartford Communities that Care		500,000		200,000
Hebrew Senior Care		150,000		
[Connecticut Health Foundation**]**		**[**500,000**]**		
Health Equity Solutions		500,000		
CT Oral Health Initiative		300,000		
Day Kimball Hospital		5,000,000		
Mothers United Against Violence		300,000		
Fair Haven		10,000,000		
Adult Day		3,000,000		
HRA		150,000		

Hands on Hartford		100,000		100,000
Human Resources Agency of New Britain		300,000		
Teeg		200,000		250,000
Client Support Funds - Community Action Agencies			[10,000,000] 3,000,000	
[Two Months of Premium Assistance under Access Health CT]			[10,000,000]	
Capital Funding for RCHs Grandfathered under Outdated Codes			5,000,000	
Nursing Home Specialized Unit Infrastructure Fund			[4,000,000] 3,200,000	
Migrant Support			[3,250,000] 1,050,000	
[Supports for Public Health Emergency Unwind]			[1,000,000]	
[Support HUSKY Eligibility]			[150,000]	
Provide Capital Grants for Mobile Vans for Free Health Clinics			500,000	
Provide Funding for Provider Rate Study and Implementation Strategy			1,000,000	2,000,000
Day Kimball Hospital			8,000,000	[2,000,000] 4,000,000
Hospital Based Autism Service Pilot			[500,000]	500,000
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Supplemental Benefits			[13,500,000] 8,563,557	
Operation Fuel, Inc. Supplemental Benefits			[3,500,000] 1,750,000	
Harriot Home Health Services				2,000,000

Connecticut Childrens Medical Center				500,000
Home Care Worker Registry				481,370
Presumptive Eligibility				500,000
Chestelm Adult Day, All Care LLC, All Care of East Hartford, Caring Connection Adult Day				350,000
SNAP Software				500,000
Center for Medicare Advocacy				20,000
MedConnect Income and Asset Limits				100,000
SB-1				1,000,000
Grant to Develop Algorithms to Reduce Health Inequities				600,000
School Based Health Care				800,000
Mosaic Nonprofit				250,000
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT				
CTN	[1,000,000] 337,050	-		
[Review of Title 7]		[27,000]		
[Strategic Higher Education Study]			[250,000]	
Commission on Health Equity in Public Health				149,885
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES				
DMHAS Private Providers	25,000,000	18,660,000		
Enhance Mobile Crisis Services- Case Management		3,200,000		1,600,000

Enhance Respite Bed Services for Forensic Population		4,292,834		
Expand Availability of Privately-Provided Mobile Crisis Services		6,000,000		3,000,000
Fund Supportive Services to Accompany New Housing Vouchers		1,125,000	1,125,000	1,125,000
Provide Mental Health Peer Supports in Hospital Emergency Departments		2,400,000		
Implement Electronic Health Records		[16,000,000] 3,292,615		
Public Awareness Grants		1,000,000		
Peer-to-Peer		500,000		
United Services Pilot on Crisis Intervention		200,000		
Clifford Beers		200,000		
The Pathfinders Association		100,000		
Fellowship Place New Haven		150,000		
Enhance Respite Bed Services for Forensic Population				954,567
Advanced Behavioral Health				900,000
DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES				
Blind and Deaf Community Supports	2,000,000			
Senior Centers		[10,000,000] 6,500,000		
Meals on Wheels		3,000,000		
Respite Care for Alzheimers		1,000,000		
Area Agencies on Aging		4,000,000		
Avon Senior Center		100,000		
Dixwell Senior Center		100,000		

Eisenhower Senior Center		100,000		
Orange Senior Center		100,000		
Sullivan Senior Center		100,000		
Elderly Nutrition			2,250,000	
Prevalence of Autism Study			10,000	
Establish Deaf Blind Bureau				200,000
Area Agencies on Aging Awareness Program				100,000
Alzheimer's Awareness Program				150,000
Ellington Vehicle Purchase				99,778
Nutmeg Rides				225,000
Bristol Senior Center Parking Lot				50,000
Newtown Transportation Program for Seniors				100,000
Community Renewal Team Meals on Wheels				200,000
Kuhn Employment Opportunities				30,000
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION				
Provide Funding for a Mobile Crime Laboratory		995,000		
Provide Funding for the Gun Tracing Task Force		2,500,000		
Provide Funding to State and Local Police Departments to Address Auto Theft and Violence		2,600,000	2,600,000	

Upgrade Forensic Technology at the State Crime Lab		1,500,000	1,343,000	
Rural Roads Speed Enforcement		2,600,000		
Expand Violent Crimes Task Force		1,108,000		
[Online Abuse Grant SB 5**]**		**[**500,000**]**		
[Fire Data Collection**]**		**[**300,000**]**		
[P.O.S.T. High School Recruitment Program for Police**]**		**[**200,000**]**		
Poquetanuck Volunteer Fire Department		150,000		
Preston City Volunteer Fire Department		150,000		
Clean Slate Phase 2 Information Technology Needs			1,500,000	
Sensory Kit Pilot			36,000	
Orange Volunteer Fire Association				50,000
Stamford Police Activities, Inc.				300,000
Middletown Fire Training Facility				375,000
Essex Fire Department				150,000
Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department				25,000
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES				
Provide Payments to Filers Eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit		**[**42,250,000**]** 42,249,865		
[ABLE Accounts Software**]**			**[**75,000**]**	
Tobacco Dealer Regulation				25,000

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE				
Provide Funding to Reduce Court Case Backlogs Through Temporary Prosecutors and administrative staff		2,199,879	2,126,550	
OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY				
Improve Data Collection and Integration with HIE		500,000	650,000	
Study Behavioral Health Coverage by Private Insurers		200,000		
Payment Parity Study		[655,000] <u>595,205</u>		
Telehealth Study		300,000		
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER				
Testing and Other COVID-Related Expenditures		860,667		
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION				
Provide Funding to Reduce Court Backlogs Through Temporary Public Defenders		2,023,821	1,956,360	
[POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL]				
Time Limited Police Loan Forgiveness		[1,000,000] <u>250,000</u>		
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES				

[Support School Air Quality]		[75,000,000]		
Interagency Portal			50,000	
[Capital Area Heating System Study]			[2,000,000]	
OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY				
[HVAC Training Agency]		[300,000]		
Climate Transition Plan				200,000
DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S AFFAIRS				
Fine and Performing Art Therapy Program				25,000
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR				
Rell Center				25,000
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER				
Hartford Sewage System Repair and Improvement Fund			4,000,000	
Drug Discount Card Awareness				50,000
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION				
Implement New Cannabis Regulations				500,000

Sec. 2. Section 28 of public act 23-204 is amended to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

The unexpended balance of funds appropriated in section 1 of [this act] public act 23-204 to the Labor Department, for the Connecticut

Youth Employment Program, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and shall be carried forward and made available for the same purpose during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, provided $250,000 of such unexpended balance of funds shall be allocated to Capital Workforce Partners for administration relating to the establishment of new programming.

Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 14 and 15 of public act 23-204, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall not reduce expenditures, allotment requisitions or allotments in force concerning the State Treasurer, the Secretary of the State, the State Comptroller or the Attorney General in order to achieve the amounts described in said sections during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 4-87 of the general statutes, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the maximum amount the Governor may transfer to or from any specific appropriation within a budgeted agency pursuant to said subsection, without the consent of the Finance Advisory Committee, shall be three hundred fifty thousand dollars or twenty-five per cent of any such specific appropriation, whichever is less. No maximum amount shall apply to transfers made from appropriations for fringe benefits to the operating funds of any constituent unit of the state system of higher education.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Governor may transfer any specific appropriation, or portion thereof, made to any budgeted agency pursuant to sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of public act 23-204, with the consent of the Finance Advisory Committee, to any other agency for the purpose of funding the actuarially determined employer contribution for the (1) State Employees Retirement Fund pursuant to section 5-156a of the general statutes, (2) the Teachers' Retirement Fund pursuant to section 10-183z of the general statutes, or (3) the retirement

system for judges, family support magistrates and administrative law judges pursuant to section 51-41d of the general statutes. Notification of all transfers made shall be provided to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and the Director of the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Sec. 5. Section 15 of public act 23-204 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may make reductions in executive branch expenditures, for Personal Services, in the General Fund for the fiscal **[**years**]** year ending June 30, 2024, **[**and June 30, 2025,**]** in order to reduce expenditures by $80,000,000 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. **[**, and by $129,000,000 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.**]**

(b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may make reductions in executive branch expenditures in the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in order to reduce expenditures by $129,000,000 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sec. 6. (*Effective January 1, 2025*) To the extent that there are funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, that are (1) obligated for a use allowable under said section by December 31, 2024, but not expended, or (2) obligated by December 31, 2024, but expended for a use that is determined to be unallowable under said act, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may reallocate and reobligate such funds to any use allowable under said section.

Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or after October 15, 2024, to the extent that there are funds allocated pursuant to the provisions of

section 41 of special act 21-15, as amended by section 306 of public act 21-2 of the June special session, section 3 of special act 22-2, section 10 of public act 22-118, section 1 of public act 22-146, section 2 of public act 22-1 of the November special session, section 1 of public act 23-1, section 48 of public act 23-204, section 1 of special act 24-1, and section 1 of this act, that the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management reasonably believes will not be obligated by December 31, 2024, or expended by December 31, 2026, and if the Comptroller's last cumulative monthly financial statement before October 15, 2024, concerning the state's General Fund, issued under subsection (a) of section 3-115 of the general statutes, projects a General Fund deficit, the secretary shall reallocate such funds to resolve agency deficiencies, provided the total amount of such reallocation for agency deficiencies shall not exceed the total of the projected deficit stated in the Comptroller's October letter. If no such deficit is projected, or if such funds remain after satisfying such deficit, the secretary shall reallocate $40,000,000 of such funds as follows: (1) $20,000,000 to the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, (2) $10,000,000 to The University of Connecticut, and (3) $10,000,000 to The University of Connecticut Health Center. If the secretary determines there are less than $40,000,000 of such funds available for reallocation, the secretary shall reduce the amounts described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection proportionately. If funds remain after reallocating $40,000,000 of such funds for the purposes described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection, the secretary shall reallocate such remaining funds for any other allowable use under section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time. For the purposes of this section, "obligated" has the same meaning as provided in 31 CFR 35.2, as amended from time to time.

(b) Not later than ten days before any such reallocation described in subsection (a) of this section, the secretary shall submit a list of funds to be reallocated and the uses for which such funds are to be reallocated to

the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) Up to $3,000,000 of the unexpended balance of funds appropriated to Legislative Management, for Minor Capital Improvements, in section 1 of public act 23-204 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and shall be made available for the same purpose during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) Up to $100,000 of the unexpended balance of funds appropriated to Legislative Management, for Statues, in section 1 of public act 23-204, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and shall be made available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to support removal of the John Mason statue from the state Capitol building.

Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) The unexpended balance carried forward and transferred to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, for Other Expenses, by subdivision (12) of subsection (b) of section 29 of special act 21-15, and section 308 of public act 21-2 of the June special session, and subdivision (12) of subsection (b) of section 12 of public act 22-118, and subsection (d) of section 41 of public act 23-204, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and such funds shall continue to be available for expenditure for the purpose of Marlborough Fire Department facility upgrades and shall also be available for equipment at such facility for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sec. 11. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Up to $120,000 of the unexpended balance of funds appropriated to Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, for Personal Services, in section 1 of public act 23-204 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and shall be made available during the fiscal year

ending June 30, 2025, to support staff positions.

(b) Up to $50,000 of the unexpended balance of funds appropriated to Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, for Other Expenses, in section 1 of public act 23-204 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and shall be made available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to support a study on community-based bereavement and grief counseling services.

Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Notwithstanding the provisions of title 2 of the general statutes and any personnel policies adopted pursuant to said provisions, the Office of Legislative Management shall apply terms consistent with those contained in the SEBAC 2022 Wage Re-Opener Agreement between the state and the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition, ratified on March 29, 2024, and approved pursuant to subsection (f) of section 5-278 of the general statutes, and applicable to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to nonpartisan legislative employees for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sec. 13. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) of section 45a-82 of the general statutes, a balance of not less than twelve million dollars in the Probate Court Administration Fund on June 30, 2024, shall remain in said fund and shall not be transferred to the General Fund, regardless of whether such balance is in excess of an amount equal to fifteen per cent of the total expenditures authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of section 45a-84 of the general statutes for the immediately succeeding fiscal year.

Sec. 14. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of $150,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 23-204, to the Elections Enforcement Commission, for Elections Enforcement Commission, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, shall be transferred to the Secretary of the State, for Other Expenses, and made available during said fiscal year to support the cost of one election monitor position for the city of

Bridgeport.

Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of $7,000,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 23-204 to the Department of Social Services, for Medicaid, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, shall be made available for rate increases for providers of behavioral health services to children, inclusive of all family therapy services.

Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding section 16-243y of the general statutes, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection may reimburse the costs up to $5,224,415 associated with the design and construction of a microgrid at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London in the town of Groton from the funds authorized by subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of section 13 of public act 13-239.

Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 18-90d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) The Commissioner of Correction shall: (1) Establish eligibility criteria for participation in the program; (2) establish an application process for inmates to apply for participation in the program; (3) develop program objectives; (4) identify nationally recognized industry certifications to offer through the program; (5) develop and implement program curricula; (6) identify and utilize a suitable facility for the operation of the program; (7) obtain suitable staff for the operation of the program; **[**and**]** (8) obtain suitable equipment and educational materials for the operation of the program; and (9) prepare and equip the Department of Correction and its post-secondary education partners to utilize funding allocated pursuant to subsection (e) of this section for programs that produce economic and other benefits, including, but not limited to, employment opportunities for inmates.

Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Criminal Justice Policy and

Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Department of Correction, shall conduct a needs assessment of the facilities, materials and staffing required for the delivery of postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities. Such assessment shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a solicitation of feedback from institutions of higher education that provide postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities to understand current needs, (2) an analysis of the policies of the Department of Correction concerning postsecondary education of incarcerated persons, (3) a determination of the level of unmet demand for postsecondary education among incarcerated persons, (4) an inventory of the (A) correctional facilities, including, but not limited to, classrooms, multipurpose rooms, libraries and study rooms, (B) staffing, and (C) materials, including, but not limited to, education technology and Internet access, currently available for the delivery of postsecondary education, (5) recommendations for and a cost analysis of the improvement of such facilities, staffing and materials to meet the unmet demand for postsecondary education, (6) a survey of (A) students of postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities, (B) former students of such programs, in consultation with regional reentry programs, and (C) any group or person the division deems necessary, and (7) a listing of any other specific barriers to the effective delivery of postsecondary education programs to incarcerated persons.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement regarding the needs assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 19. (*Effective from passage*) Up to $125,000 of the unexpended balance of funds appropriated to the Judicial Department, for Youth

Services Prevention, in section 1 of public act 23-204 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and shall be made available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to support the University of New Haven performance-based accountability project youth services grants.

Sec. 20. (*Effective from passage*) That portion of unexpended funds, as determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, appropriated in section 1 of public act 23-204 to the Judicial Department, for Youth Services Prevention and Youth Violence Initiative, and made available pursuant to sections 39 and 40 of said act, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and such funds shall continue to be available to the Judicial Department for juvenile justice system needs, as determined by the Chief Court Administrator, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sec. 21. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The amounts appropriated in section 1 of public act 23-204 to the Judicial Department, for Youth Services Prevention, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, shall be made available in said fiscal year for the following grants:

Grantee	Grant
100 Black Men of Stamford, Inc.	25,000
6-Love Incorporated	25,000
ACCESS Educational Services, Inc.	60,000
Advocacy Academy A.E	15,000
Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed, Inc.	7,500
Aluminum Falcon Robotics, Inc.	5,000
Angel of Edgewood, Inc.	5,000
ARTE, Inc.	52,200
Artists Collective, Inc.	10,000
Ase Kreationz, LLC	30,000
Ask Sammy Resources	10,000
BAGS Foundation CT, Inc.	5,000
Ball Headz, Inc.	25,000

Barack H. Obama University Magnet School	50,000
Barbara's House, Inc.	60,000
Basket Of Love, Inc.	25,000
Beat the Street Community Center, Inc.	25,000
Bernard Buddy Jordan Foundation	75,000
Bloomfield Jr. Warhawks, Inc.	15,000
Blue Hills Civic Association, Inc.	20,000
Boys & Girls Club of Meriden	10,000
Boys & Girls Club of New Britain	80,000
Boys and Girls Club - Hartford	30,000
Boys and Girls Club of Stamford, Inc.	32,500
Bregamos Community Theater Company	30,000
Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders, Inc.	215,000
Bridgeport Police Activities League	20,000
Business Industry Foundation of Middlesex County	20,000
C. O. Sports Academy, Inc.	5,000
Cardinal Shehan Center	10,000
Casa Otonal, Inc.	200,000
Central Connecticut Coast YMCA (Bridgeport YMCA)	20,000
CERCLE	150,000
Charter Oak Boxing Academy	30,000
Charter Oak Temple Restoration Association, Inc.	35,000
Christ Christian Church, Inc.	20,000
Christian Community Action, Inc.	200,000
Color a Positive Thought Organization	85,000
Community Level Up, Inc.	15,000
Connecticut Institute for Community Development - Puerto Rican Parade	5,000
Connecticut Scholars, Inc.	5,000
CORNERS, Inc.	12,500
Creative Youth Productions, Inc.	15,000
Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut, Inc.	50,000
Danbury Youth Baseball, Inc.	50,000
Danbury Youth Services, Inc.	75,000
Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center	5,000
DHW Athletics	5,000
Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church	100,000

Domus Kids, Inc.	17,500
Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Trust Fund	30,000
DreamBig College, Inc.	40,000
Drop In learning Center	10,000
East End Baptist Tabernacle Church, Inc.	35,000
East End NRZ Market & Cafe	60,000
East Rock Lodge No 141 IBPOE of W, Inc.	100,000
Eastern Connecticut Symphony, Inc.	5,000
Ebony Horsewomen, Inc.	30,000
Edgewood PTA Child Care Program, Inc.	40,000
Edmonds Cofield Preparatory Academy for Young Men	25,000
Ej's Heart, Inc.	40,000
Family Centers, Inc.	25,000
Fellowship Place, Inc.	100,000
Fixing Fathers One Dad at a Time, Inc.	150,000
Free Center, Inc.	10,000
Friends Of Pope Park	40,000
Friends of the Bethel Public Library, Inc.	75,000
Friends of the Danbury Museum & Historical Society, Inc.	50,000
Future 5, Inc.	25,000
G-Code (Girls Creating Opportunities For Developing Empowerment)	50,000
Girls Inc. of Meriden	10,000
Glory Chapel International Cathedral	10,000
Good Shepherd Ministries	27,000
GOODWorks, Inc.	20,000
Greenwich Alliance for Education Foundation, Inc.	25,000
Groton Little League	15,000
Groton Mystic Youth Football League	15,000
Hartford Communities that Care, Inc.	23,000
Hartford Friendship Kids' Camp	20,000
Hartford Health Initiative, Inc.	14,500
Hartford Hurricanes	15,000
Hartford Lions Soccer Academy, Inc.	7,500
Hartford Premier and Development League	10,000
Hartford Stage Company, Inc.	40,000

Higher Edge, Inc.	15,000
Hip Hop 1001	25,000
Hispanic Alliance of Southeastern, CT	10,000
Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury, Inc.	110,000
Historic Black College Alumni, Inc.	13,000
Homes with Hope, Inc.	20,000
Hoops 4 All, LLC	30,000
Hoops4life, Inc.	15,000
Hope Center Foundation For Non-Violence and Social Change	22,500
Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc.	45,000
INTEMPO Organization, Inc.	75,000
Interdistrict Committee for Project Oceanology (aka 'Project Oceanology')	25,000
Junta For Progressive Action, Inc.	100,000
Kiyama Movement, Inc.	50,000
L.I.F.T Foundation, Inc.	50,000
La Grua Center, Inc.	2,500
Maria Reina de la Parish Corporation	15,000
McGivney Community Center, Inc.	10,000
Meriden New Britain Berlin YMCA	47,500
Meriden Police Cadets	10,000
Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc.	10,000
Mi Casa / Hispanic Health Council	50,000
Mill River Collaborative	100,000
Mothers United Against Violence	15,000
My Architecture Workshops, Inc.	35,000
Mystic Community Bikes, Inc. (d.b.a. Bike Groton)	7,500
Mystic Museum of Art (MMoA)	2,500
NAACP Linwood Bland Youth Council	10,000
New Britain Legacies	25,000
New Britain Police Athletic League	25,000
New Britain ROOTS, Inc.	45,000
New England Science & Sailing Foundation	7,500
New Horizons	10,000
New Life II Teaching You Another Way	25,000
New London Babe Ruth League, Inc.	10,000
New London Football League	10,000

New London Football League (Cheerleaders)	10,000
New London Little League	10,000
NEXT LEVEL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (NLEP)	50,000
Night Flight Association, Inc.	8,000
Noank Rowing Club, Inc.	2,500
North End Little League	25,000
Norwich Bully Busters	3,000
Norwich Free Academy	15,000
Norwich Public Schools Education Foundation, Inc.	15,000
Norwich Youth Football League	15,000
NXTHVN, Inc.	50,000
Ocean Community YMCA	15,000
Odd Fellows Playhouse Youth Theater	40,000
Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain, Inc.	52,500
Organized Parents Make A Difference, Inc.	55,000
Park Central, Inc.	5,000
Park Street Public Library	30,000
Police Activities League of Hartford, Inc.	50,000
Positive Adversity	10,000
Project 9	20,000
Project Learn	7,500
Project Music, Inc.	90,000
Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County	20,000
Puerto Ricans United, Inc.	32,000
RF Youth Boxing, Inc.	60,000
Riptide Baseball Organization	5,000
Rivera Memorial Foundation, Inc.	80,500
Rushford Center, Inc.	10,000
Safe Futures	10,000
Sankofa Education and Leadership, Inc.	58,000
Second Chance Re-Entry Initiative Program	10,000
Solar Youth, Inc.	50,000
St. George Armenian Apostolic Church/Diocese of the Armenian Church	15,000
Stamford Alumni Diamond Foundation, Inc.	40,000
Stamford Public Education Foundation, Inc.	70,000

Teach Kids Music	35,000
Team West Haven, Inc.	33,000
The Bread Room, Inc.	17,500
The Bridge Family Center, Inc.	150,000
The Dominican American Coalition of Connecticut	10,000
The Ferguson Library	15,000
The Integrated Day Charter School, Inc.	18,000
The Legacy Foundation of Hartford, Inc.	170,000
The Newhallville Community Development Corporation	50,000
The Police Activities League of Hartford, Inc.	35,000
The Sonship Institute	25,000
The Village Initiative Project, Inc.	137,500
The Walter E. Luckett Jr. Foundation, Inc.	50,000
The Willie and Sandra McBride Foundation	75,000
The Young Women's Christian Association of New Britain	10,000
Town of East Hartford	75,000
Town of Manchester Youth Services	75,000
Unique and Unified New Era Youth Movement	40,000
United Way of Greenwich, Inc.	40,000
University of Connecticut	12,500
Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative	30,000
Urban Concepts, Inc.	50,000
Walnut Orange Walsh Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Association, Inc. (WOW, NRZ)	80,500
Waterbury Young Men's Christian Association	150,000
West Haven Seahawks	15,000
Whalers Helping Whalers	10,000
William E. Edwards Academic College Tours, Inc.	15,000
Women and Families Center	20,000
Yellow Farmhouse Education Center, Inc.	2,500
Yellow Mill Village Scholarship Fund, Inc.	10,000
Young Men's Christian Association of Northern Middlesex County, Inc.	220,000
Youth Business Initiative	50,000

Sec. 22. Section 10a-19m of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) On or before January 1, 2025, the executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to reimburse certain persons for student loan payments. The Office of Higher Education may approve the participation of any person in the student loan reimbursement program who (1) (A) attended a **[**state college or university**]** public or independent institution of higher education in the state and graduated with an associate or a bachelor's degree, (B) **[**left such college or university in good academic standing before graduation, or (C)**]** holds an occupational or professional license or certification issued pursuant to title 20, or (C) is granted a hardship waiver by the executive director, pursuant to a waiver application submitted by such person in the form and manner prescribed by the executive director; (2) is a resident of the state, as defined in section 12-701, and has been a resident of the state for not less than five years, as determined by the executive director; (3) has (A) a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars and files a return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual or a married individual filing separately, or (B) a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and files a return under the federal income tax as a head of household, a married individual filing jointly or a surviving spouse, as defined in Section 2(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time; and (4) has a student loan. **[**For the purposes of this section "state college or university" means any public or private college or university in the state.**]**

(b) Persons who qualify under subsection (a) of this section may apply to the Office of Higher Education to participate in the student loan

reimbursement program at such time and in such manner as the executive director of said office prescribes. Not later than January 1, 2025, the executive director shall post on said office's Internet web site the (1) qualifications for a hardship waiver described in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of said subsection, and (2) forms required to apply for the student loan reimbursement program and a hardship waiver. The application for the student loan reimbursement program shall include, but not be limited to, an option for a person to disclose such person's demographic information.

(c) (1) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall award grants to persons approved to participate in the student loan reimbursement program on a first-come, first-served basis, provided such person meets the requirements of this subsection.

(2) Each participant in the program shall volunteer for a nonprofit organization that is registered with the Department of Consumer Protection or a municipal government in the state for not less than fifty unpaid hours for each year of participation in the student loan reimbursement program. For purposes of this section, "volunteer hours" shall include, but need not be limited to, service on the board of directors for a nonprofit organization and military service.

(3) Each participant in the program shall annually submit **[**receipts of payment on student loans and evidence of having completed such volunteer hours**]** to the Office of Higher Education, in the manner prescribed by the executive director, a (A) statement from a student loan servicer that includes the amounts for the outstanding loan balance for such student loan and the total of the year-to-date payments made on such student loan, and (B) form documenting the number of volunteer hours completed by such participant that is (i) signed by such participant's supervisor or other employee of the nonprofit organization or municipal government for which such participant volunteered, or, for military service, such participant's commanding officer, and (ii)

notarized.

(4) The Office of Higher Education shall reimburse each program participant who meets the requirements of this section for student loan payments an amount of not more than five thousand dollars, annually, provided no person shall participate in the student loan reimbursement program for more than four years or receive more than twenty thousand dollars in aggregate reimbursement for student loan payments.

(d) The Office of Higher Education may use up to two and one-half per cent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this section, annually, for program administration, promotion and recruitment activities.

(e) Not later than July 1, 2026, and each January and July thereafter, the executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies on the operation and effectiveness of the program and any recommendations to expand the program.

Sec. 23. Section 7-621 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Comptroller shall establish the Hartford Sewerage System Repair and Improvement Fund. Said fund may contain any moneys required or permitted by law to be deposited in the fund and any funds received from any public or private contributions, gifts, grants, donations, bequests or devises to the fund. The moneys in said fund shall be expended by the Comptroller for the purposes of (1) developing and administering the program established pursuant to section 7-622, (2) providing compensation to the administrator appointed pursuant to

subsection (b) of said section, **[**7-622,**]** (3) contracting with a licensed home inspector or insurance adjuster and reimbursing **[**the Metropolitan District of Hartford County and**]** eligible applicants for costs associated with **[**providing and**]** hiring licensed home inspectors and insurance adjusters pursuant to subsection (c) of said section, **[**7-622,**]** and (4) providing compensation to any **[**administrator hired**]** judge trial referee assigned pursuant to subsection (d) of said section. **[**7-622.**]**

(b) The city of Hartford may contribute funds to the Hartford Sewerage System Repair and Improvement Fund established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 24. Section 7-622 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Comptroller shall develop a grant program to provide financial (1) assistance to eligible owners of real property in the city of Hartford to pay for repairs to such property necessitated by flood damage caused on or after January 1, 2021, and (2) reimbursement to residents of the city of Hartford for costs associated with damage to personal property due to flooding occurring on or after said date.

(b) The Governor shall appoint an administrator to administer the program developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section not later than August 1, 2023. The administrator shall be a resident of the city of Hartford and have experience in environmental justice issues and insurance policy claims determinations. Not later than July 15, 2023, the state representatives and state senators for the city of Hartford shall provide the Governor a list of not fewer than two candidates for consideration and the Governor may select and appoint one of such candidates as the administrator or select and appoint a candidate of the Governor's own choosing. The administrator shall be employed

pursuant to a personal service agreement and compensated at a per diem rate commensurate with the per diem compensation provided a senior judge pursuant to section 51-47b for each day's service performed in connection with such appointment.

(c) (1) The administrator shall develop an application process and eligibility criteria for the grant program. Such process and criteria shall be approved by the Comptroller.

(A) Such application shall include, but need not be limited to, if applicable, a copy of any determination made on any claim for such damage against any property and casualty insurance policy issued to an applicant, including any amounts paid to such applicant pursuant to such claim. **[**Such**]**

(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, such eligibility criteria shall include, but need not be limited to, requirements that any such **[**property owner (A) is a resident of the city of Hartford, and (B)**]** applicant (i) owned real **[**or personal**]** property in the city of Hartford that was damaged by flooding on or after January 1, 2021, or (ii) is a resident of the city of Hartford and owned personal property in said city that was damaged by flooding on or after said date. No applicant shall be deemed ineligible solely because such **[**(i)**]** (I) applicant's property was not insured at the time such damage occurred, or **[**(ii)**]** (II) applicant did not receive payment pursuant to any such claim.

(C) No applicant who submits an application on or after May 1, 2025, shall be eligible for financial assistance for repairs to real property unless (i) such applicant requested an assessment from the Metropolitan District of Hartford County pursuant to the district's sewer back-up prevention and reporting program on or before April 30, 2025, or (ii) the administrator determines, in accordance with criteria approved by the Comptroller, that extenuating circumstances prevented such applicant

from requesting such assessment. The administrator, in consultation with the Metropolitan District of Hartford County, shall verify that an applicant timely requested an assessment from the district.

(2) The administrator shall review applications for participation in the grant program and determine each applicant's eligibility for the grant program in accordance with the eligibility criteria developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection not later than thirty days after receipt of any such application.

(3) If the administrator determines that an applicant requesting assistance to pay for repairs to real property is eligible, (A) **[**an inspector employed by the Metropolitan District of Hartford County**]** a licensed home inspector or insurance adjuster with whom the Office of the Comptroller has executed a contract for services, or (B) at such eligible applicant's option, **[**an**]** licensed home inspector or insurance adjuster with experience assessing flood damage who is approved by the administrator and hired by such eligible applicant, shall evaluate the damage to the applicant's property and provide a report concerning such damage to the administrator. Such report shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the administrator, and shall include, but need not be limited to, a description of the damage to such eligible applicant's property and the estimated cost to repair such damage. Not later than thirty days after the receipt of such report, the administrator may award a grant, in accordance with a formula established by the Comptroller, to the eligible applicant, **[**in accordance with a formula established by the Comptroller, which**]** or at the administrator's discretion, provide such grant to a contractor or vendor selected by the applicant to repair such damage. Such formula shall include a reduction in the amount of any such **[**award**]** grant equal to any payments received by the applicant pursuant to any claim made against a property and casualty insurance policy held by such applicant for such damage.

(4) Not later than thirty days after a determination that an applicant

is eligible for reimbursement for costs associated with damage to personal property pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the administrator shall award a grant to the eligible applicant in accordance with a formula established by the Comptroller, which may include a reduction in the amount of any such **[**award**]** grant equal to any payments received by the applicant pursuant to any claim made against a property and casualty insurance policy held by such applicant for such damage.

(5) The total amount of any grants awarded pursuant to this section to an eligible applicant for repairs to real property and reimbursement for costs associated with damage to personal property where such property was utilized for business purposes at the time such damage was incurred shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars.

[(5)**]** (6) Any eligible applicant that hires a licensed home inspector or insurance adjuster pursuant to subdivision **[**(2)**]** (3) of this subsection may request reimbursement for the costs of **[**such inspection**]** the evaluation conducted pursuant to said subdivision in a form and manner prescribed by the administrator. The administrator shall reimburse such eligible applicant for any such reasonable costs.

(d) (1) Any applicant may appeal a decision of the administrator concerning such applicant's eligibility for the grant program or the amount of **[**an award granted**]** a grant awarded to such applicant **[**, to the Comptroller, in accordance with procedures set forth by the Comptroller. Any such appeal shall be made**]** not later than thirty days after the issuance of such decision **[**and any decision concerning any such appeal shall be final. The Comptroller may hire an administrator for the purpose of conducting such appeals. Findings of the administrator made pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection (c) of this section shall not be admissible in any administrative or judicial proceeding**]** by filing a notice of intent to appeal with the Comptroller. Any such appeal shall be heard by a judge trial referee assigned by the

Chief Court Administrator, who shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of section 52-434 from funds made available to the Comptroller.

(2) In any appeal taken pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, a judge trial referee may consider evidence presented by the applicant, administrator or other interested party, including, but not limited to, testimony or reports prepared by or on behalf of such parties. The applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating by a preponderance of evidence that such applicant is eligible for the grant program and assistance to pay for repairs to real property or reimbursement for costs associated with damage to personal property. Upon such demonstration, the judge trial referee shall award a grant to such applicant in accordance with the formula established by the Comptroller. Any decision made pursuant to this subsection shall be issued not later than sixty days following the end of the hearing and shall be final.

(e) Upon the request of a tenant residing in a residential building or occupying a commercial property that was damaged by flooding on or after January 1, 2021, the administrator shall notify the owner of such residential building of the availability of the program developed and administered pursuant to this section by mail or electronic mail, if such owner's mailing address or electronic mail address are known to the administrator.

(f) The program established pursuant to this section shall terminate upon the exhaustion of the Hartford Sewerage System Repair and Improvement Fund established pursuant to section 7-621.

Sec. 25. Section 4a-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall be responsible

for the following: (1) Investigation, determination, billing and collection of all charges for support of persons aided, cared for or treated in a state humane institution, as defined in section 17b-222, and enforcement of support obligations of the liable relatives of such persons; (2) investigation, determination, billing and collection of all charges for services covered under the Medicaid or Medicare programs provided to persons aided, cared for or treated by the Department of Veterans Affairs; (3) billing and collection of any money due to the state in public assistance cases, and enforcement of support obligations of liable relatives in such cases; (4) collection of benefits and maintenance of trustee accounts therefor; and (5) such collection services for other state agencies and departments as shall be agreed to between said commissioner and the heads of such other agencies and departments.

(b) Any debt referred to the Department of Administrative Services by a state agency may be referred by the commissioner to a consumer collection agency, licensed under section 36a-801, or, with the approval of the Attorney General, to an attorney admitted under the provisions of section 51-80 who practices in the area of debt collection, for collection, provided the debtor has been given at least thirty days' notice that the debt will be so referred.

(c) For purposes of this section, "liable relative" means the husband or wife of any person receiving public assistance or aided, cared for or treated in a state humane institution, as defined in said section 17b-222, and the father and mother of any such person under the age of eighteen years, but shall not include the parent or parents whose financial liability for a child is determined by the Office of Child Support Services under subsection (b) of section 17b-179. The Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 establishing: (1) A uniform contribution scale for liable relatives based upon ability to pay and the administrative

feasibility of collecting such contributions, provided no such liable relative shall contribute an amount in excess of twelve per cent of the remainder, if any, after the state median income, adjusted for family size, has been deducted from such liable relative's taxable income for federal income tax purposes, or if such federal income tax information is unavailable, from such relative's taxable income, as calculated from other sources, including, but not limited to, information pertaining to wages, salaries and commissions as provided by such relative's employer; (2) the manner in which the Department of Administrative Services shall determine and periodically reinvestigate the ability of such liable relatives to pay; and (3) the manner in which the department shall waive such contributions upon determination that such contribution would pose a significant financial hardship upon such liable relatives.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of **[**subsection (c) of**]** this section, no liability shall be imposed upon a liable relative upon determination by the Department of Developmental Services, Social Services, Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services or Public Health that the benefit of the assistance or service provided would be significantly impaired by the imposition of such liability. Each such department may waive all or part of any liability resulting from its delay in establishing such liability if it determines that imposition of such liability would pose a significant financial hardship upon a liable relative.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, on and after July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall not recover charges from the estate of a deceased person for the aid, care or treatment of such person in a state humane institution unless (1) recovery of such charges is required under federal law, or (2) the person was liable pursuant to subsection (d) of section 17b-223 for the difference between the amounts actually billed and paid and the

amount that would have been billed against such person except for fraud or concealment. The commissioner shall release any liens filed for recovery of such charges except for any lien filed pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the commissioner to return to any person or estate payments properly recovered by the commissioner pursuant to this section for charges related to the aid, care or treatment of a person in a humane institution before July 1, 2024.

Sec. 26. Section 17b-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

A patient who is receiving or has received care in a state humane institution, his estate or both shall be liable to reimburse the state for any unpaid portion of per capita cost in accordance with section 4a-12, subject to the same protection of a surviving spouse or dependent child as is provided in section 17b-95.

Sec. 27. Section 17b-228 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) When any person has been supported, wholly or in part, by the state in a humane institution, whether such person was admitted thereto as a pauper or indigent or otherwise, and any portion of the charges for which such person or his liable relatives were liable under the provisions of section 17b-223 remains unpaid, such person or such relatives, as the case may be, or the estate of any such person or such relatives, shall be liable to the state therefor, and the Commissioner of Administrative Services may, in the name of the state, bring a complaint therefor, against any liable person or persons, in any court having jurisdiction thereof in the county in which such liable person or the conservator or guardian of such patient resides, or, if several are liable, in the county in which any of them resides, and any other person who might, under the provisions hereof, have been made a defendant in such

action may be cited in as a party defendant on motion of either party thereto. Said court may render judgment against the defendant, or each or any of the several defendants, in favor of the state for the balance of the charges remaining unpaid for which such defendants are liable, and payment of such judgment may be secured by attachment and execution issued thereon. The limitation of action provided in section 52-576 shall apply only to any such claim against a relative as such, and any claim by the state for reimbursement of the balance of the billed charges remaining unpaid from the estate of any deceased person shall be presented to the executor or administrator thereof within the time limited for the presentation of other claims against such estate.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall not recover charges from the estate of a deceased person for the aid, care or treatment of such person in a state humane institution except in accordance with sections 4a-12 and 17b-230.

Sec. 28. Subsection (b) of section 17b-229 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) The provisions of sections 17a-502, 17b-222, 17b-223, 17b-228, 17b-232, 17b-745, 46b-215 and 53-304 shall not affect or impair the responsibility of any patient or patient's estate for his care in a state humane institution prior to July 1, 1955, and the same may be enforced by any action by which such responsibility would have been enforceable prior to July 1, 1955, but only to the extent of that portion of such estate **[**as**]** (1) that may be charged pursuant to section 4a-12, and (2) that is not needed for the support of the spouse, parents and dependent children of such patient.

Sec. 29. Section 17b-230 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

Upon the death of a patient or of a person who has, at any time, been a patient in a state humane institution, the state shall have a claim against his estate for reimbursement for institutional support according to the provisions of sections 4a-12, 17b-223, 17b-224 and 17b-229 to the extent that the amount which the surviving spouse, parent or dependent children of the decedent would otherwise take from such estate is not needed for their support. Such claims shall have priority over all unsecured claims against such estate, except (1) expenses of last sickness not to exceed three hundred seventy-five dollars, (2) funeral and burial expenses in accordance with section 17b-84, (3) such unpaid fees and expenses of the conservator of such patient, if any, as are authorized by law, and (4) administrative expenses, including probate fees and taxes, and including fiduciary fees not exceeding the following commissions on the value of the whole estates accounted for by such fiduciaries: On the first two thousand dollars or portion thereof, five per cent; on the next eight thousand dollars or portion thereof, four per cent; on the excess over ten thousand dollars, three per cent. Upon petition by any fiduciary, the Probate Court, after hearing thereon, may authorize compensation in excess of the above schedule for extraordinary services. Notice of any such petition and hearing shall be given to the Commissioner of Administrative Services in Hartford at least ten days in advance of such hearing. The allowable funeral and burial payment herein shall be reduced by the amount of any prepaid funeral arrangement. Any amount paid from the estate under this section to any person which exceeds the limits provided herein shall be repaid to the estate by such person, and such amount may be recovered in a civil action with interest at six per cent from the date of demand.

Sec. 30. Subsection (e) of section 45a-273 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(e) The court shall determine the persons and entities entitled to

payment for the claims, expenses and taxes due from the estate, or reimbursement for such amounts paid on behalf of the estate, in accordance with section 45a-365 except, (1) if a decedent received aid or care from the state or received care in a state humane institution, such reimbursement shall be in accordance with **[**section**]** sections 4a-12 and 17b-95; and (2) if a decedent is obligated to pay the decedent's cost of incarceration, such reimbursement shall be in accordance with section 18-85c. If the claims, taxes and expenses exceed the fair value of the decedent's assets, the court shall order payment in accordance with this subsection, provided the procedures for insolvent estates under sections 45a-376 to 45a-383, inclusive, shall not be required.

Sec. 31. Section 18-85a of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(NEW) (c) Any state claim for the cost of incarceration for an inmate whose criminal record was erased pursuant to chapter 961a shall be terminated to the extent such cost was incurred during time served by such inmate for crimes included on the erased criminal record. Such inmate shall not be entitled to reimbursement for any state claims paid by or on behalf of such inmate prior to July 1, 2024, for the cost of such inmate's incarceration.

Sec. 32. Subsection (b) of section 18-85b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) In the case of an inheritance of an estate by any person who is obligated to pay the costs of such person's incarceration under section 18-85a and regulations adopted in accordance with said section that is received by such person within twenty years from the date such person is released from incarceration, the claim of the state shall be a lien against such inheritance in the amount of the costs of incarceration or fifty per cent of the assets of the estate payable to such person,

whichever is less. The first fifty thousand dollars inherited by such person shall be exempt from any lien placed under this section, except in the case of an inmate incarcerated for a capital felony under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, or murder with special circumstances committed on or after April 25, 2012, under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect on or after April 25, 2012, or a violation of section 53a-54c, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70c or 53a-71. The **[**Court of**]** Probate Court shall accept any such lien notice filed by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee with the court prior to the distribution of such inheritance, and to the extent of such inheritance not already distributed, the court shall order distribution in accordance therewith.

Sec. 33. Section 18-85c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

Upon the death of any person obligated to pay the costs of such **[**person's**]** person's incarceration under section 18-85a and regulations adopted in accordance with said section that occurs within twenty years from the date such person is released from incarceration, the state shall have a claim against such person's estate for all costs of incarceration under the provisions of said section and such regulations for which the state has not been reimbursed, to the extent that the amount which the surviving spouse, parent or dependent children of the decedent would otherwise take from such estate is not needed for their support. Any property, whether real or personal, that is deemed by the Probate Court to be an asset of the estate shall be used to pay the state's claim under this section. Such claim shall have priority over all other unsecured claims against such estate, including any lien of the state for repayment of public assistance, except (1) expenses of last sickness not to exceed three hundred seventy-five dollars, (2) funeral and burial expenses in accordance with that allowed under sections 17b-84 and 17b-131 upon the death of a beneficiary of aid, (3) child support obligations collected

by the state in accordance with subsection (a) of section 17b-265 and section 52-362d, (4) restitution or payment of compensation to a crime victim ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, (5) payment of a civil judgment rendered in favor of a crime victim by a court of competent jurisdiction, and (6) administrative expenses, including probate fees and taxes, and including fiduciary fees not exceeding the following commissions on the value of the whole estates accounted for by such fiduciaries: On the first two thousand dollars or portion thereof, five per cent; on the next eight thousand dollars or portion thereof, four per cent; on the excess over ten thousand dollars, three per cent. Upon petition by any fiduciary, the Court of Probate, after a hearing thereon, may authorize compensation in excess of the above schedule for extraordinary services. Notice of any such petition and hearing shall be given to the Commissioner of Correction at least ten days in advance of such hearing. The allowable funeral and burial payment authorized by this section shall be reduced by the amount of any prepaid funeral arrangement. Any amount paid from the estate under this section to any person that exceeds the limits provided in this section shall be repaid to the estate by such person, and such amount may be recovered in a civil action with interest at the legal rate from the date of demand.

Sec. 34. Subsection (a) of section 29-1f of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The clearinghouse established under section 29-1e shall collect, process, maintain and disseminate information to assist in the location of any missing person who (1) is eighteen years of age or older and has a mental impairment **[**,**]** or has an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities, or (2) is sixty-five years of age or older, **[**or (3) on and after January 15, 2024, has an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities,**]** provided a missing person report prepared by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection has

been filed by such missing person's relative, guardian, conservator or agent appointed by the missing person in accordance with sections 1-350 to 1-353b, inclusive, any health care representative appointed by the missing person in accordance with section 19a-576 or a nursing home administrator, as defined in section 19a-511, or, pursuant to section 17a-465b, by an employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services who is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive. Such relative, guardian, conservator, agent, health care representative, nursing home administrator or employee shall attest under penalty of perjury that the missing person (A) is eighteen years of age or older and has a mental impairment **[**,**]** or has an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities, or (B) is sixty-five years of age or older. **[**, or (C) has an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities.**]** No other proof shall be required in order to verify that the missing person meets the criteria to be eligible for assistance under this subsection. Such relative, guardian, conservator, agent, health care representative, nursing home administrator or employee who files a missing person report shall immediately notify the clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the missing person's location has been determined.

Sec. 35. Subsection (a) of section 18 of public act 23-137 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the state-wide coordinator of programs and services provided by state agencies for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, appointed pursuant to section 14 of **[**this act**]** public act 23-137, and within available appropriations, shall establish a two-year pilot program in partnership with a **[**hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes**]** free-standing, long-term acute care hospital in Hartford County with an established, specialized interdisciplinary program for younger children and adolescents with the diagnosis of autism

spectrum disorder to provide nonresidential outpatient day services for persons with autism spectrum disorder. The commissioner shall select a hospital not later than September 1, 2024, and the hospital shall start providing services not later than October 1, 2024.

Sec. 36. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 4-124xx of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The Chief Workforce Officer, in consultation with the Labor Commissioner, shall develop a plan for the Human Services Career Pipeline program that includes, but is not be limited to: (1) A strategy to increase the number of state residents pursuing careers in human services, (2) recommended salary and working conditions necessary to retain an adequate number of human services providers to serve state residents, and (3) estimated funding needed to support the Human Services Career Pipeline program. Not later than July 1, 2024, the Chief Workforce Officer shall submit a report on the plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, aging, higher education and employment advancement, human services, labor and public health. The report shall include the Chief Workforce Officer's recommendations for establishing the career pipeline and estimates of funding needed to implement the pipeline.

(d) The Chief Workforce Officer shall, within available appropriations, establish such career pipeline **[**not later than July 1, 2024,**]** and, if such pipeline is established, submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, regarding the development and implementation of the pipeline to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, **[**and the budgets of state agencies,**]** aging, higher education and employment advancement, human services, labor and public health. For purposes of

this section, "human services labor sector" means persons trained to provide services to persons with an intellectual disability; other developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder; physical disabilities; cognitive impairment or mental illness; and elderly persons.

Sec. 37. Sections 7-294qq and 28-25c of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 17b-261 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) Medical assistance shall be provided for any otherwise eligible person (1) whose income, including any available support from legally liable relatives and the income of the person's spouse or dependent child, is not more than one hundred **[**forty-three**]** fifty-nine per cent, pending approval of a federal waiver applied for pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, of the benefit amount paid to a person with no income under the temporary family assistance program and (2) if such person is an institutionalized individual as defined in Section 1917 of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(h)(3), and has not made an assignment or transfer or other disposition of property for less than fair market value for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits or assistance under this section. Any such disposition shall be treated in accordance with Section 1917(c) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(c). Any disposition of property made on behalf of an applicant or recipient or the spouse of an applicant or recipient by a guardian, conservator, person authorized to make such disposition pursuant to a power of attorney or other person so authorized by law shall be attributed to such applicant, recipient or spouse. A disposition of property ordered by a court shall be evaluated in accordance with the standards applied to any other such disposition for the purpose of determining eligibility. The commissioner shall establish the standards for eligibility for medical

assistance at one hundred **[**forty-three**]** fifty-nine per cent of the benefit amount paid to a household of equal size with no income under the temporary family assistance program. In determining eligibility, the commissioner shall not consider as income Aid and Attendance pension benefits granted to a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or the surviving spouse of such veteran. Except as provided in section 17b-277 and section 17b-292, the medical assistance program shall provide coverage to persons under the age of nineteen with household income up to one hundred ninety-six per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit and to persons under the age of nineteen, who qualify for coverage under Section 1931 of the Social Security Act, with household income not exceeding one hundred ninety-six per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit, and their parents and needy caretaker relatives, who qualify for coverage under Section 1931 of the Social Security Act, with household income not exceeding one hundred **[**fifty-five**]** thirty-three per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit. Such levels shall be based on the regional differences in such benefit amount, if applicable, unless such levels based on regional differences are not in conformance with federal law. Any income in excess of the applicable amounts shall be applied as may be required by said federal law, and assistance shall be granted for the balance of the cost of authorized medical assistance. The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide applicants for assistance under this section, at the time of application, with a written statement advising them of (A) the effect of an assignment or transfer or other disposition of property on eligibility for benefits or assistance, (B) the effect that having income that exceeds the limits prescribed in this subsection will have with respect to program eligibility, and (C) the availability of, and eligibility for, services provided by the Connecticut Home Visiting System, established pursuant to section 17b-751b. For coverage dates on or after January 1, 2014, the department shall use the modified adjusted gross income financial eligibility rules set forth in Section 1902(e)(14) of the Social Security Act and the implementing regulations to determine

eligibility for HUSKY A, HUSKY B and HUSKY D applicants, as defined in section 17b-290. Persons who are determined ineligible for assistance pursuant to this section shall be provided a written statement notifying such persons of their ineligibility and advising such persons of their potential eligibility for one of the other insurance affordability programs as defined in 42 CFR 435.4.

Sec. 39. Section 302 of public act 23-204 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 40. Section 23-15h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) There is established an account to be known as the Passport to the Parks account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. Moneys in such account shall be used to provide expenses of the Council on Environmental Quality, beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and for the care, maintenance, operation and improvement of state parks and campgrounds, the care, maintenance and operation of Batterson Park, a public park owned by the city of Hartford and located in the city of New Britain and the town of Farmington, the operation of the Thames River Heritage Park taxi serving the city of New London and the city of Groton for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2031, inclusive, in an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028, inclusive, one hundred thousand dollars in the fiscal years ending June 30, 2029, and June 30, 2030, and in an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2031, the funding of soil and water conservation districts and the funding of environmental review teams, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. All funds collected from the Passport to the Parks Fee established pursuant to section 14-49b shall be deposited into the Passport to the Parks account. Such account shall contain all moneys required by law to be deposited in such account. Such account

may receive funds from private or public sources, including, but not limited to, any municipal government or the federal government. Such account shall contain subaccounts as required by section 23-15b.

(b) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and each fiscal year thereafter, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars shall be paid by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection from the Passport to the Parks account to each of the following entities: (1) The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, (2) the Eastern Conservation District, (3) the North Central Conservation District, (4) the Northwest Conservation District, (5) the Southwest Conservation District, (6) the Connecticut Environmental Review Team, and (7) the Connecticut Council on Water and Soil Conservation.

Sec. 41. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the city of Hartford and Riverfront Recapture shall enter into a memorandum of agreement for the care, maintenance and operation of Batterson Park by Riverfront Recapture. Such agreement may include, but shall not be limited to: (1) Authorization for Riverfront Recapture, through its agents and employees, to enter upon, maintain and operate all areas of Batterson Park, including, but not limited to, any areas not under the care, custody and control of the city of Hartford, and (2) the provision of a grant-in-aid from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to Riverfront Recapture, each fiscal year, for the care, maintenance and operation of Batterson Park through funding available to such state agency in accordance with the provisions of section 23-15h of the general statutes.

Sec. 42. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation for the funding of the operations and administration of a water taxi boat and tour operations along the Thames River in both the city of New London and the city of

Groton during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2031, in accordance with subsection (a) of section 23-15h of the general statutes.

Sec. 43. Subsection (b) of section 14-49b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) For each new registration or renewal of registration of any motor vehicle with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to this chapter, the person registering such vehicle shall pay to the commissioner a fee of **[**fifteen**]** twenty-four dollars for registration for a triennial period or **[**ten**]** sixteen dollars for registration for a biennial period for the following registration types: Passenger, motorcycle, motor home, combination or antique. Any person who is sixty-five years or older and who obtains a one-year registration renewal under section 14-49 for such registration type shall pay **[**five**]** eight dollars for the annual registration period. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any motor vehicle that is not self-propelled or that is exempted from payment of a registration fee. This fee shall be identified as the "Passport to the Parks Fee" on any registration form provided by the commissioner. Payments collected pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited in the Passport to the Parks account established pursuant to section 23-15h. The fee required by this subsection is in addition to any other fees prescribed by any other provision of this title for the registration of a motor vehicle. No part of the "Passport to the Parks Fee" shall be subject to a refund under subsection (z) of section 14-49.

Sec. 44. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller shall fund the fringe benefit cost differential between the average rate for fringe benefits for employees of private hospitals in the state and the fringe benefit rate for employees of The University of Connecticut Health Center from the resources appropriated for State Comptroller-Fringe

Benefits in an amount not to exceed $4,500,000. For purposes of this section, the "fringe benefit cost differential" means the difference between the state fringe benefit rate calculated on The University of Connecticut Health Center payroll and the average member fringe benefit rate of all Connecticut acute care hospitals as contained in the annual reports submitted to the Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy pursuant to section 19a-644 of the general statutes. The Comptroller shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with The University of Connecticut Health Center for the purpose of providing operating support.

Sec. 45. Subsection (g) of section 19a-59i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(g) **[**Not later than January 1, 2023, the maternal mortality review committee**]** The Department of Public Health shall develop educational materials regarding:

(1) The health and safety of pregnant and postpartum persons with mental health disorders, including, but not limited to, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, for distribution by the **[**Department of Public Health**]** department to each birthing hospital in the state. As used in this subdivision, "birthing hospital" means a health care facility, as defined in section 19a-630, operated and maintained in whole or in part for the purpose of caring for patients during the delivery of a child and for a postpartum person and such person's newborn following birth;

(2) Evidence-based screening tools for screening patients for intimate partner violence, peripartum mood disorders and substance use disorder for distribution by the **[**Department of Public Health**]** department to obstetricians and other health care providers who practice obstetrics; **[**and**]**

(3) Indicators of intimate partner violence for distribution by the **[**Department of Public Health**]** department to (A) hospitals for use by health care providers in the emergency department and hospital social workers, and (B) obstetricians and other health care providers who practice obstetrics; and

(4) Not later than January 1, 2025, intimate partner violence toward pregnant and postpartum persons for distribution by the department (A) in print to each birthing hospital and birth center in the state, and (B) electronically to obstetricians and other health care providers who practice obstetrics for provision to pregnant and postpartum patients. The department shall consult with organizations that advocate on behalf of victims of domestic violence in the development of educational materials pursuant to this subdivision.

Sec. 46. Section 19a-490ee of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section, (1) "birthing hospital" means a health care facility, as defined in section 19a-630, operated and maintained in whole or in part for the purpose of caring for a person during the delivery of a child and for a postpartum person and such person's newborn following birth; and (2) "birth center" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-490.

(b) **[**On and after October 1, 2022, each**]** Each birthing hospital shall provide to each patient who has undergone a caesarean section written information regarding the importance of mobility following a caesarean section and the risks associated with immobility following a caesarean section.

(c) **[**Not later than January 1, 2023, each**]** Each birthing hospital shall establish a patient portal through which a postpartum patient can virtually access, through an Internet web site or application, any

educational materials and other information that the birthing hospital provided to the patient during the patient's stay at the birthing hospital and at the time of the patient's discharge from the birthing hospital.

(d) **[**On and after January 1, 2023, each**]** Each birthing hospital shall provide to each postpartum patient the educational materials regarding the health and safety of pregnant and postpartum persons with mental health disorders, including, but not limited to, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, developed by the maternal mortality review committee pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 19a-59i.

(e) On and after January 1, 2025, each birthing hospital and birth center shall provide to each pregnant and postpartum patient the educational materials regarding intimate partner violence toward pregnant and postpartum persons, developed by the Department of Public Health pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (g) of section 19a-59i.

Sec. 47. Section 32-616a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) For purposes of this section and section 32-616b:

(1) "Authority" means the Capital Region Development Authority established pursuant to section 32-601.

(2) "Contractor" means an entity, including any affiliate thereof, selected and approved by the board of directors of the authority to manage and operate the XL Center.

(3) "XL Center" means the civic center and coliseum complex in the city of Hartford known as the XL Center and includes the adjoining parking garage owned by the authority that is located on Church Street

in the city of Hartford.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the authority may enter into an agreement with the contractor that is managing and operating the XL Center on July 1, 2023, to continue to manage and operate the XL Center. Any such agreement shall provide that the contractor will manage, operate and invest in the renovation of the XL Center and bear any losses and share in any profits from the operation of the XL Center. Any such agreement shall be entered into not later than December 31, 2025, except amendments thereto may be entered into after said date. Any such agreement or amendment to such agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

(c) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following terms and conditions:

(1) The term of the agreement, the expiration of which shall be limited to the earliest expiration of any agreement entered into in accordance with subsection (e) of this section;

(2) The amounts that the authority and the contractor shall contribute toward the renovation and reconstruction of the XL Center pursuant to section 32-616b;

(3) A complete description of the scope of the management and operations and functions to be performed under the agreement and the responsibilities of the authority and the contractor thereunder;

(4) The minimum quality standards the contractor shall maintain in its management and operation of the XL Center;

(5) The methodology to calculate the net profit or loss derived from the operations of the XL Center, provided (A) operating expenses shall not include depreciation on any assets paid for with the funds

contributed by the contractor or the authority for the renovation and reconstruction of the XL Center in accordance with section 32-616b, and (B) operating expenses may include fees for certain services that are paid to the contractor or its affiliates for certain services rendered, including, but not limited to, venue management fees, food and beverage fees, and sponsorship and premium commissions;

(6) The division of the net profit or loss between the contractor and the authority, provided that on an annual basis: (A) The contractor shall be responsible for any net loss from the operations of the XL Center, (B) the contractor shall retain the first four million dollars of any net profit from the operations of the XL Center, and (C) any net profit from the operations of the XL Center in excess of four million dollars shall be split equally between the contractor and the authority;

(7) Any amounts that the contractor and the authority will contribute to a capital expense fund to pay for future capital improvements;

(8) A requirement that the contractor furnish an annual independent audit report to the authority and to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management covering all aspects of the agreement;

(9) Performance and payment bonds or other security deemed suitable by the authority;

(10) One or more policies of public liability insurance in such amounts determined by the authority to ensure coverage of tort liability for the public and employees of the contractor and to provide for the continued operation of the XL Center;

(11) The rights and remedies available to the authority for a material breach of the agreement by the contractor; and

(12) Any other provision determined to be appropriate by the authority.

(d) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be consistent with the provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 32-602.

(e) Prior to entering into any agreement pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the authority shall enter into one or more agreements with the city of Hartford to extend the lease of the XL Center.

(f) For purposes of property taxation, while owned, leased or operated by the authority or the contractor, the XL Center and any personal property located thereon shall be deemed to be state-owned property under subdivision (2) of section 12-81, except the state shall not make any grant in lieu of taxes with respect to the XL Center.

(g) Sales of tangible personal property or services that are necessary for the operation of the XL Center made to the contractor while the XL Center is operated by the contractor shall be exempt from the taxes imposed under chapter 219.

Sec. 48. Section 32-616b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the authority may enter into one or more agreements for a project to renovate and reconstruct the XL Center. Any such agreement shall be entered into not later than December 31, 2025, except amendments thereto may be entered into after said date. Any such agreement or amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

(b) Any such agreement shall provide that the authority, the state, or a combination thereof, shall contribute not more than **[**eighty**]** one hundred twenty-five million dollars and the contractor shall contribute not less than twenty million dollars toward the costs of any renovation

or reconstruction of the XL Center occurring after January 1, 2023.

Sec. 49. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Department of Correction, shall conduct a needs assessment of the facilities, materials and staffing required for the delivery of postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities. Such assessment shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a solicitation of feedback from institutions of higher education that provide postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities to understand current needs, (2) an analysis of the policies of the Department of Correction concerning postsecondary education of incarcerated persons, (3) a determination of the level of unmet demand for postsecondary education among incarcerated persons, (4) an inventory of the (A) correctional facilities, including, but not limited to, classrooms, multipurpose rooms, libraries and study rooms, (B) staffing, and (C) materials, including, but not limited to, education technology and Internet access, currently available for the delivery of postsecondary education, (5) recommendations for and a cost analysis of the improvement of such facilities, staffing and materials to meet the unmet demand for postsecondary education, (6) a survey of (A) students of postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities, (B) former students of such programs, in consultation with regional reentry programs, and (C) any group or person the division deems necessary, and (7) a listing of any other specific barriers to the effective delivery of postsecondary education programs to incarcerated persons.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement regarding the needs assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 50. Subsection (b) of section 10a-173 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The Office of Higher Education shall establish the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program to annually make need-based financial aid available for eligible educational costs to eligible students enrolled at Connecticut's public and independent institutions of higher education. Within available funds, the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program shall include a need and merit-based grant, a need-based grant and a Charter Oak grant. The need and merit-based grant shall be funded at not less than twenty per cent but not more than thirty per cent of available funds or ten million dollars, whichever is greater. The need-based grant shall be funded at up to eighty per cent of available funds. The Charter Oak grant shall be not less than one hundred thousand dollars of available funds. There shall be an administrative allowance based on one-quarter of one per cent of the available funds, but not less than one hundred thousand dollars annually. The Office of Higher Education shall **[**use**]** disburse the funds appropriated or allocated for the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program for the fiscal **[**year**]** years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, to make awards pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and allocate funds pursuant to subsections (d) and (f) of this section **[**for the academic years commencing July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024**]** in accordance with a plan developed by the office, provided the office shall **[**use**]** (1) disburse all funds allocated for the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program from the federal funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of Section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, on or before December 31, 2024, and (2) in accordance with subsection (f) of section 4-89, reserve an amount of not more than fifteen million dollars from the amount appropriated for the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, for disbursement during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Sec. 51. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, and quarterly thereafter, the Connecticut Port Authority shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies that shall include the following: (1) A description of the authority's work to support grants under the Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program; (2) a description of the authority's dredging activities and the needs concerning dredging in harbors in the state; (3) a description of the authority's marketing activities on behalf of maritime communities in the state; and (4) a staffing plan to handle the needs of the authority.

Sec. 52. Section 2-137 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee. The committee shall evaluate the availability and efficacy of prevention, early intervention, and behavioral health treatment services and options for children from birth to age eighteen and make recommendations to the General Assembly and executive agencies regarding the governance and administration of the behavioral health care system for children. The committee shall be within the Legislative Department. For purposes of this section, "behavioral health" means mental health and substance use disorders, as well as overall psychological well-being.

(b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, human services, children and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, or their designees;

(2) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and two of whom shall be providers of behavioral health services for children in the state;

(3) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and two of whom shall be representatives of private advocacy groups that provide services for children and families in the state;

(4) (A) Two appointed by the chairperson of the committee selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, one of whom shall be a child or youth advocate; and (B) two appointed by the chairperson of the committee selected by the president pro tempore of the Senate pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, one of whom shall be a child or youth advocate;

(5) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be representatives of children's hospitals;

(6) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of public school superintendents in the state;

(7) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be representatives of families with children who have been diagnosed with behavioral health disorders;

(8) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be providers of behavioral health services;

(9) Two jointly appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, each of whom shall be a representative of one of the two federally recognized Indian tribes in the state;

[(9)**]** (10) The Commissioners of Children and Families, Correction, Developmental Services, Early Childhood, Education, Insurance, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health and Social Services, or their designees;

[(10)**]** (11) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy, or the executive director's designee;

[(11)**]** (12) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

[(12)**]** (13) The Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee;

[(13)**]** (14) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee;

[(14)**]** (15) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee;

[(15)**]** (16) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; and

[(16)**]** (17) One representative from each administrative services organization under contract with the Department of Social Services to provide such services for recipients of assistance under the HUSKY Health program, who shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members.

(c) Any member of the committee appointed under subdivisions (1) to (8), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The chairpersons of the committee shall be (1) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, and (2)

two members of the General Assembly, one each selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate from among the members serving pursuant to subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (b) of this section. The three chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the committee, which shall be held not later than September 1, 2023.

(f) Members of the committee shall serve without compensation, except for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(g) Not later than December 1, **[**2023**]** 2025, the committee shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, public health, human services and children, and the Office of Policy and Management, regarding the following:

(1) Any statutory and budgetary changes needed concerning the behavioral health system of prevention, development and treatment that the committee recommends to (A) improve developmental and behavioral health outcomes for children; (B) improve transparency and accountability with respect to state-funded services for children and youth with an emphasis on goals identified by the committee for community-based programs and facility-based interventions; and (C) promote the efficient sharing of information by state and state-funded agencies to ensure the regular collection and reporting of data regarding children and families' access to, utilization of and benefit from services necessary to promote public health and behavioral health outcomes for children and youth and their families;

(2) The gaps in services identified by the committee with respect to children and families involved in the behavioral health system, and recommendations to address such gaps in services;

(3) Strengths and barriers identified by the committee that support or impede the behavioral health needs of children and youth with specific recommendations for reforms;

(4) An examination of the way state agencies can work collaboratively through school-based efforts and other processes to improve developmental and behavioral health outcomes for children;

(5) An examination of disproportionate access and outcomes across the behavioral health care system for children of color;

(6) An examination of disproportionate access and outcomes across the behavioral health care system for children with developmental disabilities;

(7) A plan to ensure a quality assurance framework for facilities and programs that are part of the behavioral health care system and are operated privately or by the state that includes data regarding efficacy and outcomes; and

(8) A governance structure for the children's behavioral health system that will best facilitate the public policy and healthcare goals of the state to ensure that all children and families, in urban, rural and all other areas of the state, can access high-quality behavioral health care.

(h) The committee may complete its duties under this section after requesting consultation with one or more organizations that focus on children's behavioral health. The committee may accept administrative support and technical and research assistance from any organization.

(i) The committee shall be given access to data collected by the state on matters related to children's behavioral health from the relevant state agencies or directly from contracted administrative service organizations, as applicable.

(j) The committee may include two or more subcommittees chaired by a member of the committee to inform its recommendations. The subcommittees may focus on: Workforce-related issues, school-based health, prevention, and intermediate or acute care. Any subcommittees may examine gaps, reimbursement rates, parity in the outcomes of services or the efficacy of services.

(k) The committee shall, annually, establish a work plan for reviewing and making follow-up reports on the status or progress of the committee's recommendations and activities. The work plan shall include specific recommendations to improve outcomes related to children's behavioral health and a timeline indicating dates by which specific tasks or outcomes should be achieved.

(l) The committee shall develop a strategic plan that integrates the recommendations identified pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. In developing the plan, the committee may collaborate with any state agency with responsibilities relating to the behavioral health system.

(m) Not later than December 1, **[**2024**]** 2026, the committee shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, such plan, together with an account of progress made toward the full implementation of such plan, and any recommendations concerning the implementation of identified goals in the plan to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, public health, human services and children, and the Office of Policy and Management.

Sec. 53. Subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of section 10a-173 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(c) The Roberta B. Willis Scholarship need and merit-based grant shall be available to any eligible student at any public or independent

institution of higher education. The Office of Higher Education shall determine qualification for financial need based on family contribution prior to July 1, 2024, and, on and after July 1, 2024, based on student aid index and qualification for merit based on either previous high school academic achievement or performance on standardized academic aptitude tests. The Office of Higher Education shall make awards according to a sliding scale, annually determined by said office, up to a maximum family contribution or student aid index and based on available funds and the number of eligible students who qualify for an award. The Roberta B. Willis Scholarship need and merit-based grant shall be awarded in a higher amount than the need-based grant awarded pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, except for the academic year commencing July 1, 2024. Recipients of the need and merit-based grant shall not be eligible to receive an additional need-based award. The order of institutions of higher education provided by an eligible student on such student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid shall not affect the student's qualification for an award under this subsection. The institution of higher education in which an eligible student enrolls shall disburse sums awarded under the need and merit-based grant for payment of such student's eligible educational costs.

(d) The Roberta B. Willis Scholarship need-based grant shall be available to any eligible student at any public or independent institution of higher education. The amount of the annual funds to be allocated to each institution of higher education shall be determined by its actual full-time equivalent enrollment of eligible students with a family contribution or student aid index during the fall semester of the fiscal year two years prior to the grant year of an amount not greater than two hundred per cent of the maximum family contribution or student aid index eligible for a federal Pell grant award for the academic year one year prior to the grant year. Not later than July first, annually, each institution of higher education shall report such enrollment data to the

Office of Higher Education. Not later than October first, annually, the Office of Higher Education shall (1) publish such enrollment data on its Internet web site, (2) notify each institution of higher education of the proportion of the annual funds that such institution of higher education will receive the following fiscal year, and (3) publish the proportions for each institution of higher education on its Internet web site. Participating institutions of higher education shall make awards (A) to eligible full-time students in an amount up to four thousand five hundred dollars, and (B) to eligible part-time students in an amount that is prorated according to the number of credits each student will earn for completing the course or courses in which such student is enrolled, such that a student enrolled in a course or courses earning (i) at least nine but less than twelve credits is eligible for up to seventy-five per cent of the maximum award, and (ii) at least six but less than nine credits is eligible for up to fifty per cent of the maximum award. Each participating institution of higher education shall expend all of the moneys received under the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program as direct financial assistance only for eligible educational costs.

(e) Participating institutions of higher education shall annually provide the Office of Higher Education with data and reports on all eligible students who applied for financial aid, including, but not limited to, students receiving a Roberta B. Willis Scholarship grant, in a form and at a time determined by said office. If an institution of higher education fails to submit information to the Office of Higher Education as directed, such institution shall be prohibited from participating in the scholarship program in the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which such institution failed to submit such information. Each participating institution of higher education shall maintain, for a period of not less than three years, records substantiating the reported number of eligible students and documentation utilized by the institution of higher education in determining qualification of the student grant recipients. Such records shall be subject to audit or review. <u>For the academic year</u>

commencing July 1, 2024, the Office of Higher Education shall (1) not require participating institutions of higher education to reduce the amount of a need-based grant awarded to an eligible student based on the initial qualifications determined from such student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid, even if the United States Department of Education subsequently revises such qualifications, and (2) deem a participating institution of higher education to be in compliance with this section if such initial qualifications qualified an eligible student for the need-based grant that such student was awarded. Funds not obligated by an institution of higher education shall be returned by May first in the fiscal year the grant was made to the Office of Higher Education for reallocation. Financial aid provided to eligible students under this program shall be designated as a grant from the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program.

Sec. 54. Subsection (d) of section 22a-202 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) On and after July 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall establish and administer a program to provide rebates or vouchers to residents, municipalities, businesses, nonprofit organizations and tribal entities located in this state when such residents, municipalities, businesses, organizations or tribal entities purchase or lease a new or used battery electric vehicle, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle or fuel cell electric vehicle. The commissioner, in consultation with the advisory board, shall establish and revise, as necessary, appropriate rebate levels, voucher amounts and maximum income eligibility for such rebates or vouchers. The commissioner shall prioritize the granting of rebates or vouchers to residents of environmental justice communities, residents having household incomes at or below three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level and residents who participate in state and federal assistance programs,

including, but not limited to, the state-administered federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, state-administered federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, a Head Start program established pursuant to section 10-16n or assistance provided by Operation Fuel, Incorporated. Any such rebate or voucher awarded to a resident of an environmental justice community shall be in an amount **[**up to one**]** not less than two hundred per cent more than the standard rebate level or voucher amount. An eligible municipality, business, nonprofit organization or tribal entity may receive not more than ten rebates or vouchers a year, within available funds, and not more than a total of twenty rebates or vouchers, except the commissioner may issue additional rebates or vouchers to an eligible business or nonprofit organization that operates a fleet of motor vehicles exclusively in an environmental justice community. On and after July 1, 2022, and until June 30, 2027, inclusive, a battery electric vehicle, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle or fuel cell electric vehicle that is eligible for a rebate or voucher under the program shall have a base manufacturer's suggested retail price of not more than fifty thousand dollars.

Sec. 55. Subsection (e) of section 22a-200c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) Beginning with the first auction occurring on or after January 1, 2023, and notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section and subdivision (6) of subsection (f) of section 22a-174-31 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, auction proceeds annually calculated and allocated in accordance with subdivision (6) of subsection (f) of section 22a-174-31 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to the Connecticut Green Bank may be utilized by the Connecticut Green Bank, in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for clean energy resources that do not emit greenhouse gas emissions, provided that any proceeds calculated

and allocated to the Connecticut Green Bank in excess of five million two hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year shall be diverted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, to the department to provide funding for the Connecticut **[**hydrogen and electric automobile purchase rebate program account**]** Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate program established pursuant to **[**subsection (h) of**]** section 22a-202 and other programs established to support the department's engagement with environmental justice communities. For the purposes of this subsection, "clean energy" has the same meaning as provided in section 16-245n and "environmental justice community" has the same meaning as provided in section 22a-20a.

Sec. 56. Subsection (b) of section 32-9p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(b) "Distressed municipality" means, as of the date of the issuance of an eligibility certificate, any municipality in the state which, according to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development meets the necessary number of quantitative physical and economic distress thresholds which are then applicable for eligibility for the urban development action grant program under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1977, as amended, or any town within which is located an unconsolidated city or borough which meets such distress thresholds. Any municipality which, at any time subsequent to July 1, 1978, has met such thresholds but which at any time thereafter fails to meet such thresholds, according to said department, shall be deemed to be a distressed municipality for a period of five years subsequent to the date of the determination that such municipality fails to meet such thresholds, **[**unless such**]** except that any municipality **[**elects**]** with a population that was more than one hundred thousand as of the most recent United States census at the time of such determination shall be

deemed to be a distressed municipality for a period of ten years subsequent to the date of such determination. Any distressed municipality that fails to meet the distress thresholds may elect to terminate its designation as a distressed municipality, by vote of its legislative body, not later than September 1, 1985, or not later than three months after receiving notification from the commissioner that it no longer meets such thresholds, whichever is later. In the event a distressed municipality elects to terminate its designation, the municipality shall notify the commissioner and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in writing within thirty days. In the event that the commissioner determines that amendatory federal legislation or administrative regulation has materially changed the distress thresholds thereby established, "distressed municipality" means any municipality in the state which meets comparable thresholds of distress which are then applicable in the areas of high unemployment and poverty, aging housing stock and low or declining rates of growth in job creation, population and per capita income as established by the commissioner, consistent with the purposes of subdivisions (59) and (60) of section 12-81 and sections 12-217e, 32-9p to 32-9s, inclusive, and 32-23p, in regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54. For purposes of sections 32-9p to 32-9s, inclusive, "distressed municipality" also means any municipality adversely impacted by a major plant closing, relocation or layoff, provided the eligibility of a municipality shall not exceed two years from the date of such closing, relocation or layoff. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, which define what constitutes a "major plant closing, relocation or layoff" for purposes of sections 32-9p to 32-9s, inclusive. "Distressed municipality" also means the portion of any municipality which is eligible for designation as an enterprise zone pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 32-70.

Sec. 57. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) A municipality may adopt

an ordinance requiring that each person who files an application to renew a license pursuant to section 12-287 of the general statutes shall simultaneously give written notice of such renewal application to the chief law enforcement official, or such chief law enforcement official's designee, of the town in which any place of business to be operated under such license is located. Such chief law enforcement official, or such chief law enforcement official's designee, may respond in writing, not later than fifteen days after receipt of such notice, to the Commissioner of Revenue Services, with comments regarding the renewal application that is the subject of such notice. The commissioner shall consider any written comments offered by such chief law enforcement official, or such chief law enforcement official's designee, prior to approving such application.

Sec. 58. (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development, finance, revenue and bonding and public safety and security. Such report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) The number of written comments submitted by chief law enforcement officials, or such chief law enforcement officials' designees, under section 57 of this act, (2) copies of such written comments, if any, (3) a summary of the actions taken by the Department of Revenue Services regarding the granting or denial of a license renewal application pursuant to section 12-287 of the general statutes for which comments were received under section 57 of this act, and (4) the commissioner's conclusions and recommendations, after consultation with such chief law enforcement officials or such chief law enforcement officials' designees, regarding the notice requirement contained in section 57 of this act.

Sec. 59. Section 12-287 of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) Each person engaging in, or intending to engage in, the business of selling cigarettes in this state as a dealer, and each person engaging in or intending to engage in, the business of selling taxed tobacco products at retail, shall secure a dealer's license from the Commissioner of Revenue Services before engaging in such business or continuing to engage therein. The department shall not issue an initial license to an applicant until such applicant has complied with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Subject to the provisions of section 12-286, such license shall be renewable annually, provided that prior to renewal the commissioner shall consider any comments received pursuant to section 57 of this act.

(b) (1) Upon filing an application, an applicant shall, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, give notice of such application to the clerk of the municipality where the business is to be located. Such notice shall contain the name and residential address of the applicant and the location of the place of business for which such license is to be issued. Upon receipt of such notice, the clerk shall post and maintain such notice on the Internet web site of the municipality for at least two weeks.

(2) Not later than the day following the date an applicant provides notice pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the applicant shall affix a copy of such notice, which shall be maintained in a legible condition, upon the outer door of the building wherein such place of business is to be located. If an application is filed for a license for a building that has not yet been constructed, the applicant shall, not later than the day following the date an applicant provides notice pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, erect and maintain in a legible condition on the site where the business is to be located, a sign that (A) is not less than six feet by four feet, (B) contains the license applied for and the name of the proposed licensee, and (C) is clearly visible from

the public highway.

(3) An applicant shall make a return to the department, under oath, of compliance with the requirements of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, in such form as the department may require. The department may require additional proof of compliance. Upon receipt of sufficient evidence of such compliance, the department may hold a hearing as to the suitability of the proposed location.

(c) (1) Any ten persons who are at least eighteen years of age and who are residents of the town in which the place of business is intended to be operated under the license or renewal applied for, may file with the department, not later than three weeks after the last date of the posting of notice pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section for an initial license, and, in the case of renewal of an existing license, at least twenty-one days before the renewal date of such license, a remonstrance containing any objection to the suitability of such applicant or proposed place of business, provided any such issue is not controlled by local zoning. Upon the filing of such remonstrance, the department, upon written application, shall hold a hearing and provide such notice as it deems reasonable of the time and place at least five days before such hearing. The remonstrants shall designate one or more agents for service, who shall serve as the recipient or recipients of all notices issued by the department. At any time prior to the issuance of a decision by the department, a remonstrance may be withdrawn by the remonstrants or by such agent or agents acting on behalf of such remonstrants and the department may cancel the hearing or withdraw the case. The decision of the department on such application shall be final with respect to the remonstrance.

(2) Any ten persons who have filed a remonstrance pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection and who are aggrieved by the granting of a license by the department may appeal therefrom in accordance with section 4-183.

(d) The annual fee for a dealer's license shall be two hundred dollars. Such license shall be valid for a period beginning with the date of license to the thirtieth day of September next succeeding the date of license unless sooner revoked as provided in section 12-295, or unless the person to whom it was issued discontinues business, in either of which cases the holder of the license shall immediately return it to the commissioner. In the event of mutilation or destruction of such license, a duplicate copy, marked as such, shall be issued by said commissioner upon an application accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars.

Sec. 60. (*Effective from passage*) On and after January 1, 2026, the detention center located on Union Avenue in New Haven shall be under the jurisdiction of a state agency as determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

Sec. 61. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "local educational agency" or "LEA" has the same meaning as provided in 20 USC 1401, as amended from time to time.

(b) To the extent permissible under federal law, and subject to federal approval and within available funding specifically appropriated for this purpose, the Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall seek federal approval to amend the Medicaid state plan to expand Medicaid coverage for health services provided by or on behalf of a local educational agency to any student who is enrolled in Medicaid regardless of whether such student qualifies for services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as each is amended from time to time. The commissioner shall submit such Medicaid state plan amendment not later than October 1, 2025.

(c) To the extent permissible under federal law, and subject to federal approval and within available appropriations, a local educational

agency shall be authorized by the Commissioner of Social Services to submit Medicaid claims for each student who is eligible for Medicaid and is receiving Medicaid-covered school-based services unless such student's parent or legal guardian opts out of authorizing the local educational agency from billing Medicaid for services provided for the student.

(d) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall issue written guidance regarding health care services eligible for Medicaid reimbursement to be disseminated to each local or regional board of education.

(e) Not later than January first annually, the Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health care services with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, children, education and human services. The report shall include recommendations on expanding Medicaid health care services provided in schools.

Sec. 62. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) To the extent permissible under federal law, and subject to federal approval and within available funding specifically appropriated for this purpose, the Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid state plan to provide Medicaid coverage for health care services provided to an eligible student enrolled in Medicaid in the office of a school nurse. The amendment may be part of the Medicaid state plan amendment submitted pursuant to section 61 of this act.

Sec. 63. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an interagency coalition to coordinate and make recommendations concerning maximizing federal funding for Medicaid-eligible health

care services in public schools in the state.

(b) The coalition shall convene not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section and shall meet at least quarterly. The coalition shall consist of:

(1) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

(2) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; and

(3) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

(c) Not later than January first annually, the coalition shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, children, education and human services. The report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The number of school children receiving Medicaid-covered health care services in the prior school year and any increase or decrease in the percentage of such students per total student enrollment; (2) steps taken to expand Medicaid coverage of student health care services, including, but not limited to, any Medicaid waivers or state plan amendments; and (3) a survey of efforts in other states to expand Medicaid-covered health care services for students.

Sec. 64. Section 17b-597 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective April 1, 2025*):

(a) The Department of Social Services shall establish and implement a working persons with disabilities program to provide medical assistance as authorized under 42 USC 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii), as amended from time to time, to persons who are disabled and regularly employed.

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid state plan to allow persons specified in subsection (a) of this section to qualify for medical assistance. The amendment shall include the following requirements: (1) That the person be engaged in a substantial and reasonable work effort as determined by the commissioner and as permitted by federal law and have an annual adjusted gross income, as defined in Section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, of **[**no**]** not more than **[**seventy-five**]** eighty-five thousand dollars per year; (2) a disregard of all countable income up to two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level; (3) for an unmarried person, an asset limit of **[**ten**]** twenty thousand dollars, and for a married couple, an asset limit of **[**fifteen**]** thirty thousand dollars; (4) a disregard of any retirement and medical savings accounts established pursuant to 26 USC 220 and held by either the person or the person's spouse; (5) a disregard of any moneys in accounts designated by the person or the person's spouse for the purpose of purchasing goods or services that will increase the employability of such person, subject to approval by the commissioner; (6) a disregard of spousal income solely for purposes of determination of eligibility; and (7) a contribution of any countable income of the person or the person's spouse which exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, as adjusted for the appropriate family size, equal to ten per cent of the excess minus any premiums paid from income for health insurance by any family member, but which does not exceed the maximum contribution allowable under Section 201(a)(3) of Public Law 106-170, as amended from time to time.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, on and after July 1, 2026, the commissioner shall phase in the elimination of income and asset limits for a participant in the program over four fiscal years by annually increasing (1) the income limit prescribed in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section by ten thousand dollars,

and (2) the asset limit prescribed in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section by ten thousand dollars for an unmarried person and fifteen thousand dollars for a married couple. On and after July 1, 2029, there shall be no income or asset limit for eligibility for the program.

[(c)**]** (d) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement the policies and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is **[**published in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days after implementation**]** posted on the eRegulations System in accordance with section 17b-10. The commissioner shall define "countable income" for purposes of subsection (b) of this section which shall take into account impairment-related work expenses as defined in the Social Security Act. Such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

Sec. 65. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established a Bureau of Services for Persons Who Are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing which shall be within the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

(b) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, in consultation with the Advisory Board for Persons who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing established pursuant to section 17a-836 of the general statutes shall, not later than October 1, 2024, hire a director of the bureau. The director shall (1) have professional experience in serving the needs of deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons, and (2) be (A) able to communicate in American Sign Language, and (B) familiar with effective interpretation methods to assist deafblind persons. The commissioner shall also hire an administrative assistant for the director.

(c) The director shall report to the commissioner. The director's duties shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) Assisting in overseeing department employees who provide counseling, interpreting and other assistance to persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, except for federally funded vocational rehabilitation employees;

(2) Annually updating and publishing on the department's Internet web site and the Internet web page of the bureau established pursuant to subdivision (6) of this subsection a resource guide for persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing;

(3) Assisting in the registration of state-registered interpreters, including maintaining and publishing on the Internet web page of the bureau and the department's Internet web site a list of such interpreters categorized by the settings in which they are qualified to interpret, in accordance with section 17a-838 of the general statutes;

(4) Assisting each state agency, as defined in section 1-79 of the general statutes, in appointing an employee of each such agency to serve as a point of contact for concerns related to persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, pursuant to section 68 of this act, and coordinating efforts to resolve such concerns with such employees serving as a point of contact;

(5) Coordinating efforts of the Department of Aging and Disability Services to provide information and referral services to deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons on resources available to such persons;

(6) Establishing a separate Internet web page on the department's Internet web site for the bureau and including on such web page (A) the meeting schedule, agendas, minutes and other resources of the Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing established pursuant to section 17a-836 of the general statutes, (B) an instructional video with audio and captions on the home page on how persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing can navigate

the web page, resources and tools, and (C) other material pursuant to this section;

(7) Coordinating responses to consumer concerns, requests for assistance and referrals to resources, including from state agencies;

(8) Coordinating education and training initiatives, including, but not limited to, working with (A) local and state public safety and public health officials and first responders on best practices for serving and communicating with deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons, and (B) sign language interpreters, oral interpreters and interpreters who are trained to interpret for deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons to maintain or enhance the skills of such interpreters in a variety of settings;

(9) Collaborating with interpreting services providers and training organizations to increase opportunities for mentorships, internships, apprenticeships and specialized training in interpreting services for deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons;

(10) Partnering with civic and community organizations serving deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons on workshops and information sessions regarding new laws, regulations or developments regarding services, programs or health care needs of such persons;

(11) Raising public awareness of programs and services available to deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons;

(12) Assisting the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in implementing telecommunication relay service programs for deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons. In awarding any contract for such relay service programs, the authority shall consult with the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services and the director of the bureau;

(13) Working with the Governor and Connecticut television stations on ways to make television broadcasts more accessible to persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing; and

(14) In consultation with the Advisory Board for Persons who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing established pursuant to section 17a-836 of the general statutes identifying the needs of deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons and addressing policy changes that may be necessary to better serve such persons.

Sec. 66. Section 17a-836 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing **[**or Deafblind**]** is hereby created to advocate, strengthen and advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning state policies affecting persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing **[**or deafblind**]** and their relationship to the public, industry, health care and educational opportunity. The board shall:

(1) Monitor services for persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing; **[**or deafblind;**]**

(2) **[**Periodically meet with the**]** Establish an annual leadership roundtable meeting with the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Commissioners of Aging and Disability Services, Public Health, Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Education, Developmental Services, **[**and**]** Children and Families, Early Childhood, Economic and Community Development, Emergency Services and Public Protection, Correction, Housing and the Labor Commissioner and executive director of the Office of Higher Education, or **[**the commissioners'**]** their designees, to discuss best practices **[**and**]** to serve persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, identify gaps in such services **[**for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind**]** and

make recommendations to rectify such gaps;

(3) Refer persons with complaints concerning the qualification and registration of interpreters for persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing **[**or deafblind**]** to the entity designated pursuant to section 46a-10b;

(4) Make recommendations for (A) technical assistance and resources for state agencies in order to serve persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing; **[**or deafblind;**]** (B) public policy and legislative changes needed to address gaps in services; and (C) the qualifications and registration of interpreters pursuant to section 17a-838. The advisory board shall submit **[**such recommendations**]** a report on such recommendations and the activities of the Bureau of Services for Persons Who Are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing in the previous calendar year, in accordance with section 11-4a, not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, to the Governor and the joint standing **[**committee**]** committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, aging, commerce, education, higher education, housing, human services, the judiciary, labor, public health and public safety.

Sec. 67. Section 17a-836a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing **[**or Deafblind**]** shall consist of the following members: (1) The consultant appointed by the State Board of Education in accordance with section 10-316a, or the consultant's designee; (2) the president of the Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf, or the president's designee; (3) the president of the Connecticut Association of the Deaf, or the president's designee; (4) the president of the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or the president's designee; (5) the **[**Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's**]**

president of Hear Here Hartford, the Connecticut chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, or the president's designee; (6) the executive director of the American School for the Deaf, or the executive director's designee; (7) **[**the director of the Connecticut Chapter of We the Deaf People; and (8)**]** a representative of an organization representing Connecticut hospitals, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; and (8) eight members appointed by the Governor as follows: (A) A person who is deaf; (B) a person who is hard of hearing; (C) a person who is deafblind; (D) an interpreting professional who serves deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing **[**or deafblind**]** persons; (E) a healthcare professional who works with persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing; **[**or deafblind;**]** (F) a parent of a student in a predominantly oral education program; (G) an educator who works with children who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing; **[**or deafblind;**]** and (H) a parent of a student at the American School for the Deaf. The members of the advisory board shall elect two chairpersons of the advisory board from among the members of the advisory board. On and after October 1, 2024, the director of the Bureau of Services for Persons Who Are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing shall serve as administrator of the advisory board.

(b) The advisory board shall meet at least quarterly or more often at the call of the chairpersons or a majority of the members. A majority of members in office but not less than nine voting members shall constitute a quorum.

(c) Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. Vacancies occurring otherwise than by expiration of term in the membership of the advisory board shall be filled by the Governor or the appointing authority, as the case may be.

Sec. 68. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,

"state agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79 of the general statutes.

(b) Each state agency shall appoint an employee to serve as a point of contact for concerns related to persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing and require such employee to collaborate with the director of the Bureau of Services for Persons Who Are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing, hired pursuant to section 65 of this act, to resolve such concerns. Each state agency shall identify the name and contact information of such employee in a prominent place on such agency's Internet web site.

Sec. 69. Subsection (a) of section 4-61aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) For purposes of this section, "state Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator" means the person appointed by the Governor to coordinate state compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. There is established a committee to advise the state Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator. The state Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator shall appoint the members of the committee, which shall be chaired by said coordinator, or his designee, and include at least one representative of each of the following:

(1) The Board of Education and Services to the Blind;

(2) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing; **[**or Deafblind;**]**

(3) The Department of Aging and Disability Services;

(4) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;

(5) The Department of Developmental Services;

(6) The Labor Department;

(7) The Department of Administrative Services; and

(8) The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

Sec. 70. Section 17a-780 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) There is created a Department of Aging and Disability Services. The Department of Aging and Disability Services shall be responsible for providing the following: (1) Services to persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing; (2) services for persons who are blind or visually impaired; (3) rehabilitation services in accordance with the provisions of the general statutes concerning the Department of Aging and Disability Services; and (4) services for older persons and their families. The Department of Aging and Disability Services shall constitute a successor authority to the Department of Rehabilitation Services in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

(b) The department head shall be the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, who shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, and shall have the powers and duties described in said sections. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall appoint such persons as may be necessary to administer the provisions of public act 11-44 and the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall fix the compensation of such persons in accordance with the provisions of section 4-40. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services may create such sections within the Department of Aging and Disability Services as will facilitate such administration, including a disability determinations section for which one hundred per cent federal funds may be accepted for the operation of such section in conformity with

applicable state and federal regulations. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the purposes of the department as established by statute.

(c) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall, annually, in accordance with section 4-60, submit to the Governor a report in electronic format on the activities of the Department of Aging and Disability Services relating to services provided by the department to persons who (1) are blind or visually impaired, (2) are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, (3) receive vocational rehabilitation services, or (4) are older persons or their families. The report shall include the data the department provides to the federal government that relates to the evaluation standards and performance indicators for the vocational rehabilitation services program. The commissioner shall submit the report in electronic format, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

(d) The functions, powers, duties and personnel of the former Department on Aging, or any subsequent division or portion of a division with similar functions, powers, duties and personnel, shall be transferred to the Department of Aging and Disability Services pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

(e) The Department of Aging and Disability Services shall constitute a successor department to the former Department on Aging, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39. Wherever the words "Commissioner on Aging" are used in the general statutes, the words "Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Wherever the words "Department on Aging" are used in the general statutes, the words "Department of Aging and Disability Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Any order

or regulation of the former Department on Aging that is in force on the effective date of this section shall continue in force and effect as an order or regulation of the Department of Aging and Disability Services until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

(f) The Governor may, with the approval of the Finance Advisory Committee, transfer funds between the Department of Social Services and the Department of Aging and Disability Services pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-87 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

(g) The Department of Aging and Disability Services is designated as the State Unit on Aging to administer, manage, design and advocate for benefits, programs and services for older persons and their families pursuant to the Older Americans Act. The department shall study continuously the conditions and needs of older persons in this state in relation to nutrition, transportation, home care, housing, income, employment, health, recreation and other matters. The department shall be responsible, in cooperation with federal, state, local and area planning agencies on aging, for the overall planning, development and administration of a comprehensive and integrated social service delivery system for older persons. The Department of Aging and Disability Services is designated as the state agency for the administration of nutritional programs for elderly persons described in section 17a-852, the fall prevention program described in section 17a-859, the CHOICES program described in section 17a-857, the Aging and Disability Resource Center Program described in section 17a-858 and the Alzheimer's respite program described in section 17b-860.

Sec. 71. Subsection (b) of section 17a-837 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(b) The Commissioner of Education shall assign one vocational rehabilitation consultant to act as a liaison staff member of the Advisory

Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing. **[**or Deafblind.**]**

Sec. 72. Section 17a-835 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

The Department of Aging and Disability Services may provide necessary services to persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, including, but not limited to, nonreimbursable interpreter services and message relay services for persons using telecommunication devices for persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing.

Sec. 73. Subsection (b) of section 17b-280c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid state plan to provide a minimum weekly reimbursement rate of eighty-eight dollars and fifty-two cents to a chemical maintenance provider for methadone maintenance treatment of a Medicaid beneficiary, provided no such provider receiving a higher rate shall have such rate reduced to the minimum as a result of the implementation of a new minimum reimbursement rate. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, the commissioner shall amend the Medicaid state plan to increase rates, within available appropriations, for chemical maintenance providers who receive the lowest weekly reimbursement rate for such treatment, provided no provider receiving a higher rate for such treatment shall have such rate reduced as a result of such rate increase.

Sec. 74. (*Effective from passage*) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Social Services, within available appropriations, shall increase (1) the Medicaid ambulance mileage rate for all emergency and nonemergency transports by one dollar and eighteen cents, and (2) all other emergency and nonemergency

ambulance services rates. The commissioner, within available appropriations, shall provide mileage reimbursement for in-town trips for said fiscal year. The commissioner may, if necessary, seek federal approval of an amendment to the Medicaid state plan to carry out the provisions of this section.

Sec. 75. Section 10a-174 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 134 of public act 23-204, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Award" means the greater of: (A) The unpaid portion, if any, of a qualifying student's eligible institutional costs after subtracting his or her financial aid, or (B) a minimum award of **[**two hundred fifty**]** five hundred dollars for a full-time student or **[**one hundred fifty**]** three hundred dollars for a part-time student;

(2) "Eligible institutional costs" means the tuition and required fees incurred each semester by an individual student that are established by the Board of Regents for Higher Education for the regional community-technical colleges;

(3) "Financial aid" means the sum of all scholarships, grants and federal, state and institutional aid received by a qualifying student. "Financial aid" does not include any federal, state or private student loans received by a qualifying student;

(4) "Qualifying student" means any person who (A) graduated from a public or nonpublic high school**, [**in the state,**]** (B) enrolls as a full-time or part-time student for the fall semester of 2020, or any semester thereafter, at a regional community-technical college in a program leading to a degree or certificate, (C) is classified as an in-state student pursuant to section 10a-29, (D) is making satisfactory academic progress while enrolled at a regional community-technical college, (E) has

completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and (F) has accepted all available financial aid or is a transition program student;

(5) "Full-time student" means a student who is enrolled at a regional community-technical college and (A) is carrying twelve or more credit hours in a semester, or (B) has a learning disability documented with the regional community-technical college in which he or she is enrolled and is enrolled in the maximum number of credit hours that is feasible for such student to attempt in a semester, as determined by such student's academic advisor;

(6) "Semester" means the fall or spring semester of an academic year. "Semester" does not include a summer semester or session; **[**and**]**

(7) "Part-time student" means a student who is enrolled at a regional community-technical college and is carrying not less than six but fewer than twelve credit hours in a semester; and

(8) "Transition program student" means any person who (A) is a resident of this state, (B) has not graduated from high school, (C) is enrolled in a transition program pursuant to such person's individualized education program, and (D) enrolls in one or more courses at a regional community-technical college.

(b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall (1) establish a debt-free community college program to make awards to qualifying students each semester, (2) adopt rules, procedures and forms necessary to implement the debt-free community college program, and (3) submit a report outlining such rules, procedures and forms, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education. Awards made to qualifying students pursuant to the debt-free community college program shall be designated as the "Mary Ann Handley Award".

(c) For the fall semester of 2020, and each semester thereafter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall make awards to qualifying students within available appropriations. An award shall be available to a qualifying student for the first seventy-two credit hours earned by the qualifying student at a regional community-technical college, provided the qualifying student meets and continues to meet the requirements of this section. The board shall not use an award to supplant any financial aid, including, but not limited to, state or institutional aid, otherwise available to a qualifying student.

(d) Not later than **[**March 1, 2021, and October 1, 2021**]** November 1, 2024, and March 1, 2025, and each semester thereafter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement and appropriations and the budgets of the state agencies regarding the debt-free community college program, including, but not limited to, (1) the number of qualifying students enrolled at the regional community-technical colleges during each semester, (2) the number of qualifying students receiving minimum awards and the number of qualifying students receiving awards for the unpaid portion of eligible institutional costs, (3) the average number of credit hours the qualifying students enrolled in each semester and the average number of credit hours the qualifying students completed each semester, (4) the average amount of the award made to qualifying students under this section for the unpaid portion of eligible institutional costs, and (5) the completion rates of qualifying students receiving awards under this section by degree or certificate program.

Sec. 76. Section 23 of public act 23-170 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Not later than July 1, **[**2024**]** 2025, the Secretary of the Office of Policy

and Management, in consultation with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall submit recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy and technology, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the feasibility and advisability of creating a new quasi-public state agency, state waste authority or other entity for purposes that include, but are not limited to, the development of new solid waste infrastructure and the operation and maintenance of new or existing solid waste infrastructure. Such recommendations shall be made in consultation with any municipalities, municipal authorities, regional waste authorities or private sector operators of solid waste companies participating in a request for proposals pursuant to section **[**2 of this act**]** 22a-268h of the general statutes.

Sec. 77. Subsection (b) of section 4-66g of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Office of Policy and Management for a small town economic assistance program the purpose of which shall be to provide grants-in-aid to any municipality or group of municipalities, provided the municipality and each municipality that is part of a group of municipalities is not economically distressed within the meaning of subsection (b) of section 32-9p, does not have an urban center in any plan adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to section 16a-30 and is not a public investment community within the meaning of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 7-545. Such grants shall be used for purposes for which funds would be available under section 4-66c. No group of municipalities may receive an amount exceeding in the aggregate **[**five hundred thousand**]** one million dollars per municipality in such group in any one fiscal year

under said program. No individual municipality may receive more than **[**five hundred thousand**]** one million dollars in any one fiscal year under said program, except that any municipality that receives a grant under said program as a member of a group of municipalities shall continue to be eligible to receive an amount equal to **[**five hundred thousand**]** one million dollars less the amount of such municipality's proportionate share of such grant. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection and section 4-66c, a municipality that is (1) a distressed municipality within the meaning of subsection (b) of section 32-9p or a public investment community within the meaning of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 7-545, and (2) otherwise eligible under this subsection for the small town economic assistance program may elect to be eligible for said program individually or as part of a group of municipalities in lieu of being eligible for financial assistance under section 4-66c, by a vote of its legislative body or, in the case of a municipality in which the legislative body is a town meeting, its board of selectmen, and submitting a written notice of such vote to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Any such election shall be for the four-year period following submission of such notice to the secretary and may be extended for additional four-year periods in accordance with the same procedure for the initial election.

Sec. 78. Section 5-250 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

(a) Each appointing authority shall grant to (1) each full-time employee in a permanent position in the state service, who has worked at least one full calendar year, and (2) each full-time employee in a permanent position in the state service during such employee's initial working test period an annual vacation with pay of twenty-one consecutive calendar days or its equivalent. Each such employee who has completed twenty years of service shall be entitled to one day for each additional year up to twenty-five years of service, and each such

employee with twenty-five or more years of service shall be entitled to not more than twenty days' vacation, subject to regulations issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. The Commissioner of Administrative Services may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the accrual, prorating and granting of vacation leave with pay as required. Computation of such vacation leave may be made on an hourly basis. Hourly computation of vacation leave shall not diminish benefit entitlement.

(b) An appointing authority may permit a full-time permanent employee in the state service to accumulate vacation days with pay up to a maximum of one hundred twenty vacation days, subject to regulations issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services.

(c) In addition to annual vacation, each appointing authority shall grant to (1) each full-time permanent employee in the state service, and (2) each full-time permanent employee in the state service during such employee's initial working test period three days of personal leave of absence with pay in each calendar year. Personal leave of absence shall be for the purpose of conducting private affairs, including observance of religious holidays, and shall not be deducted from vacation or sick leave credits. Personal leave of absence days not taken in a calendar year shall not be accumulated. For full-time permanent employees within such employees' working test period that began employment on or after July first of a calendar year, the number of personal leave of absence days shall be prorated during such employee's first calendar year of employment. Such proration shall be based on the number of full calendar months remaining in the calendar year after such employee began employment divided by six.

(d) Vacation accruals earned by employees in the unclassified service, in accordance with administrative practice or internal departmental policy, which accrual practice or policy was included, by the appointing authority, in the terms of employment on the basis of which such

employees were employed prior to July 1, 1972, and which accruals have not been used and which can be verified by written attendance records, remain to the credit of such employees for use as vacation time or for payment as provided in section 5-252, as the case may be.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a general worker employed in a position by the Department of Developmental Services as a self-advocate, not to exceed eleven such general workers, shall be eligible for prorated vacation and personal leave.

(f) Not later than June 30, 2025, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall adopt or amend regulations, as applicable, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsections (a) and (c) of this section relating to the granting of vacation and personal leave to full-time permanent employees during such employees' initial working test periods. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of subsections (a) and (c) of this section, prior to adopting or amending such regulations and not later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall adopt policies and procedures to implement the provisions of subsections (a) and (c) of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the adoption of such policies and procedures as a final regulation pursuant to section 4-172.

Sec. 79. Section 4-8 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Each department head shall: **[**be**]**

(1) Be qualified by training and experience for the duties of **[**his**]** the

department head's office; **[**. Each department head shall act**]**

(2) Act as the executive officer of the Governor for accomplishing the purposes of **[**his**]** the department head's department; **[**. He shall conduct**]**

(3) Conduct comprehensive planning with respect to the functions of **[**his**]** such department and coordinate the activities and programs of the state agencies therein; **[**. He shall cause**]**

(4) Cause the administrative organization of **[**said**]** such department to be examined with a view to promoting economy and efficiency; **[**. He shall organize the**]** and

(5) Organize such department and any agency therein into such divisions, bureaus or other units as **[**he**]** the department head deems necessary for the efficient conduct of the business of the department. **[**and**]**

(b) Each department head may **[**from time to time**]** abolish, transfer or consolidate within the department or any agency therein any division, bureau or other unit as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of the business of the department, provided such organization shall include any division, bureau or other unit which is specifically required by the general statutes.

(c) Each department head may appoint such deputies as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of the business of the department. Each department head shall designate one deputy who shall in the absence or disqualification of the department head or **[**on his**]** upon the department head's death, exercise the powers and duties of the department head until **[**he**]** the department head resumes his or her duties or the vacancy is filled, as applicable. Such deputies shall serve at the pleasure of the department head. **[**Such appointees shall devote their full time to their duties with the department or agency and shall engage in no other gainful employment.**]** Subject to the provisions of chapter 67,

each department head shall appoint such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of **[**his**]** the department head's duties.

(d) **[**He is empowered to make**]** Each department head may:

(1) Adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for the conduct of **[**his**]** the department head's department; **[**. Each department head may enter**]**

(2) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with established procedures, as may be necessary for the discharge of **[**his**]** the department head's duties; **[**. Subject**]**

(3) Subject to the provisions of section 4-32, and unless otherwise provided by law, **[**each department head is authorized to**]** receive any money, revenue or services from the federal government, corporations, associations or individuals, including payments from the sale of printed matter or any other material or services; **[**. Each department head may create**]** and

(4) Create such advisory boards as **[**he**]** the department head deems necessary.

Sec. 80. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 51-49d of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The Retirement Commission shall determine on an actuarial basis (1) a normal rate of contribution which the state shall be required to make into the retirement fund in order to meet the actuarial cost of current service, and (2) the unfunded past service liability. Effective July 1, 1991, the unfunded past service liability shall be funded as a level percentage of payroll. **[**The**]** On and after July 1, 2024, the state contribution shall be the sum of the normal cost and the amount required for a **[**forty-year**]** fifteen-year layered amortization of

unfunded liabilities. The **[**forty-year**]** fifteen-year period for such amortization shall commence **[**July 1, 1991**]** with the valuation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

(d) No act liberalizing the benefits of the retirement system shall be enacted by the General Assembly until the assembly has requested and received from the Retirement Commission a certification of the unfunded liability created by such change and the cost of such change under the actuarial funding basis adopted by this section using full normal cost plus **[**thirty-year**]** fifteen-year layered amortization. Any unfunded liability created by such change shall be amortized over a period of **[**thirty**]** fifteen years.

Sec. 81. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 51-49d of the general statutes, not later than June 30, 2024, the State Employees Retirement Commission shall prepare and submit a revised actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023, for the retirement system for judges, family support magistrates and administrative law judges that incorporates the change to fifteen-year layered amortization, as described in section 51-49d of the general statutes.

Sec. 82. Section 8-169*ll* of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) (1) Any municipality, except the city of Hartford or any municipality that is considered part of the capital region, as defined in section 32-600, may, by certified resolution of the legislative body of the municipality, opt to join the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority as a member municipality, provided such municipality holds a public hearing prior to any vote on such certified resolution.

[(2) The legislative body of each member municipality shall appoint a local development board to serve as liaison to the authority. Such

board (A) shall include three individuals representing the municipality and the chief executive officer of such municipality, who shall serve as chairperson of the board, and (B) may include, but need not be limited to, representatives from local health or human services organizations, local housing organizations, a local school district or education organization, and a local business organization. Such board shall also include one member of the board of directors of the authority, chosen by the chairperson of the board of directors of the authority. Each legislative body shall make a good faith effort to appoint representatives of minority-owned businesses, advocates for walkable communities and members who are geographically, racially, socioeconomically and gender diverse.**]**

[(3)**]** (2) Any municipality that opts to join the authority as a member municipality or that is deemed a member municipality pursuant to this subsection **[**(a) of this section**]** shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the authority for the establishment of one or more development districts.

(b) (1) Any two or more municipalities may, by certified concurrent resolutions of the legislative bodies of each such municipality, together opt to join the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority as a joint member entity, provided (A) no such municipality is considered part of the capital region, as defined in section 32-600, and (B) each such municipality holds a public hearing prior to any vote on the certified resolution from such municipality. The concurrent resolutions shall set forth an agreement of such municipalities as to authority for decisions concerning projects in development districts within such municipalities.

[(2) The legislative bodies of the municipalities constituting a joint member entity shall jointly appoint a local development board to serve as liaison to the authority. Such board shall (A) include two individuals representing each such municipality and the chief executive officer of each such municipality, who shall serve as cochairperson of the board

with the other chief executive officers, and (B) may include, but need not be limited to, representatives from local health or human services organizations, local housing organizations, a local school district or education organization and a local business organization. Such board shall also include one member of the board of directors of the authority, chosen by the chairperson of the board of directors of the authority. The legislative bodies of the municipalities constituting a joint member entity shall make a good faith effort to appoint representatives of minority-owned businesses, advocates for walkable communities and members who are geographically, racially, socioeconomically and gender diverse.**]**

[(3)**]** (2) Any two or more municipalities that together opt to join the authority as a joint member entity shall jointly enter into a memorandum of agreement with the authority for the establishment of one or more development districts.

[(c) In consultation with the board of directors of the authority, a local development board appointed pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall have, with respect to authority development projects, all the powers enumerated in subdivision (8) of subsection (b) of section 8-169jj and in subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (c) of said section.**]**

Sec. 83. Section 8-169hh of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

For purposes of this section, **[**and**]** sections 8-169ii to 8-169tt, inclusive, and sections 84 and 85 of this act:

(1) "As of right" has the same meaning as provided in section 8-1a;

(2) "Authority" means the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority established in section 8-169ii;

(3) "Authority development project" means a project occurring within the boundaries of a Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority development district;

(4) "Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority development district" or "development district" means the area determined by a memorandum of agreement between the authority and the chief executive officer of the member municipality, or the chief executive officers of the municipalities constituting a joint member entity, as applicable, where such development district is located, provided such area shall be considered a downtown or does not exceed a one-half-mile radius of a transit station;

(5) "Designated tier III municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-560;

(6) "Designated tier IV municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-560;

(7) "Downtown" means a central business district or other commercial neighborhood area of a community that serves as a center of socioeconomic interaction in the community, characterized by a cohesive core of commercial and mixed-use buildings, often interspersed with civic, religious and residential buildings and public spaces, that are typically arranged along a main street and intersecting side streets and served by public infrastructure;

(8) "Member municipality" means any municipality that opts to join the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority in accordance with section 8-169*ll*. "Member municipality" does not include the city of Hartford or any municipality that is considered part of the capital region, as defined in section 32-600;

(9) "Middle housing" has the same meaning as provided in section 8-1a;

(10) "Joint member entity" means two or more municipalities that together opt to join the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority in accordance with section 8-169*ll*, provided no such municipality is considered part of the capital region, as defined in section 32-600;

(11) "Project" means any or all of the following: (A) The design and construction of transit-oriented development, as defined in section 13b-79kk; (B) the creation of housing units through rehabilitation or new construction; (C) the demolition or redevelopment of vacant buildings; and (D) development and redevelopment;

(12) "State-wide transportation investment program" means the planning document developed and updated at least every four years by the Department of Transportation in compliance with the requirements of 23 USC 135, listing all transportation projects in the state expected to receive federal funding during the four-year period covered by the program; and

(13) "Transit station" means any passenger railroad station or bus rapid transit station that is operational, or for which the Department of Transportation has initiated planning or that is included in the state-wide transportation investment program, that is or will be located within the boundaries of a member municipality or the municipalities constituting a joint member entity.

Sec. 84. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) The authority may establish criteria to evaluate any potential impact of an authority development project. Such criteria shall include, but not be limited to, the impact the proposed project may have on the tax base of a municipality, or the combined tax bases of two or more municipalities, as applicable to such project.

Sec. 85. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) The authority shall offer

technical support to any member municipality or joint member entity in the development of project criteria and local regulations intended to substantially increase housing production if such technical support is requested by such municipality or entity.

Sec. 86. Subdivision (5) of section 1-79 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(5) "Gift" means anything of value, which is directly and personally received, unless consideration of equal or greater value is given in return. "Gift" does not include:

(A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or a donation or payment as described in subdivision (9) or (10) of subsection (b) of section 9-601a;

(B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time, if provided to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, any candidate or candidates for public office or the position of convention delegate or town committee member or any referendum question;

(C) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

(D) A gift received from (i) an individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée, (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such child;

(E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II) that support an event or the participation by a public official or state employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"

means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property leased to a state agency or quasi-public agency;

(F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than one hundred dollars;

(G) A rebate, discount or promotional item available to the general public;

(H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state action or functions;

(I) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars in the aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed on an occasion or occasions at which the person paying, directly or indirectly, for the food or beverage, or his representative, is in attendance;

(J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also been hosted by the business organization which such lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the calculation for the purposes of such fifty-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the reception;

(K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist or

business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also been hosted by the business organization which such lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the calculation for the purposes of such fifty-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of the state" means the established geographic service area of the organization hosting the reception;

(L) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both, provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event, provided any such gift provided by an individual who is not a member of the family of the recipient does not exceed one thousand dollars in value;

(M) Gifts costing less than one hundred dollars in the aggregate or food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or conference of an interstate legislative association, by a person who is not a registrant or is not doing business with the state of Connecticut;

(N) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in his or her official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the primary sponsoring entity;

(O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official, (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar circumstances;

(P) Anything having a value of not more than ten dollars, provided the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a recipient under this subdivision in any calendar year does not exceed fifty dollars;

(Q) Training that is provided by a vendor for a product purchased by a state or quasi-public agency that is offered to all customers of such vendor;

(R) Travel expenses, lodging, food, beverage and other benefits customarily provided by a prospective employer, when provided to a student at a public institution of higher education whose employment is derived from such student's status as a student at such institution, in connection with bona fide employment discussions; **[**or**]**

(S) Expenses of a public official, paid by the party committee of which party such official is a member, for the purpose of accomplishing the lawful purposes of the committee. As used in this subparagraph, "party committee" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of section 9-601 and "lawful purposes of the committee" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (g) of section 9-607; or

(T) Travel expenses, lodging, food, beverage and other benefits customarily provided in the course of employment, when provided to a public member of the Investment Advisory Council established under section 3-13b.

Sec. 87. Sections 10a-19e, 10a-19f, 10a-19i, 10a-162a, 10a-164b, 10a-167, 10a-169b and 19a-7d of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2024*)

Sec. 88. Section 10a-19j of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2024*)

Sec. 89. Section 15-31k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

On or before October 1, 2021, and quarterly thereafter, the executive director of the Connecticut Port Authority shall submit a report regarding the status of pending and current contracts, small harbor projects and the construction project at the State Pier in the town of New London to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. **[**The Commissioner of Administrative Services and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall jointly review and comment on each such report before such report is submitted to the committee.**]**

Sec. 90. (*Effective from passage*) Wherever the words "executive director of the Office of Health Strategy", "executive director" or "director" are used to denote the executive director of the Office of Health Strategy in any public act of the 2024 session, the words "Commissioner of Health Strategy" or "commissioner" shall be substituted in lieu thereof.

Sec. 91. (*Effective from passage*) Wherever the words "executive director of the Office of Higher Education", "executive director" or "director" are used to denote the executive director of the Office of Higher Education in any public act of the 2024 session, the words "Commissioner of Higher Education" or "commissioner" shall be substituted in lieu thereof.

Sec. 92. Subsection (c) of section 4-28e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(c) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, annual disbursements from the Tobacco Settlement Fund shall be made as follows: (1) To the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund in an amount equal to twelve million dollars; and (2) the remainder to the General Fund; except that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the annual

disbursement from the Tobacco Settlement Fund shall be made to the General Fund.

Sec. 93. Subsection (c) of section 17b-274 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement a procedure by which a pharmacist shall obtain approval from an independent pharmacy consultant acting on behalf of the Department of Social Services, under an administrative services only contract, whenever the pharmacist dispenses a brand name drug product to a medical assistance recipient and a chemically equivalent generic drug product substitution is available. The length of authorization for brand name drugs shall be in accordance with section 17b-491a. In cases where the brand name drug is less costly than the chemically equivalent generic drug when factoring in manufacturers' rebates, the pharmacist shall dispense the brand name drug. If such approval is not granted or denied within **[**two**]** twenty-four hours of receipt by the commissioner of the request for approval, it shall be deemed granted. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a pharmacist shall not dispense any initial maintenance drug prescription for which there is a chemically equivalent generic substitution that is for less than fifteen days without the department's granting of prior authorization, provided prior authorization shall not otherwise be required for atypical antipsychotic drugs if the individual is currently taking such drug at the time the pharmacist receives the prescription. The pharmacist may appeal a denial of reimbursement to the department based on the failure of such pharmacist to substitute a generic drug product in accordance with this section.

Sec. 94. Subsection (b) of section 17b-491a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) When prior authorization is required for coverage of a prescription drug under a medical assistance program administered by the Department of Social Services and a pharmacist is unable to obtain the prescribing physician's authorization at the time the prescription is presented to be filled, the pharmacist shall dispense a one-time fourteen-day supply. The commissioner shall process a prior authorization request from a physician or pharmacist not later than **[**two**]** twenty-four hours after the commissioner's receipt of the request. If prior authorization is not granted or denied within **[**two**]** twenty-four hours of receipt by the commissioner of the request for prior authorization, it shall be deemed granted.

Sec. 95. Subsection (b) of section 4-28e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) (1) The Treasurer is authorized to invest all or any part of the Tobacco Settlement Fund **[**,**]** and all or any part of the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund created **[**in**]** under section 4-28f. **[**and all or any part of the Biomedical Research Trust Fund created in section 19a-32c.**]** The interest derived from any such investment shall be credited to the resources of the fund from which the investment was made.

(2) Notwithstanding sections 3-13 to 3-13h, inclusive, the Treasurer shall invest the amounts on deposit in the Tobacco Settlement Fund **[**,**]** and the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund **[**and the Biomedical Research Trust Fund**]** in a manner reasonable and appropriate to achieve the objectives of such funds, exercising the discretion and care of a prudent person in similar circumstances with similar objectives. The Treasurer shall give due consideration to rate of return, risk, term or maturity, diversification of the total portfolio within such funds, liquidity, the projected disbursements and expenditures, and the expected payments, deposits, contributions and gifts to be received. The Treasurer shall not be required to invest such funds directly in obligations of the state or

any political subdivision of the state or in any investment or other fund administered by the Treasurer. The assets of such funds shall be continuously invested and reinvested in a manner consistent with the objectives of such funds until disbursed in accordance with this section **[**,**]** or section 4-28f. **[**or section 19a-32c.**]**

Sec. 96. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall transfer the balance remaining in the Biomedical Research Trust Fund, created pursuant to section 19a-32c of the general statutes, to the General Fund.

Sec. 97. Section 19a-32c of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 98. Section 19a-186a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any individual employed on June 30, 2010, as a regional emergency medical services coordinator or as an assistant regional emergency medical services coordinator shall be offered an unclassified durational position within the Department of Public Health for the period from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, inclusive, provided no more than five unclassified durational positions shall be created. Within available appropriations, such unclassified durational positions may be extended beyond June 30, 2011. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall establish job classifications and salaries for such positions in accordance with the provisions of section 4-40. Any such created positions shall be exempt from collective bargaining requirements and no individual appointed to such position shall have reemployment or any other rights that may have been extended to unclassified employees under a State Employees' Bargaining Agent Coalition agreement. Individuals employed in such unclassified durational positions shall be located at the offices of the Department of Public Health. In no event shall an individual employed in an unclassified durational position

pursuant to this section receive credit for any purpose for services performed prior to July 1, 2010.

(b) On and after June 30, 2024, the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall transition the regional emergency medical services coordinator and assistant regional emergency medical services coordinator positions and incumbents into the classified service. To the extent such employees are performing jobs which would normally be within a current executive branch bargaining unit, such jobs shall be added to the unit descriptions of such bargaining unit and employees in those jobs shall be deemed part of such unit.

Sec. 99. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section, "state agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 4-67n of the general statutes. Any person requesting data, records or files that have been shared by one state agency with another state agency pursuant to any statute, regulation, data sharing agreement, memorandum of agreement or understanding or court order, including, but not limited to, a request made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes, shall direct such request to the state agency from which such data, records or files originated.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 14 of the general statutes, if a state agency that is not the originating state agency receives a request for data, records or files as described in subsection (a) of this section, such state agency shall (1) promptly refer such request to the state agency from which such data, records or files originated, and (2) notify, in writing, the person who submitted the request for such data, records or files that such request has been referred to the originating state agency. Such written notification shall include the name, address and telephone number of the originating state agency and the date on which the referral was made to the originating state agency.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the disclosure of any data, records or files if the disclosure of such data, records or files would not have been required had the request been made directly to the state agency from which such data, records or files originated.

(d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to requests for any data that is subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 54-142r of the general statutes.

Sec. 100. Subsection (c) of section 3-70a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(c) (1) (A) No agreement entered into prior to January 1, 2023, to locate property shall be valid if: (i) Such agreement is entered into (I) within two years after the date a report of unclaimed property is required to be filed under section 3-65a, or (II) between the date such a report is required to be filed under said section and the date it is filed under said section, whichever period is longer; (ii) such agreement is entered into within two years after the date of posting of the notice required by section 3-66a; or (iii) pursuant to such agreement, any person undertakes to locate property included in a report of unclaimed property that is required to be filed under section 3-65a for a fee or other compensation exceeding ten per cent of the value of the recoverable property.

(B) No agreement entered into on or after January 1, 2023, to locate property shall be valid if: (i) Such agreement is entered into (I) within two years after the date a report of unclaimed property is required to be filed under section 3-65a, or (II) between the date such a report is required to be filed under said section and the date it is filed under said section, whichever period is longer; or (ii) pursuant to such agreement, any person undertakes to locate property included in a report of unclaimed property that is required to be filed under section 3-65a for a

fee or other compensation exceeding ten per cent of the value of the recoverable property.

(2) **[**An**]** (A) In addition to the requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, an agreement entered into prior to January 1, 2025, to locate property shall be valid only if it is in writing, is signed by the owner **[**,**]** and discloses the nature and value of the property, and the owner's share after the fee or compensation has been subtracted is clearly stipulated. **[**Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an owner from asserting, at any time, that any agreement to locate property is based upon excessive or unjust consideration.**]**

(B) In addition to the requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, an agreement entered into on or after January 1, 2025, to locate property shall be valid only if such agreement is in writing, is signed by the owner and clearly and conspicuously discloses (i) the nature and value of the property, (ii) the owner's share after the fee or compensation has been subtracted from such value, and (iii) that the owner may file a claim directly with the Treasurer at no cost and the method through which such claim may be filed.

(3) Any solicitation made to locate unclaimed property shall clearly and conspicuously disclose in a written statement that (A) any individual may search for and file a claim for such property directly with the Treasurer at no cost, and (B) the method through which such claim may be filed.

(4) Any claim for unclaimed property filed with the Treasurer pursuant to an agreement or solicitation under this subsection, shall include an unredacted version of any such agreement or solicitation to permit the Treasurer to determine whether such agreement or solicitation complies with the requirements of this subsection.

(5) The Treasurer may withhold payment of a claim for unclaimed property to anyone other than the owner (A) for failure to comply with the requirements of subdivision (4) of this subsection, or (B) if the Treasurer determines that the solicitation or agreement to locate unclaimed property does not comply with any other requirement of this section.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an owner from asserting, at any time, that an agreement to locate or to otherwise obtain an interest in unclaimed property is based upon excessive or unjust consideration.

Sec. 101. Subsection (c) of section 38a-511 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

(c) The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to a high deductible health plan as that term is used in subsection (f) of section 38a-493 and a copayment-only health plan. For purposes of this section, "copayment-only health plan" means a health plan that imposes a specific dollar amount to be paid by the insured for a health care service or prescription drug paid for or reimbursed by such health plan. "Copayment-only health plan" does not include deductibles or coinsurance.

Sec. 102. Section 38a-511a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

No individual health insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in this state shall impose copayments that exceed a maximum of thirty dollars per visit for in-network (1) physical therapy services rendered by a physical therapist licensed under section 20-73, or (2) occupational

therapy services rendered by an occupational therapist licensed under section 20-74b or 20-74c. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a copayment-only health plan as that term is used in subsection (c) of section 38a-511.

Sec. 103. Subsection (c) of section 38a-550 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

(c) The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to a high deductible health plan as that term is used in subsection (f) of section 38a-520 and a copayment-only health plan as that term is used in subsection (c) of section 38a-511.

Sec. 104. Section 38a-550a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

No group health insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in this state shall impose copayments that exceed a maximum of thirty dollars per visit for in-network (1) physical therapy services rendered by a physical therapist licensed under section 20-73, or (2) occupational therapy services rendered by an occupational therapist licensed under section 20-74b or 20-74c. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a copayment-only health plan as that term is used in subsection (c) of section 38a-511.

Sec. 105. Section 17b-342 of the general statutes, as amended by section 10 of public act 24-39, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall administer the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly state-wide in order to prevent the institutionalization of elderly persons who (1) are recipients

of medical assistance, (2) are eligible for such assistance, (3) would be eligible for medical assistance if residing in a nursing facility, or (4) meet the criteria for the state-funded portion of the program under subsection (j) of this section. For purposes of this section, "long-term care facility" means a facility that has been federally certified as a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility. The commissioner shall make any revisions in the state Medicaid plan required by Title XIX of the Social Security Act prior to implementing the program. The program shall be structured so that the net cost to the state for long-term facility care in combination with the services under the program shall not exceed the net cost the state would have incurred without the program. The commissioner shall investigate the possibility of receiving federal funds for the program and shall apply for any necessary federal waivers. A recipient of services under the program, and the estate and legally liable relatives of the recipient, shall be responsible for reimbursement to the state for such services to the same extent required of a recipient of assistance under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program or supplemental nutrition assistance program. Only a United States citizen or a noncitizen who meets the citizenship requirements for eligibility under the Medicaid program shall be eligible for home-care services under this section, except a qualified alien, as defined in Section 431 of Public Law 104-193, admitted into the United States on or after August 22, 1996, or other lawfully residing immigrant alien determined eligible for services under this section prior to July 1, 1997, shall remain eligible for such services. Qualified aliens or other lawfully residing immigrant aliens not determined eligible prior to July 1, 1997, shall be eligible for services under this section subsequent to six months from establishing residency. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, any qualified alien or other lawfully residing immigrant alien or alien who formerly held the status of permanently residing under color of law who is a victim of domestic violence or who has intellectual disability shall be eligible for assistance pursuant to this section. Qualified aliens, as

defined in Section 431 of Public Law 104-193, or other lawfully residing immigrant aliens or aliens who formerly held the status of permanently residing under color of law shall be eligible for services under this section provided other conditions of eligibility are met.

(b) The commissioner shall solicit bids through a competitive process and shall contract with an access agency, approved by the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Social Services as meeting the requirements for such agency as defined by regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (m) of this section, that submits proposals that meet or exceed the minimum bid requirements. In addition to such contracts, the commissioner may use department staff to provide screening, coordination, assessment and monitoring functions for the program.

(c) The community-based services covered under the program shall include, but not be limited to, services not otherwise available under the state Medicaid plan: (1) Occupational therapy, (2) homemaker services, (3) companion services, (4) meals on wheels, (5) adult day care, (6) transportation, (7) mental health counseling, (8) care management, (9) elderly foster care, (10) minor home modifications, and (11) assisted living services provided in state-funded congregate housing and in other assisted living pilot or demonstration projects established under state law. Personal care assistance services shall be covered under the program to the extent that (A) such services are not available under the Medicaid state plan and are more cost effective on an individual client basis than existing services covered under such plan, and (B) the provision of such services is approved by the federal government. Recipients of state-funded services, pursuant to subsection (i) of this section, and persons who are determined to be functionally eligible for community-based services who have an application for medical assistance pending, or are determined to be presumptively eligible for Medicaid pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, shall have the cost

of home health and community-based services covered by the program, provided they comply with all medical assistance application requirements. Access agencies shall not use department funds to purchase community-based services or home health services from themselves or any related parties.

(d) Physicians, hospitals, long-term care facilities and other licensed health care facilities may disclose, and, as a condition of eligibility for the program, elderly persons, their guardians, and relatives shall disclose, upon request from the Department of Social Services, such financial, social and medical information as may be necessary to enable the department or any agency administering the program on behalf of the department to provide services under the program. Long-term care facilities shall supply the Department of Social Services with the names and addresses of all applicants for admission. Any information provided pursuant to this subsection shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed by the department or administering agency.

(e) (1) The Commissioner of Social Services shall, subject to the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, establish a presumptive Medicaid eligibility system under which the state shall fund services under the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly for a period of not longer than ninety days for applicants who require a skilled level of nursing care and who are determined to be presumptively eligible for Medicaid coverage. The system shall include, but need not be limited to: (A) The development of a preliminary screening tool by the Department of Social Services to be used by representatives of the access agency selected pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to determine whether an applicant is functionally able to live at home or in a community setting and is likely to be financially eligible for Medicaid; (B) a requirement that the applicant complete a Medicaid application on the date such applicant is preliminarily screened for functional eligibility or not later than ten days after such

screening; (C) a determination of presumptive eligibility for eligible applicants by the department and **[**initiation of home care services**]** approval of a care plan authorizing home care services not later than ten days after an applicant is successfully screened for eligibility; and (D) a written agreement to be signed by the applicant (i) attesting to the accuracy of financial and other information such applicant provides, **[**and**]** (ii) acknowledging that the state shall solely fund services not longer than ninety days after the date on which home care services begin, and (iii) waiving any right to receive continued coverage while awaiting a hearing that is requested in response to the department's determination during or at the end of the presumptive period of eligibility that (I) the applicant is not eligible for Medicaid or (II) the applicant failed to provide information necessary to allow the department to make an eligibility determination. The department shall make a final determination as to Medicaid eligibility for applicants determined to be presumptively eligible for Medicaid coverage not later than **[**forty-five days after the date of receipt of a completed Medicaid application from such applicant, provided the department may make such determination not later than ninety days after receipt of the application if the applicant has disabilities**]** the end of the ninety-day period of presumptive eligibility. The department may make such determination prior to the end of such ninety-day period if it receives information indicating that the applicant is not eligible for Medicaid.

(2) To the extent permitted by federal law, the commissioner shall seek any federal waiver or amend the Medicaid state plan as necessary to attempt to secure federal reimbursement for the costs of providing coverage to persons determined to be presumptively eligible for Medicaid coverage. The provisions of this subsection and any other provision of this section relating to the establishment of a presumptive Medicaid eligibility system, including, but not limited to, such provisions located in subsections (c), (g) and (m), shall not be effective until the commissioner secures such federal reimbursement through a

federal waiver or Medicaid state plan amendment.

(3) Not less than two years after the date of the establishment of a presumptive Medicaid eligibility system pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, discontinue the system if the commissioner determines that the system is not cost effective.

(f) The commissioner may require long-term care facilities to inform applicants for admission of the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly established under this section and to distribute such forms as the commissioner prescribes for the program. Such forms shall be supplied by and be returnable to the department.

(g) The commissioner shall report annually, by June first, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services on the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly in such detail, depth and scope as said committee requires to evaluate the effect of the program on the state and program participants. Such report shall include information on (1) the number of persons diverted from placement in a long-term care facility as a result of the program, (2) the number of persons screened for the program, (3) the number of persons determined presumptively eligible for Medicaid, (4) savings for the state based on institutional care costs that were averted for persons determined to be presumptively eligible for Medicaid who later were determined to be eligible for Medicaid, (5) the number of persons determined presumptively eligible for Medicaid who later were determined not to be eligible for Medicaid and costs to the state to provide such persons with home care services before the final Medicaid eligibility determination, (6) the average cost per person in the program, (7) the administration costs, (8) the estimated savings to provide home care versus institutional care for all persons in the program, and (9) a comparison between costs under the different contracts for program

services.

(h) An individual who is otherwise eligible for services pursuant to this section shall, as a condition of participation in the program, apply for medical assistance benefits when requested to do so by the department and shall accept such benefits if determined eligible.

(i) (1) The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available appropriations, administer a state-funded portion of the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly for persons (A) who are sixty-five years of age and older and are not eligible for Medicaid; (B) who are inappropriately institutionalized or at risk of inappropriate institutionalization; (C) whose income is less than or equal to the amount allowed for a person who would be eligible for medical assistance if residing in a nursing facility; and (D) whose assets, if single, do not exceed one hundred fifty per cent of the federal minimum community spouse protected amount pursuant to 42 USC 1396r-5(f)(2) or, if married, the couple's assets do not exceed two hundred per cent of said community spouse protected amount. For program applications received by the Department of Social Services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, only persons who require the level of care provided in a nursing home shall be eligible for the state-funded portion of the program, except for persons residing in affordable housing under the assisted living demonstration project established pursuant to section 17b-347e who are otherwise eligible in accordance with this section.

(2) Except for persons residing in affordable housing under the assisted living demonstration project established pursuant to section 17b-347e, as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, any person whose income is at or below two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level and who is ineligible for Medicaid shall contribute three per cent of the cost of his or her care. Any person whose income exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level shall contribute three per

cent of the cost of his or her care in addition to the amount of applied income determined in accordance with the methodology established by the Department of Social Services for recipients of medical assistance. Any person who does not contribute to the cost of care in accordance with this subdivision shall be ineligible to receive services under this subsection. Notwithstanding any provision of sections 17b-60 and 17b-61, the department shall not be required to provide an administrative hearing to a person found ineligible for services under this subsection because of a failure to contribute to the cost of care.

(3) Any person who resides in affordable housing under the assisted living demonstration project established pursuant to section 17b-347e and whose income is at or below two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, shall not be required to contribute to the cost of care. Any person who resides in affordable housing under the assisted living demonstration project established pursuant to section 17b-347e and whose income exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, shall contribute to the applied income amount determined in accordance with the methodology established by the Department of Social Services for recipients of medical assistance. Any person whose income exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level and who does not contribute to the cost of care in accordance with this subdivision shall be ineligible to receive services under this subsection. Notwithstanding any provision of sections 17b-60 and 17b-61, the department shall not be required to provide an administrative hearing to a person found ineligible for services under this subsection because of a failure to contribute to the cost of care.

(4) The annualized cost of services provided to an individual under the state-funded portion of the program shall not exceed fifty per cent of the weighted average cost of care in nursing homes in the state, except an individual who received services costing in excess of such amount under the Department of Social Services in the fiscal year ending June

30, 1992, may continue to receive such services, provided the annualized cost of such services does not exceed eighty per cent of the weighted average cost of such nursing home care. The commissioner may allow the cost of services provided to an individual to exceed the maximum cost established pursuant to this subdivision in a case of extreme hardship, as determined by the commissioner, provided in no case shall such cost exceed that of the weighted cost of such nursing home care.

(j) The Commissioner of Social Services shall collect data on services provided under the program, including, but not limited to, the: (1) Number of participants before and after any adjustments in copayments, (2) average hours of care provided under the program per participant, and (3) estimated cost savings to the state by providing home care to participants who may otherwise receive care in a nursing home facility. The commissioner shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, report on the results of the data collection to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services not later than July 1, 2022. The commissioner may implement revised criteria for the operation of the program while in the process of adopting such criteria in regulation form, provided the commissioner publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations in accordance with section 17b-10. Such criteria shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

(k) The commissioner shall notify any access agency or area agency on aging that administers the program when the department sends a redetermination of eligibility form to an individual who is a client of such agency.

(l) In determining eligibility for the program described in this section, the commissioner shall not consider as income (1) Aid and Attendance pension benefits granted to a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or the surviving spouse of such veteran, and (2) any tax refund or advance

payment with respect to a refundable credit to the same extent such refund or advance payment would be disregarded under 26 USC 6409 in any federal program or state or local program financed in whole or in part with federal funds.

(m) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to (1) define "access agency", (2) implement and administer the program, (3) implement and administer the presumptive Medicaid eligibility system described in subsection (e) of this section, (4) establish uniform state-wide standards for the program and uniform assessment tools for use in the screening process for the program and the prescreening for presumptive Medicaid eligibility, and (5) specify conditions of eligibility.

Sec. 106. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall develop a public awareness and educational campaign to promote community-based screening and education for common diseases affecting high-risk male populations, including, but not limited to, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, infectious diseases, depression and anxiety.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the public awareness and educational campaign.

Sec. 107. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established a Higher Education Financial Sustainability Advisory Board, which shall be part of the Legislative Department.

(b) The board shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies;

(2) The members of the higher education subcommittee of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies;

(3) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement; and

(4) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. **[**; and

(5) The Auditors of Public Accounts.**]**

(c) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall jointly serve as chairpersons of the board. Such chairpersons of the board shall schedule the first meeting of the board, which shall be held not later than September 1, 2024. The board shall meet at least quarterly thereafter. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(d) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies shall serve as administrative staff of the board.

(e) The board shall have the following powers and duties: (1) Meet with the administrators of each public institution of higher education and The University of Connecticut Health Center to accept and review the information set forth in subsection (f) of this section and to discuss barriers to meeting state workforce needs, developing economic growth and achieving or maintaining affordable tuition; (2) obtain from any executive department, board, commission or other agency of the state

such assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the purposes of this section; and (3) perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in this section.

(f) Each public institution of higher education and The University of Connecticut Health Center shall each submit to the board, upon the request of the chairpersons of the board, the following information:

(1) A detailed financial report for the current fiscal year, subsequent fiscal year and five preceding fiscal years that identifies each source of revenue, category of expense and any assumptions upon which such reports are based;

(2) If the detailed financial report for the current fiscal year or subsequent fiscal year projects a deficiency, a detailed plan that eliminates such deficiency;

(3) A summary and general ledger account code analysis of the unrestricted net position of such institution for the most recently completed fiscal year;

(4) The number of full-time and part-time students enrolled disaggregated by in-state and out-of-state;

(5) The number of vacant and filled employment positions disaggregated by bargaining unit and management confidential type with corresponding average salaries from the first payroll in October of such fiscal year;

(6) A summary of cost drivers for such institution;

(7) A summary of budget constraints affecting (A) workforce developments, economic development efforts and student quality of life, including, but not limited to, time required for degree completion,

and (B) research productivity and faculty retention and recruitment; and

(8) Any other financial, operational, performance or other outcome information, metrics or data requested by the board.

(g) The board may require a public institution of higher education to submit the information set forth in subsection (f) of this section on a disaggregated basis.

Sec. 108. Section 1 of public act 24-45 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) There is established the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council. The council shall advise and provide annual reports to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education on the cost and implementation of existing education mandates on local and regional boards of education, as well as the impact of any proposals relating to additions or revisions to such education mandates. Such annual reports may include, but need not be limited to, (1) a review of education mandates on local and regional boards of education in the general statutes and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for the purpose of identifying those mandates that may be burdensome or have the effect of limiting or restricting the provision of instruction or services to students, including a detailed analysis of each such mandate so identified, the specific statutory or regulation citation for such mandate and how such mandate is imposed on a board of education, and (2) any recommendations regarding the repeal of or amendment to any such sections of the general statutes or regulations of Connecticut state agencies.

(b) The council shall consist of the following members:

(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards

of Education;

(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a member of a local or regional board of education;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Federation of School Administrators;

(7) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who shall be a paraeducator in a public school in this state;

(8) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who shall be a **[**teacher in a public school in this state**]** representative of the Connecticut Education Association;

(9) One appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who shall be a paraeducator in a public school in

this state; and

(10) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who shall be a **[**teacher in a public school in this state**]** representative of the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut.

(c) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later than August 1, 2024. The initial terms for the members appointed shall terminate on January 31, 2029. Terms following the initial terms shall be for five years. Any member of the council may serve more than one term. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later than October 1, 2024.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education shall serve as administrative staff of the council.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council shall develop and submit an annual report on its review of the implementation and cost of statutory and regulatory education mandates on local and regional boards of education. Such annual report shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a review of all existing education mandates required by state law, (2) the costs incurred by local and regional boards of education resulting from the implementation of such education mandates, and (3) how such education mandates are being implemented by local and regional boards of education, including, but not limited to, the manner in which and how often such

education mandate is being implemented. The council shall submit such report, and any recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 109. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall utilize the Commissioner of Public Health's 2021 population estimates certified pursuant to section 19a-2a of the general statutes for the purposes of calculating municipal grants of which the current population of a municipality is a component.

Sec. 110. Subsection (a) of section 10a-1a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) There shall be a Board of Regents for Higher Education that shall serve as the governing body for the regional community-technical college system, the Connecticut State University System and Charter Oak State College. The board shall consist of **[**twenty-two**]** <u>twenty-three</u> members who shall be distinguished leaders of the community in Connecticut. The board shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity. The voting members shall not be employed by or be a member of a board of trustees for any independent institution of higher education in this state or the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut nor shall they be public officials or state employees, as such terms are defined in section 1-79, during their term of membership on the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The Governor shall appoint nine members to the board as follows: Three members for a term of two years; three members for a term of four years; and three members for a term of six years. Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint members of the board to succeed such appointees whose terms expire and each member so appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the first day

of July in the year of his or her appointment. Four members of the board shall be appointed as follows: One appointment by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be an alumnus of the regional community-technical college system, for a term of four years; one appointment by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a specialist in the education of children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, for a term of three years; one appointment by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be an alumnus of the Connecticut State University System, for a term of four years; and one appointment by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be an alumnus of Charter Oak State College, for a term of three years. Thereafter, such members of the General Assembly shall appoint members of the board to succeed such appointees whose terms expire and each member so appointed shall hold office for a period of four years from the first day of July in the year of his or her appointment. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the student advisory committee created under section 10a-3 shall serve as members of the board. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the faculty advisory committee created under section 10a-3a shall serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the board for a term of two years and, in their respective roles as chairperson and vice-chairperson, may be invited to any executive session, as defined in section 1-200, of the board by the chairperson of the board. The Commissioners of Education, Economic and Community Development and Public Health, the Labor Commissioner, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, and the Chief Workforce Officer shall serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the board.

Sec. 111. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Legislative Commissioners' Office shall, in codifying the provisions of this act, make such technical, grammatical and punctuation changes as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this act, including, but not limited to, correcting inaccurate internal references.

(b) The Legislative Commissioners' Office shall, in codifying sections 131 to 232, inclusive, of this act or any public act of the 2024 session, make such technical, grammatical and punctuation changes as are necessary to carry out the purposes of said sections.

Sec. 112. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, sections 10-65 and 10-264*l* of the general statutes and section 113 of this act:

(1) "Choice program" means (A) an interdistrict magnet school program, or (B) a regional agricultural science and technology center.

(2) "Foundation" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-262f of the general statutes.

(3) "Resident students" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-262f of the general statutes.

(4) "Resident choice program students" means the number of part-time and full-time students of a town enrolled or participating in a particular choice program.

(5) "Total need students" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-262f of the general statutes.

(6) "Total magnet school program need students" means the sum of (A) the number of part-time and full-time students enrolled in the interdistrict magnet school program of the interdistrict magnet school operator that is (i) not a local or regional board of education, (ii) the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173 of the general statutes, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, or (iii) any other third-party, not-for-profit corporation approved by the Commissioner of Education, for the school year, and (B) for the school year commencing July 1, 2024, (i) thirty per

cent of the number of part-time and full-time students enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school program eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk, (ii) fifteen per cent of the number of such part-time and full-time students eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk in excess of the number of such part-time and full-time students eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk that is equal to sixty per cent of the total number of students enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school program, (iii) twenty-five per cent of the number of part-time and full-time students enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school program who are English language learners, and (iv) if such interdistrict magnet school program is assisting the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, thirty per cent of the number of part-time and full-time students enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school program.

(7) "Sending town" means the town that sends resident choice program students, which it would otherwise be legally responsible for educating, to a choice program.

(8) "Receiving district" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-266aa of the general statutes.

(9) "Weighted funding amount per pupil" means the quotient of (A) the product of the foundation and a town's total need students for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be paid, and (B) the number of resident students of the town.

(10) "In-district student" means a student enrolled or participating in a choice program operated or maintained by a local or regional board of education and for whom such local or regional board of education is legally responsible for educating.

(11) "Out-of-district student" means a student enrolled or participating in a choice program operated or maintained by a local or regional board of education and who does not reside in the town or a member town of such local or regional board of education.

(12) "Total revenue per pupil" means the sum of (A) the per student amount of the grant for a choice program student for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, (B) the per student amount of any general education tuition for a student in such choice program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and (C) the per child amount of any tuition charged for a child enrolled in a preschool program offered by a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school preschool program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, pursuant to section 10-264*l* of the general statutes.

(13) "Adjusted total revenue per pupil" means the sum of (A) the per student amount of the grant for a choice program student for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, (B) the per student amount of any general education tuition for a student in such choice program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and (C) the per child amount of any tuition charged for a child enrolled in a preschool program offered by a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school preschool program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, pursuant to section 10-264*l* of the general statutes.

(14) "Sending town adjustment factor" means the product of (A) the weighted funding amount per pupil or the total revenue per pupil, whichever is greater, for a sending town, and (B) the number of its resident choice program students.

(b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, an interdistrict magnet school program operator that is not a local or regional board of education shall be entitled to a grant in an amount equal to the sum of

(A) forty-two per cent of the difference between (i) the product of the foundation and its total magnet school program need students, and (ii) the per student amount such operator received under section 10-264*l* of the general statutes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, multiplied by the number of students enrolled in such program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and (B) the amount described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision.

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, if (A) the quotient of the sum of the total revenue per pupil during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and the total number of such students enrolled in such program of such operator during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, is greater than (B) the quotient of the sum of the adjusted total revenue per pupil and the number of such students enrolled in such program of such operator during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, then such operator shall be entitled to a grant in an amount equal to the sum of (i) the amount described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (ii) the product of the difference between the amount described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and the amount described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision and the total number of students enrolled in such program of such operator during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

(c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, an interdistrict magnet school operator that is a local or regional board of education shall be entitled to a grant in an amount equal to the sum of (1) forty-two per cent of the difference between (A) the sum of (i) the sending town adjustment factors for each sending town, and (ii) the product of the number of in-district students enrolled in the interdistrict magnet school program of such board and the per student amount of the grant under section 10-264*l* of the general statutes for an in-district student enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and (B) the appropriate per student amounts, for in-district students and out-of-district students, such operator received

under section 10-264*l* of the general statutes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, multiplied by the appropriate numbers of in-district students and out-of-district students enrolled in such program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and (2) the amount described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, a local or regional board of education that operates a regional agricultural science and technology center shall be entitled to a grant in an amount equal to the sum of (1) forty-two per cent of the difference between (A) the sum of (i) the sending town adjustment factors for each sending town, and (ii) the product of the number of in-district students enrolled in such center and five thousand two hundred, and (B) five thousand two hundred multiplied by the number of students enrolled in such center for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and (2) the amount described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 113. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than June 30, 2024, the Department of Education shall calculate an estimated amount of each grant under section 112 of this act for the next fiscal year using data collected during the current fiscal year, and notify each local and regional board of education and interdistrict magnet school program operator that is not a local or regional board of education of such estimated amounts.

(b) Not later than June 30, 2024, and then again on December 31, 2024, the Department of Education shall calculate an estimated amount that each town is entitled to receive under the provisions of section 10-262h of the general statutes, for the next fiscal year using data collected during the current fiscal year, and notify each such town of such estimated amount.

(c) Not later than June 30, 2024, and then again on February 1, 2025, the Department of Education shall calculate an estimated amount of the

grant under subsection (d) of section 10-66ee of the general statutes for each fiscal authority for a state charter school for the next fiscal year using data collected during the current fiscal year, and notify each such fiscal authority of such estimated amount.

Sec. 114. Section 10-264*l* of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, establish a grant program (1) to assist (A) local and regional boards of education, (B) regional educational service centers, (C) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of Quinebaug Valley Community College and Three Rivers Community College, and (D) cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a, and (2) in assisting the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner, to assist (A) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical college, (B) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System on behalf of a state university, (C) the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut on behalf of the university, (D) the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, and (E) any other third-party not-for-profit corporation approved by the commissioner with the operation of interdistrict magnet school programs. All interdistrict magnet schools shall be operated in conformance with the same laws and regulations applicable to public schools. For the purposes of this section "an interdistrict magnet school program" means a program which (i) supports racial, ethnic and economic diversity, (ii) offers a special and high quality curriculum, and

(iii) requires students who are enrolled to attend at least half-time. An interdistrict magnet school program does not include a regional agricultural science and technology school, a technical education and career school or a regional special education center. For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, the governing authority for each interdistrict magnet school program shall (I) restrict the number of students that may enroll in the school from a participating district to seventy-five per cent of the total school enrollment, and (II) maintain a total school enrollment that is in accordance with the reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-264r.

(b) (1) Applications for interdistrict magnet school program operating grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be submitted annually to the Commissioner of Education at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, except that on and after July 1, 2009, applications for such operating grants for new interdistrict magnet schools, other than those that the commissioner determines will assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner, shall not be accepted until the commissioner develops a comprehensive state-wide interdistrict magnet school plan. The commissioner shall submit such comprehensive state-wide interdistrict magnet school plan on or before October 1, 2016, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations.

(2) In determining whether an application shall be approved and funds awarded pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (A) Whether the program offered by the school is likely to increase student achievement;

(B) whether the program is likely to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation; (C) the percentage of the student enrollment in the program from each participating district; and (D) the proposed operating budget and the sources of funding for the interdistrict magnet school. For a magnet school not operated by a local or regional board of education, the commissioner shall only approve a proposed operating budget that, on a per pupil basis, does not exceed the maximum allowable threshold established in accordance with this subdivision. The maximum allowable threshold shall be an amount equal to one hundred twenty per cent of the state average of the quotient obtained by dividing net current expenditures, as defined in section 10-261, by average daily membership, as defined in said section, for the fiscal year two years prior to the fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. The Department of Education shall establish the maximum allowable threshold no later than December fifteenth of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. If requested by an applicant that is not a local or regional board of education, the commissioner may approve a proposed operating budget that exceeds the maximum allowable threshold if the commissioner determines that there are extraordinary programmatic needs. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, June 30, 2018, June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, in the case of an interdistrict magnet school that will assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner, the commissioner shall also consider whether the school is meeting the reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed by the commissioner pursuant to section 10-264r. If such school has not met such reduced-isolation setting standards, it shall not be entitled to receive a grant pursuant to this section unless the commissioner finds that it is appropriate to award a grant for an additional year or years and approves a plan to bring such school into compliance with such reduced-isolation setting standards. If requested by the commissioner, the applicant shall meet with the

commissioner or the commissioner's designee to discuss the budget and sources of funding.

(3) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, the commissioner shall not award a grant to an interdistrict magnet school program that (A) has more than seventy-five per cent of the total school enrollment from one school district, or (B) does not maintain a total school enrollment that is in accordance with the reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-264r, except the commissioner may award a grant to such school for an additional year or years if the commissioner finds it is appropriate to do so and approves a plan to bring such school into compliance with such residency or reduced-isolation setting standards.

(4) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, if an interdistrict magnet school program does not maintain a total school enrollment that is in accordance with the reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed by the commissioner pursuant to section 10-264r, for two or more consecutive years, the commissioner may impose a financial penalty on the operator of such interdistrict magnet school program, or take any other measure, in consultation with such operator, as may be appropriate to assist such operator in complying with such reduced-isolation setting standards.

(5) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, for the purposes of equalization aid under section 10-262h, a student enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school program shall be counted as a resident student, as defined in section 10-262f, of the town in which such student resides.

(c) (1) **[**The maximum amount each interdistrict magnet school program, except those described in subparagraphs (A) to (G), inclusive,

of subdivision (3) of this subsection, shall be eligible to receive per enrolled student who is not a resident of the town operating the magnet school shall be (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, seven thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars, and (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at least seven thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars. The per pupil grant for each enrolled student who is a resident of the town operating the magnet school program shall be (i) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, three thousand sixty dollars, and (ii) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at least three thousand sixty dollars.**]** For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, each interdistrict magnet school operator shall be paid a grant equal to the amount the operator is entitled to receive under the provisions of section 112 of this act.

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, and each fiscal year thereafter, the commissioner may, within available appropriations, provide supplemental grants for the purposes of enhancing educational programs in such interdistrict magnet schools, as the commissioner determines. Such grants shall be made after the commissioner has conducted a comprehensive financial review and approved the total operating budget for such schools, including all revenue and expenditure estimates.

[(3) (A) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraphs (C) to (G), inclusive, of this subdivision, each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional educational service center that enrolls less than fifty-five per cent of the school's students from a single town shall receive a per pupil grant in the amount of (i) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, eight thousand fifty-eight dollars, and (ii) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at least eight thousand fifty-eight dollars.

(B) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraphs (C) to (G),

inclusive, of this subdivision, each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional educational service center that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent of the school's students from a single town shall receive a per pupil grant for each enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent of the school's students in the amount of (i) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, seven thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars, and (ii) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at least seven thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars. The per pupil grant for each enrolled student who is a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent of the school's students shall be (I) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, three thousand sixty dollars, and (II) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at least three thousand sixty dollars.

(C) (i) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2019, inclusive, each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional educational service center that began operations for the school year commencing July 1, 2001, and that for the school year commencing July 1, 2008, enrolled at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the school's students from a single town, shall receive a per pupil grant (I) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount equal to the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of eight thousand one hundred eighty dollars, (II) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of three thousand dollars, (III) for each enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount equal to the

total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of eight thousand one hundred eighty dollars, and (IV) for each enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of seven thousand eighty-five dollars.

(ii) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2022, inclusive, each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional educational service center that began operations for the school year commencing July 1, 2001, and that for the school year commencing July 1, 2008, enrolled at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students from a single town, shall receive a per pupil grant (I) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount equal to the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of eight thousand three hundred forty-four dollars, (II) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of three thousand sixty dollars, (III) for each enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount equal to the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of eight thousand three hundred forty-four dollars, and (IV) for each enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of seven thousand two hundred twenty-

seven dollars.

(D) (i) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (D)(ii) of this subdivision, each interdistrict magnet school operated by (I) a regional educational service center, (II) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical college, (III) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System on behalf of a state university, (IV) the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut on behalf of the university, (V) the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (E) of this subdivision, (VI) cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a, (VII) any other third-party not-for-profit corporation approved by the commissioner, and (VIII) the Hartford school district for the operation of Great Path Academy on behalf of Manchester Community College, that enrolls less than sixty per cent of its students from Hartford shall receive a per pupil grant in the amount of ten thousand six hundred fifty-two dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and at least ten thousand six hundred fifty-two dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, except the commissioner may make grants under this subparagraph to an interdistrict magnet school operator described in this subparagraph that enrolls more than sixty per cent of its students from Hartford.

(ii) Any interdistrict magnet school described in subparagraph (D)(i) of this subdivision that enrolls less than fifty per cent of its incoming students from Hartford shall receive a per pupil grant (I) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in the amount of eight thousand fifty-eight dollars for one-half of the total number of non-Hartford students enrolled in the school over fifty per cent of the total school enrollment and shall receive a per pupil grant in the amount of ten thousand six

hundred fifty-two dollars for the remainder of the total school enrollment, and (II) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, in the amount of at least eight thousand fifty-eight dollars for one-half of the total number of non-Hartford students enrolled in the school over fifty per cent of the total school enrollment and shall receive a per pupil grant in the amount of at least ten thousand six hundred fifty-two dollars for the remainder of the total school enrollment, except the commissioner may, upon the written request of an operator of such school, waive such fifty per cent enrollment minimum for good cause.

(E) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year thereafter, each interdistrict magnet school operated by the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, that (i) began operations for the school year commencing July 1, 2014, (ii) enrolls less than sixty per cent of its students from Hartford pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner, and (iii) enrolls students at least half-time, shall be eligible to receive a per pupil grant (I) equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision for each student who is enrolled at such school for at least two semesters in each school year, and (II) equal to thirty-two and one-half per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision for each student who is enrolled at such school for one semester in each school year.

(F) Each interdistrict magnet school operated by a local or regional board of education, pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, shall receive a per pupil grant for each enrolled student who is not a resident of the

district in the amount of (i) thirteen thousand three hundred fifteen dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and (ii) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at least thirteen thousand three hundred fifteen dollars.

(G) In addition to the grants described in subparagraph (E) of this subdivision, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, the commissioner may, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Finance Advisory Committee, established pursuant to section 4-93, provide supplemental grants to the Hartford school district of up to one thousand fifty-four dollars for each student enrolled at an interdistrict magnet school operated by the Hartford school district who is not a resident of such district.

(H) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, the half-day Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts interdistrict magnet school operated by the Capital Region Education Council shall be eligible to receive a per pupil grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the per pupil grant specified in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

(I) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2018, inclusive, the half-day Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science interdistrict magnet school operated by the Capitol Region Education Council shall be eligible to receive a per pupil grant equal to six thousand seven hundred eighty-seven dollars for (i) students enrolled in grades ten to twelve, inclusive, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, (ii) students enrolled in grades eleven and twelve for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, and (iii) students enrolled in grade twelve for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, the half-day Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science interdistrict magnet school shall not be eligible for any additional grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(4) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, and June 30, 2016, the department may limit payment to an interdistrict magnet school operator to an amount equal to the grant that such magnet school operator was eligible to receive based on the enrollment level of the interdistrict magnet school program on October 1, 2013. Approval of funding for enrollment above such enrollment level shall be prioritized by the department as follows: (A) Increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program that is adding planned new grade levels for the school years commencing July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016; (B) increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program that added planned new grade levels for the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and was funded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015; (C) increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program that is moving into a permanent facility for the school years commencing July 1, 2014, to July 1, 2016, inclusive; (D) increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program to ensure compliance with subsection (a) of this section; and (E) new enrollments for a new interdistrict magnet school program commencing operations on or after July 1, 2014, pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner. Any interdistrict magnet school program operating less than full-time, but at least half-time, shall be eligible to receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to this subsection.

(5) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, the department may limit payment to an interdistrict magnet school operator to an amount equal to the grant that such magnet school operator was eligible to receive based on the enrollment level of the interdistrict magnet school program on October 1, 2013, or October 1, 2015, whichever is lower. Approval of funding for enrollment above such enrollment level shall be prioritized by the department as follows: (A) Increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program that is adding planned new grade

levels for the school years commencing July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016; (B) increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program that added planned new grade levels for the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and was funded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015; (C) increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program that added planned new grade levels for the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and was funded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016; and (D) increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program to ensure compliance with subsection (a) of this section. Any interdistrict magnet school program operating less than full-time, but at least half-time, shall be eligible to receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to this subsection.

(6) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and within available appropriations, the department may limit payment to an interdistrict magnet school operator to an amount equal to the grant that such magnet school operator was eligible to receive based on the enrollment level of the interdistrict magnet school program on October 1, 2013, October 1, 2015, or October 1, 2016, whichever is lower. Approval of funding for enrollment above such enrollment level shall be prioritized by the department and subject to the commissioner's approval, including increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program as a result of planned and approved new grade levels. Any interdistrict magnet school program operating less than full-time, but at least half-time, shall be eligible to receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to this subsection.

(7) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and within available appropriations, the department may limit payment to an interdistrict magnet school operator to an amount equal to the grant that such magnet school operator was eligible to receive based on the enrollment level of the interdistrict magnet school program on October 1, 2013, October 1, 2015, October 1, 2016, or October 1, 2017, whichever is lower.

Approval of funding for enrollment above such enrollment level shall be prioritized by the department and subject to the commissioner's approval, including increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program as a result of planned and approved new grade levels. Any interdistrict magnet school program operating less than full-time, but at least half-time, shall be eligible to receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to this subsection.

(8) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and within available appropriations, the department may limit payment to an interdistrict magnet school operator to an amount equal to the grant that such magnet school operator was eligible to receive based on the enrollment level of the interdistrict magnet school program on October 1, 2013, October 1, 2015, October 1, 2016, October 1, 2017, or October 1, 2018, whichever is lower. Approval of funding for enrollment above such enrollment level shall be prioritized by the department and subject to the commissioner's approval, including increases in enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program as a result of planned and approved new grade levels. Any interdistrict magnet school program operating less than full-time, but at least half-time, shall be eligible to receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to this subsection.

(9) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and within available appropriations, the department may limit payment to an interdistrict magnet school operator to an amount equal to the grant that such magnet school operator was eligible to receive based on the enrollment level of the interdistrict magnet school program on October 1, 2013, October 1, 2015, October 1, 2016, October 1, 2017, October 1, 2018, or October 1, 2019, whichever is lower. Approval of funding for enrollment above such enrollment level shall be prioritized by the department and subject to the commissioner's approval, including increases in

enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school program as a result of planned and approved new grade levels. Any interdistrict magnet school program operating less than full-time, but at least half-time, shall be eligible to receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to this subsection.**]**

[(10)**]** (3) Within available appropriations, the commissioner may make grants to the following entities that operate an interdistrict magnet school that assists the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner and that provide academic support programs and summer school educational programs approved by the commissioner to students participating in such interdistrict magnet school program: (A) Regional educational service centers, (B) local and regional boards of education, (C) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical college, (D) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System on behalf of a state university, (E) the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut on behalf of the university, (F) the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, (G) cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a, and (H) any other third-party not-for-profit corporation approved by the commissioner.

[(11)**]** (4) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of Education may make grants, in an amount not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars, for start-up costs associated with the development of new interdistrict magnet school programs that assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner, to the following entities that develop such a program: (A)

Regional educational service centers, (B) local and regional boards of education, (C) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical college, (D) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System on behalf of a state university, (E) the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut on behalf of the university, (F) the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of higher education, (G) cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a, and (H) any other third-party not-for-profit corporation approved by the commissioner.

[(12) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, the department shall make grants determined pursuant to this subsection within available appropriations, and in no case shall the total grant paid to an interdistrict magnet school operator pursuant to this section exceed the aggregate total of the reasonable operating budgets of the interdistrict magnet school programs of such operator, less revenues from other sources.

(13) Any interdistrict magnet school program operating less than full-time, but at least half-time, shall be eligible to receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount determined pursuant to this subsection.**]**

(d) **[**(1)**]** Grants made pursuant to this section **[**, except those made pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of this section and subdivision (2) of this subsection,**]** and section 112 of this act shall be paid as follows: Seventy per cent not later than September first and the balance not later than May first of each fiscal year. The May first payment shall be adjusted to reflect actual interdistrict magnet school program enrollment as of the preceding October first using the data of record as of the intervening January thirty-first, if the actual level of enrollment is lower than the projected enrollment stated in the

approved grant application. The May first payment shall be further adjusted for the difference between the total grant received by the magnet school operator in the prior fiscal year and the revised total grant amount calculated for the prior fiscal year in cases where the aggregate financial audit submitted by the interdistrict magnet school operator pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of this section indicates an overpayment by the department. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the contrary, grants made pursuant to this section may be paid to each interdistrict magnet school operator as an aggregate total of the amount that the interdistrict magnet schools operated by each such operator are eligible to receive under this section. Each interdistrict magnet school operator may distribute such aggregate grant among the interdistrict magnet school programs that such operator is operating pursuant to a distribution plan approved by the Commissioner of Education.

[(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, grants made pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of this section shall be paid as follows: Fifty per cent of the amount not later than September first based on estimated student enrollment for the first semester on September first, and another fifty per cent not later than May first of each fiscal year based on actual student enrollment for the second semester on February first. The May first payment shall be adjusted to reflect actual interdistrict magnet school program enrollment for those students who have been enrolled at such school for at least two semesters of the school year, using the data of record, and actual student enrollment for those students who have been enrolled at such school for only one semester, using data of record. The May first payment shall be further adjusted for the difference between the total grant received by the magnet school operator in the prior fiscal year and the revised total grant amount calculated for the prior fiscal year where the financial audit submitted by the interdistrict magnet school operator pursuant to subdivision (1)

of subsection (n) of this section indicates an overpayment by the department.**]**

(e) The Department of Education may retain up to one-half of one per cent of the amount appropriated, in an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars, for purposes of this section for program evaluation and administration.

(f) Each local or regional school district in which an interdistrict magnet school is located shall provide the same kind of transportation to its children enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school as it provides to its children enrolled in other public schools in such local or regional school district. The parent or guardian of a child denied the transportation services required to be provided pursuant to this subsection may appeal such denial in the manner provided in sections 10-186 and 10-187.

(g) On or before October fifteenth of each year, the Commissioner of Education shall determine if interdistrict magnet school enrollment is below the number of students for which funds were appropriated. If the commissioner determines that the enrollment is below such number, the additional funds shall not lapse but shall be used by the commissioner for grants for interdistrict cooperative programs pursuant to section 10-74d.

(h) (1) In the case of a student identified as requiring special education, the school district in which the student resides shall: (A) Hold the planning and placement team meeting for such student and shall invite representatives from the interdistrict magnet school to participate in such meeting; and (B) pay the interdistrict magnet school an amount equal to the difference between the reasonable cost of educating such student and the sum of the amount received by the interdistrict magnet school for such student pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and amounts received from other state, federal, local or

private sources calculated on a per pupil basis. Such school district shall be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to section 10-76g. If a student requiring special education attends an interdistrict magnet school on a full-time basis, such interdistrict magnet school shall be responsible for ensuring that such student receives the services mandated by the student's individualized education program whether such services are provided by the interdistrict magnet school or by the school district in which the student resides.

(2) In the case of a student with a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, the school district in which the student resides shall pay the interdistrict magnet school an amount equal to the difference between the reasonable cost of educating such student and the sum of the amount received by the interdistrict magnet school for such student pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and amounts received from other state, federal, local or private sources calculated on a per pupil basis. If a student with a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, attends an interdistrict magnet school on a full-time basis, such interdistrict magnet school shall be responsible for ensuring that such student receives the services mandated by the student's plan, whether such services are provided by the interdistrict magnet school or by the school district in which the student resides.

(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the enrollment of nonpublic school students in an interdistrict magnet school program that operates less than full-time, provided (1) such students constitute no more than five per cent of the full-time equivalent enrollment in such magnet school program, and (2) such students are not counted for purposes of determining the amount of grants pursuant to this section and section 10-264i.

(j) After accommodating students from participating districts in accordance with an approved enrollment agreement, an interdistrict

magnet school operator that has unused student capacity may enroll directly into its program any interested student. A student from a district that is not participating in an interdistrict magnet school or the interdistrict student attendance program pursuant to section 10-266aa to an extent determined by the Commissioner of Education shall be given preference. The local or regional board of education otherwise responsible for educating such student shall contribute funds to support the operation of the interdistrict magnet school in an amount equal to the per student tuition, if any, charged to participating districts, except for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, such per student tuition charged to such participating districts shall not exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

(k) **[**(1)**]** For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and each fiscal year thereafter, any tuition charged to a local or regional board of education by (1) a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school, **[**or any tuition charged by**]** (2) the Hartford school district operating the Great Path Academy on behalf of Manchester Community College, or (3) any interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-264s, for any student enrolled in kindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, in such interdistrict magnet school shall be in an amount equal to the difference between (A) the average per pupil expenditure of the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (B) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of this section plus any revenue from other sources calculated on a per pupil basis, except for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the per student tuition charged to a local or regional board of education shall not exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. If any such board of education fails to pay such tuition, the commissioner may withhold from such board's town or towns a sum payable under section 10-262i in an amount not to exceed the amount of the unpaid

tuition to the magnet school and pay such money to the fiscal agent for the magnet school as a supplementary grant for the operation of the interdistrict magnet school program. In no case shall the sum of such tuitions exceed the difference between (i) the total expenditures of the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (ii) the total per pupil state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of this section plus any revenue from other sources. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the operating budget of a magnet school to verify such tuition rate.

[(2) (A) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2014, a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school offering a preschool program that is not located in the Sheff region may charge tuition to the Department of Education for a child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount not to exceed an amount equal to the difference between (i) the average per pupil expenditure of the preschool program offered at the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (ii) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of this section plus any revenue from other sources calculated on a per pupil basis. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the operating budget of any such magnet school charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate. For purposes of this subdivision, "Sheff region" means the school districts for the towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, South Windsor, Suffield, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor and Windsor Locks.

(B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school offering a preschool program that is not located in the Sheff region may charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool

program in an amount that is in accordance with the sliding tuition scale adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-264p. The Department of Education shall be financially responsible for any unpaid portion of the tuition not charged to such parent or guardian under such sliding tuition scale. Such tuition shall not exceed an amount equal to the difference between (i) the average per pupil expenditure of the preschool program offered at the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (ii) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of this section plus any revenue from other sources calculated on a per pupil basis. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the operating budget of any such magnet school charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.**]**

[(C)**]** (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school offering a preschool program that is not located in the Sheff region shall charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount up to four thousand fifty-three dollars, except such regional educational service center shall **[**(i)**]** (A) not charge tuition to such parent or guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income, and **[**(ii)**]** (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, charge tuition to such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent of the tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, be financially responsible for any unpaid tuition charged to such parent or guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the operating budget of any such magnet school charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

(l) A participating district shall provide opportunities for its students

to attend an interdistrict magnet school in a number that is at least equal to the number specified in any written agreement with an interdistrict magnet school operator or in a number that is at least equal to the average number of students that the participating district enrolled in such magnet school during the previous three school years.

(m) (1) On or before May 15, 2010, and annually thereafter, each interdistrict magnet school operator shall provide written notification to any school district that is otherwise responsible for educating a student who resides in such school district and will be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school under the operator's control for the following school year. Such notification shall include (A) the number of any such students, by grade, who will be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school under the control of such operator, (B) the name of the school in which such student has been placed, and (C) the amount of tuition to be charged to the local or regional board of education for such student. Such notification shall represent an estimate of the number of students expected to attend such interdistrict magnet schools in the following school year, but shall not be deemed to limit the number of students who may enroll in such interdistrict magnet schools for such year.

(2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, any interdistrict magnet school operator that is a local or regional board of education and did not charge tuition to another local or regional board of education for the school year commencing July 1, 2014, may not charge tuition to such board unless (A) such operator receives authorization from the Commissioner of Education to charge the proposed tuition, and (B) if such authorization is granted, such operator provides written notification on or before September first of the school year prior to the school year in which such tuition is to be charged to such board of the tuition to be charged to such board for each student that such board is otherwise responsible for educating and is enrolled at the interdistrict magnet school under such operator's control,

except for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of such tuition charged to such other local or regional board of education shall not exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. In deciding whether to authorize an interdistrict magnet school operator to charge tuition under this subdivision, the commissioner shall consider (i) the average per pupil expenditure of such operator for each interdistrict magnet school under the control of such operator, and (ii) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy and any revenue from other sources received by such operator. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the operating budget of the magnet school of such operator to verify that the tuition is appropriate. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any interdistrict magnet school operator that is a regional educational service center or assisting the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

(3) Not later than two weeks following an enrollment lottery for an interdistrict magnet school conducted by a magnet school operator, the parent or guardian of a student (A) who will enroll in such interdistrict magnet school in the following school year, or (B) whose name has been placed on a waiting list for enrollment in such interdistrict magnet school for the following school year, shall provide written notification of such prospective enrollment or waiting list placement to the school district in which such student resides and is otherwise responsible for educating such student.

(n) (1) Each interdistrict magnet school operator shall annually file with the Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, (A) a financial audit for each interdistrict magnet school operated by such operator, and (B) an aggregate financial audit for all of the interdistrict magnet schools

operated by such operator.

(2) Annually, the commissioner shall randomly select one interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional educational service center to be subject to a comprehensive financial audit conducted by an auditor selected by the commissioner. The regional educational service center shall be responsible for all costs associated with the audit conducted pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision.

(o) For the school year commencing July 1, 2023, any local or regional board of education operating an interdistrict magnet school pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, shall not charge tuition for any student enrolled in a preschool program or in kindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, in an interdistrict magnet school operated by such school district, except the Hartford school district may charge tuition for any student enrolled in the Great Path Academy.

(p) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, if the East Hartford school district or the Manchester school district has greater than four per cent of its resident students, as defined in section 10-262f, enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school program, then the board of education for the town of East Hartford or the town of Manchester shall not be financially responsible for four thousand four hundred dollars of the portion of the per student tuition charged for each such student in excess of such four per cent. The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, be financially responsible for such excess per student tuition. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of the grants payable to the boards of education for the towns of East Hartford and Manchester in accordance with this subsection shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for purposes of this subsection.

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, if the local or regional board of education for (A) the town of Windsor, (B) the town of New Britain, (C) the town of New London, and (D) the town of Bloomfield, has greater than four per cent of its resident students, as defined in section 10-262f, enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school program, then such board of education shall not be financially responsible for four thousand four hundred dollars of the portion of the per student tuition charged for each such student in excess of such four per cent. The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, be financially responsible for such excess per student tuition. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the amount of the grants payable to any such board of education in accordance with this subsection shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for purposes of this subsection.

Sec. 115. Section 10-264o of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, interdistrict magnet schools that begin operations on or after July 1, 2008, pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, may operate without district participation agreements and enroll students from any district through a lottery designated by the commissioner.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, and each fiscal year thereafter, any tuition charged to a local or regional board of education by a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of

Education, for any student enrolled in kindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, in such interdistrict magnet school shall be in an amount equal to the difference between (1) the average per pupil expenditure of the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (2) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of section 10-264*l*, plus any revenue from other sources calculated on a per pupil basis, except for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the per student tuition charged to a local or regional board of education shall not exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. If any such board of education fails to pay such tuition, the commissioner may withhold from such board's town or towns a sum payable under section 10-262i in an amount not to exceed the amount of the unpaid tuition to the magnet school and pay such money to the fiscal agent for the magnet school as a supplementary grant for the operation of the interdistrict magnet school program. In no case shall the sum of such tuitions exceed the difference between (A) the total expenditures of the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (B) the total per pupil state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of section 10-264*l*, plus any revenue from other sources. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive review of the operating budget of a magnet school to verify such tuition rate.

[(c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, and offering a preschool program shall not charge tuition for a child enrolled in such preschool program.

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill,

238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, and offering a preschool program may charge tuition to the Department of Education for a child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount not to exceed an amount equal to the difference between (A) the average per pupil expenditure of the preschool program offered at the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (B) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of section 10-264*l*, plus any revenue from other sources calculated on a per pupil basis. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive review of the operating budget of any such magnet school charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

(3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, and offering a preschool program may charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount that is in accordance with the sliding tuition scale adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-264p. The Department of Education shall be financially responsible for any unpaid portion of the tuition not charged to such parent or guardian under such sliding tuition scale. Such tuition shall not exceed an amount equal to the difference between (A) the average per pupil expenditure of the preschool program offered at the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (B) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of section 10-264*l*, plus any revenue from other sources calculated on a per pupil basis. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive review of the operating budget of any such magnet school charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.**]**

[(4)**]** (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, and offering a preschool program shall charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount **[**up to four thousand fifty-three dollars**]** not to exceed fifty-eight per cent the per child tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, except such regional educational service center shall not charge tuition to such parent or guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, be financially responsible for any unpaid tuition charged to such parent or guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the operating budget of any such magnet school charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, any interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-264s that offers a preschool program shall charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent the per child tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, except such interdistrict magnet school operator shall not charge tuition to such parent or guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, be financially responsible for any unpaid tuition charged to such parent or guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the operating budget

of any such interdistrict magnet school operator charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

Sec. 116. Section 10-65 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Each local or regional school district operating an agricultural science and technology education center approved by the State Board of Education for program, educational need, location and area to be served shall be eligible for the following grants: (1) In accordance with the provisions of chapter 173, through progress payments in accordance with the provisions of section 10-287i, (A) for projects for which an application was filed prior to July 1, 2011, ninety-five per cent, and (B) for projects for which an application was filed on or after July 1, 2011, eighty per cent of the net eligible costs of constructing, acquiring, renovating and equipping approved facilities to be used exclusively for such agricultural science and technology education center, for the expansion or improvement of existing facilities or for the replacement or improvement of equipment therein, and (2) subject to the provisions of section 10-65b, **[**and within available appropriations, (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in an amount equal to five thousand two hundred dollars per student for every secondary school student who was enrolled in such center on October first of the previous year, and (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, in an amount equal to at least five thousand two hundred dollars per student for every secondary school student who was enrolled in such center on October first of the previous year**]** for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, a grant equal to the amount such board is entitled to receive under the provisions of section 112 of this act.

(b) (1) Each local or regional board of education not maintaining an agricultural science and technology education center shall provide opportunities for its students to enroll in one or more such centers. **[**in a

number that is at least equal to the number specified in any written agreement with each such center or centers, or in the absence of such an agreement, a number that is at least equal to the average number of its students that the board of education enrolled in each such center or centers during the previous three school years, provided, in addition to such number, each such board of education shall provide opportunities for its students to enroll in the ninth grade in a number that is at least equal to the number specified in any written agreement with each such center or centers, or in the absence of such an agreement, a number that is at least equal to the average number of students that the board of education enrolled in the ninth grade in each such center or centers during the previous three school years.**]** If a local or regional board of education provided opportunities for students to enroll in more than one center for the school year commencing July 1, 2007, such board of education shall continue to provide such opportunities to students in accordance with this subsection. **[**The**]**

(2) The board of education operating an agricultural science and technology education center may charge, subject to the provisions of section 10-65b, tuition for a school year in an amount not to exceed fifty-nine and two-tenths per cent of the foundation level pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 10-262f, per student for the fiscal year in which the tuition is paid, except that **[**(1)**]** (A) such board may charge tuition for **[**(A)**]** (i) students enrolled under shared-time arrangements on a pro rata basis, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) special education students which shall not exceed the actual costs of educating such students minus the amounts received pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section and subsection (c) of this section, and **[**(2)**]** (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, such board may charge such tuition in an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent of the amount such board charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Any tuition paid by such board for special education students in excess of the tuition paid for non-special-education students shall be reimbursed

pursuant to section 10-76g.

[(c) In addition to the grants described in subsection (a) of this section, within available appropriations, (1) each local or regional board of education operating an agricultural science and technology education center in which more than one hundred fifty of the students in the prior school year were out-of-district students shall be eligible to receive a grant (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in an amount equal to five hundred dollars for every secondary school student enrolled in such center on October first of the previous year, and (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, in an amount equal to at least five hundred dollars for every secondary school student enrolled in such center on October first of the previous year, (2) on and after July 1, 2000, if a local or regional board of education operating an agricultural science and technology education center that received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection no longer qualifies for such a grant, such local or regional board of education shall receive a grant in an amount determined as follows: (A) For the first fiscal year such board of education does not qualify for a grant under said subdivision (1), a grant in the amount equal to four hundred dollars for every secondary school student enrolled in its agricultural science and technology education center on October first of the previous year, (B) for the second successive fiscal year such board of education does not so qualify, a grant in an amount equal to three hundred dollars for every such secondary school student enrolled in such center on said date, (C) for the third successive fiscal year such board of education does not so qualify, a grant in an amount equal to two hundred dollars for every such secondary school student enrolled in such center on said date, and (D) for the fourth successive fiscal year such board of education does not so qualify, a grant in an amount equal to one hundred dollars for every such secondary school student enrolled in such center on said date, and (3) each local and regional board of education operating an agricultural science and technology education center that does not

receive a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection shall receive a grant in an amount equal to sixty dollars for every secondary school student enrolled in such center on said date.

(d) (1) If there are any remaining funds after the amount of the grants described in subsections (a) and (c) of this section are calculated, within available appropriations, each local or regional board of education operating an agricultural science and technology education center shall be eligible to receive a grant in an amount equal to one hundred dollars for each student enrolled in such center on October first of the previous school year. (2) If there are any remaining funds after the amount of the grants described in subdivision (1) of this subsection are calculated, within available appropriations, each local or regional board of education operating an agricultural science and technology education center that had more than one hundred fifty out-of-district students enrolled in such center on October first of the previous school year shall be eligible to receive a grant based on the ratio of the number of out-of-district students in excess of one hundred fifty out-of-district students enrolled in such center on said date to the total number of out-of-district students in excess of one hundred fifty out-of-district students enrolled in all agricultural science and technology education centers that had in excess of one hundred fifty out-of-district students enrolled on said date.**]**

[(e)**]** (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, and each fiscal year thereafter, if a local or regional board of education receives an increase in funds pursuant to this section over the amount it received for the prior fiscal year such increase shall not be used to supplant local funding for educational purposes.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, for the purposes of equalization aid under section 10-262h, a student enrolled in an agricultural science and technology education center shall be counted as a resident student, as defined in section 10-262f, of the town in which

such student resides.

Sec. 117. Subsection (d) of section 10-64 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(d) Any local or regional board of education which does not furnish agricultural science and technology education approved by the State Board of Education shall designate a school or schools having such a course approved by the State Board of Education as the school which any person may attend who has completed an elementary school course through the eighth grade. The board of education shall pay **[**the tuition and**]** any tuition charged under section 10-65 and the reasonable and necessary cost of transportation of any person under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or technical education and career school or an agricultural science and technology education center and who attends the designated school, provided transportation services may be suspended in accordance with the provisions of section 10-233c. Each such board's reimbursement percentage pursuant to section 10-266m for expenditures in excess of eight hundred dollars per pupil incurred in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004, and in each fiscal year thereafter, shall be increased by an additional twenty percentage points.

Sec. 118. Subsection (b) of section 10-97 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) Any local or regional board of education which does not furnish agricultural science and technology education approved by the State Board of Education shall designate a school or schools having such a course approved by the State Board of Education as the school which any person may attend who has completed an elementary school course through the eighth grade. The board of education shall pay **[**the tuition

and**]** any tuition charged under section 10-65 and the reasonable and necessary cost of transportation of any person under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or technical education and career school and who attends the designated school, provided transportation services may be suspended in accordance with the provisions of section 10-233c. Each such board's reimbursement percentage pursuant to section 10-266m for expenditures in excess of eight hundred dollars per pupil incurred in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1987, and in each fiscal year thereafter, shall be increased by an additional twenty percentage points.

Sec. 119. Subsection (a) of section 10-65 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Each local or regional school district operating an agricultural science and technology education center approved by the State Board of Education for program, educational need, location and area to be served shall be eligible for the following grants: (1) In accordance with the provisions of chapter 173, through progress payments in accordance with the provisions of section 10-287i, (A) for projects for which an application was filed prior to July 1, 2011, ninety-five per cent, and (B) for projects for which an application was filed on or after July 1, 2011, eighty per cent of the net eligible costs of constructing, acquiring, renovating and equipping approved facilities to be used exclusively for such agricultural science and technology education center, for the expansion or improvement of existing facilities or for the replacement or improvement of equipment therein, and (2) subject to the provisions of section 10-65b, **[**and within available appropriations,**]** (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in an amount equal to five thousand two hundred dollars per student for every secondary school student who was enrolled in such center on October first of the previous year, and (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year

thereafter, in an amount equal to at least five thousand two hundred dollars per student for every secondary school student who was enrolled in such center on October first of the previous year.

Sec. 120. Section 346 of public act 23-204 is repealed and the following is inserted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The sum of $150,000,000 that is appropriated in section 1 of **[**this act**]** public act 23-204 to the Department of Education, for Education Finance Reform, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, shall be expended in the following manner:

(1) **[**$68,499,497**]** $139,626,522 of such appropriated amount shall be used to (A) supplement the amount appropriated to the Education Equalization Grants account in the Department of Education and expended for the purpose of providing equalization aid grants in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of section 10-262h of the general statutes, (B) supplement the amount appropriated to the Charter Schools account in the Department of Education and expended for the purpose of providing grants to charter schools in accordance with the provisions of section 10-66ee of the general statutes, and (C) be expended to provide grants in accordance with the provisions of section 112 of this act;

(2) **[**$9,378,313**]** $1,473,478 of such appropriated amount shall be used to supplement the amount appropriated to the Charter Schools account in the Department of Education and expended for the purpose of providing grants **[**to charter schools in accordance with the provisions of section 10-66ee of the general statutes**]** for (A) the expansion of (i) forty seats at Brass City Charter School, (ii) thirty-six seats at Odyssey Community School, (iii) fifty-two seats at Interdistrict School for the Arts and Communication, and (iv) twenty-two seats at Integrated Day Charter School, and (B) the reduction of forty seats at Booker T. Washington Academy;

[(3) $40,188,429 of such appropriated amount shall be used to supplement the amount appropriated to the Magnet Schools account in the Department of Education and expended for the purpose of increasing per student grant amounts to operators of interdistrict magnet school programs that are not a local or regional board of education in accordance with the provisions of section 10-264*l* of the general statutes;

(4) $13,254,358 of such appropriated amount shall be used to supplement the amount appropriated to the Magnet Schools account in the Department of Education and expended for the purpose of increasing per student grant amounts to local and regional boards of education that operate interdistrict magnet school programs in accordance with the provisions of section 10-264*l* of the general statutes;

(5) $11,430,343 of such appropriated amount shall be used to supplement the amount appropriated to the Open Choice Program account in the Department of Education and expended for the purpose of increasing per student grant amounts to local and regional boards of education that are receiving districts under the interdistrict public school attendance program in accordance with the provisions of section 10-266aa of the general statutes; and

(6) $7,249,060 of such appropriated amount shall be expended for the purpose of providing grants to local or regional boards of education that operate an agricultural science and technology education center approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of section 10-65 of the general statutes.**]**

(3) $50,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Commissioner of Education for the purpose of developing the plan described in section 121 of this act;

(4) $400,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the

Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education for the purpose of developing a new or expanding an existing database for the purpose of collecting and retaining educator professional development records;

(5) $100,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to enter into a memorandum of understanding, in accordance with the provisions of section 4-97b of the general statutes, with The University of Connecticut for the purpose of providing such appropriated funds to The University of Connecticut so that The School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut may conduct the study and comprehensive asset and capacity mapping for nonprofit organizations in the state in accordance with the provisions of section 122 of this act;

(6) (A) $175,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to the local board of education for the city of New Haven for the purpose of purchasing bus passes for state-owned or state-controlled bus public transportation service for students who are enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, of a public school under the jurisdiction of such board of education;

(B) $175,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to the local board of education for the city of Hartford for the purpose of purchasing bus passes for state-owned or state-controlled bus public transportation service for students who are enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, of a public school under the jurisdiction of such board of education;

(7) $5,000,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to the local board of education for the city of Hartford for interdistrict magnet school tuition assistance;

(8) $1,200,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to the Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc. for student enrollment expansion and compliance with the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education;

(9) $650,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to InterCommunity Health Care for the provision of mental health services to students at the school-based health centers located in the East Hartford school district;

(10) $200,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Association of Schools for operating and personnel expenses, including the hiring of an individual to be an assistant director of leadership and development;

(11) $150,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to the Artists Collective for arts enrichment for students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive; and

(12) $800,000 of such appropriated amount shall be used by the Department of Education to provide a grant-in-aid to the Brother Carl Institute for tutoring and mentoring services for students in grades four to twelve, inclusive, and the development of a summer college preparation program.

(b) The Department of Education shall make all payments described in subdivisions (3) to (12), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section on or before September 30, 2024.

Sec. 121. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Education shall develop a plan to (1) convert the State Board of Education from being

the department head, as defined in section 4-5 of the general statutes, of the Department of Education to an advisory board within the department, and (2) empower the Commissioner of Education to become the department head for the Department of Education. Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit such plan and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 122. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut shall conduct a study and comprehensive asset and capacity mapping for nonprofit organizations in this state to help support the sharing of information and collaboration between such nonprofit organizations and the communities they serve. The School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut shall consult with state agencies, nonprofit organizations and philanthropy associations in the state while conducting such study and mapping. As used in this section, "state agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79 of the general statutes.

(b) Such study and mapping shall (1) assess the capacity of such nonprofit organizations to assist the state in addressing public needs and identifying the availability and strength of assets and gaps or weaknesses of service, (2) provide an effective tool for sharing data, documents and communication among and between such nonprofit organizations for the purpose of strengthening such nonprofit organizations' capacity to serve the residents of the state, (3) provide a resource for policy makers to determine gaps in services and capacity and enhance collaboration among different nonprofit organizations working in the same geographic areas and serving the same target population, (4) provide information to policy makers on ways in which to ensure that resources are being invested in areas and populations with the greatest need and the extent to which the lack of such resources

impacts such areas and populations, and (5) present data by town, county and state-wide, as well as by each regional council of government, and include a summary of the available resources, including nonprofit organizations and state agencies, to create a database of the state's nonprofit organizations by target service population, mission and geography.

(c) The Office of Policy and Management, Department of Consumer Protection, Secretary of the State and any other state agency which contracts with nonprofits to provide services on its behalf, shall, upon request of the School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut, provide to said school any data necessary to conduct such study and mapping.

(d) (1) Not later than October 1, 2024, the School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut shall submit a preliminary report on such study and mapping to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(2) Not later than June 30, 2025, the School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut shall submit a final report on such study and mapping to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such final report shall include (A) the comprehensive asset and capacity mapping for nonprofit organizations in the state, (B) recommendations, including a model to enhance collaboration among nonprofit organizations to ensure that state investments are addressing gaps in services and not contributing to duplicative efforts or competition among nonprofit organizations, and the extent to which the lack of resources, including budget deficits or other fiscal shortfalls, or state agency policies or regulations impede collaboration and result in the duplication of efforts and services, and (C) guidance on how to use the comprehensive asset

and capacity mapping to create a continuum of care document.

(3) Not later than June 30, 2025, the School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut shall make the final report and the comprehensive asset and capacity mapping available on its Internet web site.

Sec. 123. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than September 1, 2024, the Department of Education shall distribute the amount allocated to the department for paraeducator professional development for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, from the federal funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of Section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, to each local or regional board of education, on a pro rata basis for the number of paraeducators employed by such board, to cover the cost of providing professional development and in-service training to paraeducators.

Sec. 124. Section 203 of public act 23-204 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-1080 of the general statutes, and

(2) "Partnership plan" has the same meaning as provided in section 3-123aaa of the general statutes.

(b) For the fiscal **[**year**]** years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall establish a program to provide a subsidy, within available appropriations, to each paraeducator who (1) opens a health savings account, pursuant to Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, or is eligible for Medicare

and enrolls in a high deductible health plan, and (2) is employed by a local or regional board of education. **[**, and (3) applies for such program in the form and manner prescribed by the Comptroller.**]** Such subsidy shall be in an amount up to a certain percentage, as specified by the Comptroller, of the **[**initial investment made by such paraeducator to open a health savings account,**]** deductible for the health plan in which such paraeducator is enrolled, minus the amount of any employer contributions to a health savings account or health reimbursement account, and not exceeding an amount specified by the Comptroller. No paraeducator may receive more than one subsidy pursuant to this section. The Comptroller may work with the local or regional board of education that employs such paraeducator to distribute such subsidy.

(c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall establish a program to provide a subsidy, from any funds appropriated for such purpose, to each local or regional board of education that provides coverage to paraeducators and their dependents under a health benefit plan or a partnership plan for such fiscal year or any portion thereof. Such subsidy shall be (1) in an amount not more than ten per cent of the aggregate premium cost, inclusive of the employee and employer shares, paid by such board of education for coverage under such health benefit plan or partnership plan, divided by the number of paraeducators employed by such board of education and enrolled in health coverage, and (2) used to offset the employee's share of such premium that is deducted from the payroll check of each paraeducator employed by such board of education during any pay period during such fiscal year. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a local or regional board of education that provides coverage under a high deductible health plan, as that term is used in subsection (f) of section 38a-520 of the general statutes.

(d) The Comptroller and the Commissioner of Education shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, in accordance with the

provisions of section 4-97b of the general statutes, to allow the Comptroller to utilize the sum of $5,000,000 that is appropriated to the Department of Education for assistance to paraeducators pursuant to section 1 of public act 23-204 to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 125. Section 10-357e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

The Commissioner of Education **[**may**]** shall allocate funds to allow the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 10-357a, to provide professional development services, technical assistance and evaluation activities, policy analysis and other forms of assistance to local and regional boards of education, the Department of Education, state and local charter schools, as defined in section 10-66aa, the Technical Education and Career System, established pursuant to section 10-95, providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-16p, and other educational entities and providers. The State Education Resource Center shall expend such funds in accordance with procedures and conditions prescribed by the commissioner.

Sec. 126. Section 3-123*l* of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 127. Section 22a-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) No regulated activity shall be conducted upon any wetland without a permit. Any person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted a regulated activity upon any wetland shall file an application for a permit with the commissioner, in such form and with such information as the commissioner may prescribe. Such application shall include a detailed description of the proposed work and a map showing the area of wetland directly affected, with the location of the proposed work thereon, together with the names of the owners of record

of adjacent land and known claimants of water rights in or adjacent to the wetland of whom the applicant has notice. The commissioner shall cause a copy of such application to be mailed or sent by electronic means to the chief administrative officer in the town or towns where the proposed work, or any part thereof, is located, and the **[**chairman**]** chairperson of the conservation commission and shellfish commission of the town or towns where the proposed work, or any part thereof, is located. The commissioner or the commissioner's duly designated hearing officer shall hold a public hearing on such application, provided, whenever the commissioner determines that the regulated activity for which a permit is sought is not likely to have a significant impact on the wetland, the commissioner may waive the requirement for public hearing after publishing notice, in a newspaper having general circulation in each town wherever the proposed work or any part thereof is located, of the commissioner's intent to waive said requirement and of the commissioner's tentative decision regarding the application, except that the commissioner shall hold a hearing on such application upon request of the applicant or upon receipt of a petition, signed by at least twenty-five persons, requesting such a hearing, unless the regulated activity is a transportation capital project subject to the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The following shall be notified of the hearing by mail or by electronic means not less than fifteen days prior to the date set for the hearing: All of those persons and agencies who are entitled to receive a copy of such application in accordance with the terms **[**hereof**]** of this subsection and all owners of record of adjacent land and known claimants to water rights in or adjacent to the wetland of whom the applicant has notice. The commissioner shall cause notice of the commissioner's tentative decision regarding the application and such hearing to be published at least once not more than thirty days and not fewer than ten days before the date set for the hearing in the newspaper having a general circulation in each town where the proposed work, or any part thereof, is located. All applications and maps and documents relating thereto

shall be open for public inspection at the office of the commissioner. At such hearing, any person or persons may appear and be heard.

(b) (1) If the regulated activity is a transportation capital project and (A) such project is not located at an airport, as defined in section 15-34, (B) the federal government requires public participation regarding such regulated activity, (C) the person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such regulated activity sought public input on such regulated activity by implementing a plan approved by an agency of the federal government, and (D) such person submits to the commissioner a copy of the approved plan for public participation, a written summary of the opportunities for public participation that were provided and a copy or record of any comments received regarding such regulated activity and how such comments were responded to or addressed, the commissioner shall only be required to hold a public hearing on such application, upon receipt of a petition, signed by at least twenty-five persons, that alleges aggrievement or unreasonable pollution or destruction of the public trust.

(2) For the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection, a petition alleges aggrievement or unreasonable pollution or destruction of the public trust if the petition sets forth specific facts that demonstrate that the legal rights, duties or privileges of at least one person who signed the petition will be, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by such regulated activity, or that alleges that the regulated activity involves conduct which has, or which is reasonably likely to have, the effect of unreasonably polluting, impairing or destroying the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the state. Any such petition shall identify the relevant statutory or regulatory provision which the petitioners claim such proposed regulated activity does not satisfy. The commissioner shall provide a copy of any such petition received to the person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such regulated activity, who, not more than seven business days after

receipt of such petition, may object to such petition on the basis that the petition does not contain the specific factual demonstration required by this subdivision. The commissioner shall determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of this subdivision and shall send notice of such determination, in writing, to the person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such regulated activity and the person who submitted the petition.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to modify or limit any requirement of sections 22a-1a to 22a-1h, inclusive, concerning a public scoping process, a public hearing or public participation.

Sec. 128. Subsection (k) of section 22a-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(k) (1) Conduct a public hearing no sooner than thirty days and not later than sixty days following the receipt by said commissioner of any inland wetlands application, provided whenever the commissioner determines that the regulated activity for which a permit is sought is not likely to have a significant impact on the wetland or watercourse, **[**he**]** the commissioner may waive the requirement for public hearing after **[**(1)**]** (A) publishing notice, in a newspaper having general circulation in each town wherever the proposed work or any part thereof is located, of **[**his**]** the commissioner's intent to waive said requirement, and **[**(2)**]** (B) mailing or providing by electronic means notice of such intent to the chief administrative officer in the town or towns where the proposed work, or any part thereof, is located, and the **[**chairman**]** chairperson of the conservation commission and inland wetlands agency of each such town or towns, except that the commissioner shall hold a hearing on such application upon receipt, not later than thirty days after such notice has been published, sent or mailed, of a petition signed by at least twenty-five persons requesting such a hearing, unless the regulated activity is a transportation capital project subject to the provisions of

subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection. The commissioner shall **[**(A)**]** (i) publish notice of such hearing at least once not more than thirty days and not fewer than ten days before the date set for the hearing in a newspaper having a general circulation in each town where the proposed work, or any part thereof, is located, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) mail or provide by electronic means notice of such hearing to the chief administrative officer in the town or towns where the proposed work, or any part thereof, is located, and the **[**chairman**]** chairperson of the conservation commission and inland wetlands agency of each such town or towns. All applications and maps and documents relating thereto shall be open for public inspection at the office of the commissioner. The commissioner shall state upon **[**his**]** the commissioner's records **[**his**]** the commissioner's findings and reasons for the action taken.

(2) If the regulated activity is a transportation capital project and (A) such project is not located at an airport, as defined in section 15-34, (B) the federal government requires public participation regarding such regulated activity, (C) the person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such regulated activity sought public input on such regulated activity by implementing a plan approved by an agency of the federal government, and (D) such person submits to the commissioner a copy of the approved plan for public participation, a written summary of the opportunities for public participation that were provided and a copy or record of any comments received regarding such regulated activity and how such comments were responded to or addressed, the commissioner shall only be required to hold a public hearing on such application, upon receipt of a petition, signed by at least twenty-five persons, that alleges aggrievement or unreasonable pollution or destruction of the public trust.

(3) For the purposes of subdivision (2) of this subsection, a petition alleges aggrievement or unreasonable pollution or destruction of the

public trust if the petition sets forth specific facts that demonstrate that the legal rights, duties or privileges of at least one person who signed the petition will be, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by such regulated activity, or that alleges that the regulated activity involves conduct that has, or which is reasonably likely to have, the effect of unreasonably polluting, impairing or destroying the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the state. Any such petition shall identify the relevant statutory or regulatory provision which the petitioners claim such proposed regulated activity does not satisfy. The commissioner shall provide a copy of any such petition received to the person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such regulated activity, who, not more than seven business days after receipt of such petition, may object to such petition on the basis that the petition does not contain the specific factual demonstration required by this subdivision. The commissioner shall determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of this subdivision and shall send notice of such determination, in writing, to the person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such regulated activity and the person who submitted the petition.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to modify or limit any requirements of sections 22a-1a to 22a-1h, inclusive, concerning a public scoping process, a public hearing or public participation;

Sec. 129. Subsection (b) of section 22a-361 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) (1) The commissioner, at least thirty days before approving or denying an application for a permit, shall provide or require the applicant to provide notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by electronic means to the applicant, to the Connecticut Port Authority, as appropriate, the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Agriculture and to the chief executive officer, the **[**chairmen**]**

chairpersons of the planning, zoning, harbor management and shellfish commissions of each town in which such structure, fill, obstruction, encroachment or dredging is to be located or work to be performed, and to the owner of each franchised oyster ground and the lessee of each leased oyster ground within which such work is to be performed and shall publish such notice once in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the area affected. Such notice shall contain **[**(1)**]** (A) the name of the applicant; **[**(2)**]** (B) the location and nature of the proposed activities; **[**(3)**]** (C) the tentative decision regarding the application; and **[**(4)**]** (D) any additional information the commissioner deems necessary. There shall be a comment period following the public notice during which interested persons may submit written comments. The commissioner may hold a public hearing prior to approving or denying an application if, in the commissioner's discretion, the public interest will best be served by holding such hearing. The commissioner shall hold a public hearing if the commissioner receives: **[**(A)**]** (i) A written request for such public hearing from the applicant, or **[**(B)**]** (ii) a petition, signed by twenty-five or more persons requesting such public hearing on an application, unless the regulated activity is a transportation capital project subject to the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection. Following such notice and comment period and public hearing, if applicable, the commissioner may, in whole or in part, approve, modify and approve or deny the application. The commissioner shall provide to the applicant and the persons set forth above, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by electronic means, notice of the commissioner's decision. If the commissioner requires the applicant to provide the notice specified in this **[**subsection**]** subdivision, the applicant shall certify to the commissioner, not later than twenty days after providing such notice, that such notice has been provided in accordance with this **[**subsection**]** subdivision. Any person who is aggrieved by the commissioner's final decision on such application may appeal such decision to the Superior Court in accordance with section 4-183.

(2) If the proposed activity is a transportation capital project and (A) such project is not located at an airport, as defined in section 15-34, (B) the federal government requires public participation regarding such activity, (C) the person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such activity sought public input on such activity by implementing a plan approved by an agency of the federal government, and (D) such person submits to the commissioner a copy of the approved plan for public participation, a written summary of the opportunities for public participation that were provided and a copy or record of any comments received regarding such activity and how such comments were responded to or addressed, the commissioner shall only be required to hold a public hearing on such application, upon receipt of a petition, signed by at least twenty-five persons, that alleges aggrievement or unreasonable pollution or destruction of the public trust.

(3) For the purposes of subdivision (2) of this subsection, a petition alleges aggrievement or unreasonable pollution or destruction of the public trust if the petition sets forth specific facts that demonstrate that the legal rights, duties or privileges of at least one person who signed the petition will be, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by such activity, or that alleges that the activity involves conduct which has, or which is reasonably likely to have, the effect of unreasonably polluting, impairing or destroying the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the state. Any such petition shall identify the relevant statutory or regulatory provision that the petitioners claim such activity does not satisfy. The commissioner shall provide a copy of any such petition received to the person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such activity, who, not more than seven business days after receipt of such petition, may object to such petition on the basis that the petition does not contain the specific factual demonstration required by this subdivision. The commissioner shall determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of this subdivision and shall send notice of such determination, in writing, to the person proposing to

conduct or cause to be conducted such activity and the person who submitted the petition.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to modify or limit any requirement of sections 22a-1a to 22a-1h, inclusive, concerning a public scoping process, a public hearing or public participation.

Sec. 130. Subsection (d) of section 25-68d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(d) (1) Any state agency proposing an activity or critical activity within or affecting the floodplain may apply to the commissioner for exemption from the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such application shall include a statement of the reasons why such agency is unable to comply with said subsection and any other information the commissioner deems necessary. The commissioner, at least thirty days before approving, approving with conditions or denying any such application, shall publish once in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the affected area notice of: **[**(1)**]** (A) The name of the applicant; **[**(2)**]** (B) the location and nature of the requested exemption; **[**(3)**]** (C) the tentative decision on the application; and **[**(4)**]** (D) additional information the commissioner deems necessary to support the decision to approve, approve with conditions or deny the application. There shall be a comment period following the public notice during which period interested persons and municipalities may submit written comments. After the comment period, the commissioner shall make a final determination to either approve the application, approve the application with conditions or deny the application.

(2) The commissioner may hold a public hearing prior to approving, approving with conditions or denying any application if in the discretion of the commissioner the public interest will be best served thereby, and the commissioner shall hold a public hearing upon receipt

of a petition signed by at least twenty-five persons, unless the activity or critical activity is a transportation capital project subject to the provisions of subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection. Notice of such hearing shall be published at least thirty days before the hearing in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the area affected. The commissioner may approve or approve with conditions such exemption if the commissioner determines that (A) the agency has shown that the activity or critical activity is in the public interest, will not injure persons or damage property in the area of such activity or critical activity, complies with the provisions of the National Flood Insurance Program, and, in the case of a loan or grant, the recipient of the loan or grant has been informed that increased flood insurance premiums may result from the activity or critical activity. An activity shall be considered to be in the public interest if it is a development subject to environmental remediation regulations adopted pursuant to section 22a-133k and is in or adjacent to an area identified as a regional center, neighborhood conservation area, growth area or rural community center in the state plan of conservation and development pursuant to chapter 297, or (B) in the case of a flood control project, such project meets the criteria of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and is more cost-effective to the state and municipalities than a project constructed to or above the base flood or base flood for a critical activity. Following approval for exemption for a flood control project, the commissioner shall provide notice of the hazards of a flood greater than the capacity of the project design to each member of the legislature whose district will be affected by the project and to the following agencies and officials in the area to be protected by the project: The planning and zoning commission, the inland wetlands agency, the director of civil defense, the conservation commission, the fire department, the police department, the chief elected official and each member of the legislative body, and the regional council of governments. Notice shall be given to the general public by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in each municipality in the area in which the project is to be located.

(3) If the activity or critical activity is a transportation capital project and (A) such project is not located at an airport, as defined in section 15-34, (B) the federal government requires public participation regarding such activity or critical activity, (C) the state agency proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted such activity or critical activity sought public input on such activity or critical activity by implementing a plan approved by an agency of the federal government, and (D) such state agency submits to the commissioner a copy of the approved plan for public participation, a written summary of the opportunities for public participation that were provided and a copy or record of any comments received regarding such activity or critical activity and how such comments were responded to or addressed, the commissioner shall only be required to hold a public hearing on such application, upon receipt of a petition, signed by at least twenty-five persons, that alleges aggrievement or unreasonable pollution or destruction of the public trust.

(4) For the purposes of subdivision (3) of this subsection, a petition alleges aggrievement or unreasonable pollution or destruction of the public trust if the petition sets forth specific facts that demonstrate that the legal rights, duties or privileges of at least one person who signed the petition will be, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by such activity or critical activity, or that alleges that the activity or critical activity involves conduct which has, or which is reasonably likely to have, the effect of unreasonably polluting, impairing or destroying the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the state. Any such petition shall identify the relevant statutory or regulatory provision with which petitioners claim such activity or critical activity does not satisfy. The commissioner shall provide a copy of any such petition received to the state agency. Not more than seven business days after receipt of such petition, the state agency may object to such petition on the basis that the petition does not contain the specific factual demonstration required by this subdivision. The commissioner shall

determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of this subdivision and shall send notice of such determination, in writing, to the state agency and the person who submitted the petition.

(5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to modify or limit any requirement of sections 22a-1a to 22a-1h, inclusive, concerning a public scoping process, a public hearing or public participation.

Sec. 131. Section 3-22e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a Connecticut Higher Education Trust Advisory Committee which shall consist of the State Treasurer, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the cochairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and finance, revenue and bonding, or their designees, and one student financial aid officer and one finance officer at a public institution of higher education in the state, each appointed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, and one student financial aid officer and one finance officer at an independent institution of higher education in the state, each appointed by the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges. The advisory committee shall meet at least annually. The State Treasurer shall convene the meetings of the committee.

(b) Within six months from the date of the trust's annual report, the State Treasurer and the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall jointly report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and finance, revenue and bonding on an evaluation of the Connecticut Higher Education Trust and recommendations, if any, for improvements in the program.

Sec. 132. Subsection (a) of section 4-124xx of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Chief Workforce Officer, appointed pursuant to section 4-124w, in consultation with the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioners of Social Services, Developmental Disabilities, Public Health, Higher Education and Aging and Disability Services, the Governor's Workforce Council, **[**the executive director of the Office of Higher Education,**]** the Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council and regional workforce development boards, shall establish a Human Services Career Pipeline program to ensure a sufficient number of trained providers are available to serve the needs of persons in the state with an intellectual disability, other developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, cognitive impairment or mental illness and elderly persons. Such pipeline shall include training and certification for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, medication administration, job placement and incentives for retention in the human services labor sector upon successful completion of the program.

Sec. 133. Subdivision (11) of subsection (c) of section 10-15j of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(11) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee.

Sec. 134. Subsection (b) of section 10a-1d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The Governor shall appoint **[**an executive director of the Office**]** a Commissioner of Higher Education in accordance with the provisions

of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall have the responsibility for implementing the policies and directives of the office.

Sec. 135. Subsection (a) of section 10a-11b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a Planning Commission for Higher Education to develop and ensure the implementation of a higher education strategic master plan in Connecticut.

(1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members: (A) The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the president of The University of Connecticut, or their designees from the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees; (B) the provost of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and the provost of The University of Connecticut; (C) the chair of the Board of Regents for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, and the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut, or the chairs' designees; (D) the president, provost or chair of the board of a large independent institution of higher education in the state, to be selected by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (E) the president, provost or chair of the board of a small independent institution of higher education in the state, to be selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (F) a representative from a private career school, to be selected by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education; (G) a teaching faculty representative from the Connecticut State Universities, to be selected by the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities; (H) a teaching faculty representative from the regional community-technical colleges, to be selected by the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities; (I) a teaching faculty representative from The University of Connecticut, to be selected by the president of The University of Connecticut; (J) a teaching faculty

representative from a private career school in the state, to be selected by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education; (K) one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a representative of a large manufacturing employer in the state; (L) one member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of a large financial or insurance services employer in the state; (M) one member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an information technology or digital media employer in the state; (N) one member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of a small business employer in the state; (O) one member appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of a health care employer in the state; and (P) one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of a small business employer in the state. The commission membership shall, where feasible, reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity.

(2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting members on the commission: (A) The Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the Labor Commissioner, or their designees; (B) a representative of an association of the state's independent institutions of higher education, appointed by the Governor; (C) a member of the State Board of Education, as designated by the chairperson of the state board; (D) the superintendent of the technical high school system, or the superintendent's designee; (E) the chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, or the chief executive officer's designee; (F) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education; (G) the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement; (H)

the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; and (I) the Chief Workforce Officer.

(3) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson from among the commission's voting members. The commission shall elect a vice-chairperson at its first meeting. Any vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. The term of each appointed member of the commission shall be three years from the date of appointment. The commission members shall serve without compensation. The commission may seek the advice and participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The commission may, within available appropriations, retain consultants to assist in carrying out its duties. The commission may receive funds from any public or private sources to carry out its activities. The commission shall be within the Office of Higher Education and shall be responsible for implementing any policies developed by the commission.

Sec. 136. Section 10a-19m of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On or before January 1, 2025, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to reimburse certain persons for student loan payments. The Office of Higher Education may approve the participation of any person in the student loan reimbursement program who (1) (A) attended a state college or university and graduated with a bachelor's degree, (B) left such college or university in good academic standing before graduation, or (C) holds an occupational or professional license or certification issued pursuant to title 20; (2) is a resident of the state, as defined in section 12-701 and has been a resident of the state for not less than five years; (3) has (A) a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars and files a

return under the federal income tax as an unmarried individual or a married individual filing separately, or (B) a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and files a return under the federal income tax as a head of household, a married individual filing jointly or a surviving spouse, as defined in Section 2(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time; and (4) has a student loan. For the purposes of this section "state college or university" means any public or private college or university in the state.

(b) Persons who qualify under subsection (a) of this section may apply to the Office of Higher Education to participate in the student loan reimbursement program at such time and in such manner as the **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of said office prescribes.

(c) (1) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall award grants to persons approved to participate in the student loan reimbursement program on a first-come, first-served basis, provided such person meets the requirements of this subsection.

(2) Each participant in the program shall volunteer for a nonprofit organization in the state for not less than fifty unpaid hours for each year of participation in the student loan reimbursement program. For purposes of this section, "volunteer hours" shall include, but need not be limited to, service on the board of directors for a nonprofit organization and military service.

(3) Each participant in the program shall annually submit receipts of payment on student loans and evidence of having completed such volunteer hours to the Office of Higher Education in the manner prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner.

(4) The Office of Higher Education shall reimburse each program

participant who meets the requirements of this section for student loan payments an amount of not more than five thousand dollars, annually, provided no person shall participate in the student loan reimbursement program for more than four years or receive more than twenty thousand dollars in aggregate reimbursement for student loan payments.

(d) The Office of Higher Education may use up to two and one-half per cent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this section, annually, for program administration, promotion and recruitment activities.

(e) Not later than July 1, 2026, and each January and July thereafter, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies on the operation and effectiveness of the program and any recommendations to expand the program.

Sec. 137. Subdivisions (3) and (4) of section 10a-22a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(3) "Branch" means a subdivision of a school (A) located at a different facility and geographical site from the school, except for a site that is an additional classroom site as determined by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, and (B) that (i) offers one or more complete programs leading to a diploma or certificate; (ii) operates under the school's certificate of operation; (iii) meets the same conditions of authorization as the school; and (iv) exercises administrative control and is responsible for its own academic affairs;

(4) **[**"Executive director"**]** "Commissioner" means the **[**executive

director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education; and

Sec. 138. Section 10a-22b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No person, board, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity shall offer instruction in any form or manner in any trade or in any industrial, commercial, service, professional or other occupation unless such person, board, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity first receives from the **[**executive director**]** commissioner a certificate authorizing the occupational instruction to be offered.

(b) Except for initial authorizations, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may accept institutional accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, in satisfaction of the requirements of this section and section 10a-22d, including the evaluation and attendance requirement. Except for initial authorizations, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may accept programmatic accreditation in satisfaction of the requirements of this section and section 10a-22d with regard to instruction offered by a hospital unless the **[**executive director**]** commissioner finds reasonable cause not to rely upon such accreditation.

(c) Each person, board, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity which seeks to offer occupational instruction shall submit to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, in such manner and on such forms as the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, prescribes, an application for a certificate of authorization. Each application for initial authorization shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee made payable to the private career school student protection account. Such application fee shall be in the amount of two thousand dollars for the private career

school and two hundred dollars for each branch of a private career school in this state, except that, each application for initial authorization submitted on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee in the amount specified in such regulations. Any application for initial authorization that remains incomplete six months after the date such application was first submitted to the Office of Higher Education shall expire and the office shall not approve such expired application for authorization.

(d) Each person, board, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity seeking to offer occupational instruction shall have a net worth consisting of sufficient liquid assets or produce other evidence of fiscal soundness to demonstrate the ability of the proposed private career school to operate, achieve all of its objectives and meet all of its obligations, including those concerning staff and students, during the period of time for which the authorization is sought.

(e) Upon receipt of a complete application pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall cause to be conducted an evaluation of the applicant school. Not later than sixty days (1) after receipt of a complete application for initial authorization, or (2) prior to expiration of the authorization of a private career school applying to renew its certificate of authorization pursuant to section 10a-22d, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, shall appoint an evaluation team, pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, except that on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, the evaluation team shall be appointed pursuant to such regulations, to conduct such evaluation of the applicant school. The evaluation team shall submit a written report to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner recommending authorization or nonauthorization after an on-site

inspection. Not later than one hundred twenty days following the completed appointment of the evaluation team, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall notify the applicant school of authorization or nonauthorization. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may consult with the Labor Department and may request the advice of any other state agency which may be of assistance in making a determination. In the event of nonauthorization, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall set forth the reasons therefor in writing and the applicant school may request in writing a hearing before the **[**executive director**]** commissioner. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

(f) For purposes of an evaluation of an applicant school, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, shall appoint an evaluation team which shall include (1) at least two members representing the Office of Higher Education, and (2) at least one member for each of the areas of occupational instruction for which authorization is sought who shall be experienced in such occupation. The applicant school shall have the right to challenge any proposed member of the evaluation team for good cause shown. A written challenge shall be filed with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner within ten business days following the appointment of such evaluation team. In the event of a challenge, a decision shall be made thereon by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner within ten business days from the date such challenge is filed, and if the challenge is upheld the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall appoint a replacement. Employees of the state or any political subdivision of the state may be members of evaluation teams. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, shall not appoint any person to an evaluation team unless the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or such designee, has received from such person a statement that the person has no interest which is in conflict with the proper discharge of the duties of evaluation team members as

described in this section. The statement shall be on a form prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and shall be signed under penalty of false statement. Except for any member of the evaluation team who is a state employee, members may be compensated for their service at the discretion of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and shall be reimbursed for actual expenses, which expenses shall be charged to and paid by the applicant school.

(g) The evaluation team appointed pursuant to subsection (f) of this section shall: (1) Conduct an on-site inspection; (2) submit a written report outlining any evidence of noncompliance; (3) give the school thirty days from the date of the report to provide evidence of compliance; and (4) submit to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner a written report recommending authorization or nonauthorization not later than one hundred twenty days after the on-site inspection. The evaluation team shall determine whether (A) the quality and content of each course or program of instruction, including, but not limited to, residential, on-line, home study and correspondence, training or study shall reasonably and adequately achieve the stated objective for which such course or program is offered; (B) the school has adequate space, equipment, instructional materials and personnel for the instruction offered; (C) the qualifications of directors, administrators, supervisors and instructors shall reasonably and adequately assure that students receive education consistent with the stated objectives for which a course or program is offered; (D) students and other interested persons shall be provided with a catalog or similar publication describing the courses and programs offered, course and program objectives, length of courses and programs, schedule of tuition, fees and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course or program, and termination, withdrawal and refund policies; (E) upon satisfactory completion of the course or program, each student shall be provided appropriate educational credentials by the school; (F) adequate records shall be maintained by the school to show attendance and grades, or

other indicators of student progress, and standards shall be enforced relating to attendance and student performance; (G) the applicant school shall be financially sound and capable of fulfilling its commitments to students; (H) any student housing owned, leased, rented or otherwise maintained by the applicant school shall be safe and adequate; and (I) the school and any branch of the school in this state has a director located at the school or branch who is responsible for daily oversight of the school's or branch's operations. The evaluation team may also indicate in its report such recommendations as may improve the operation of the applicant school.

Sec. 139. Section 10a-22c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No certificate to operate a private career school shall be authorized by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, if (1) any principal, officer, member or director of the applicant school has acted in a similar capacity for a private career school which has had its authorization revoked pursuant to section 10a-22f; (2) the applicant school does not have a net worth consisting of sufficient liquid assets or other evidence of fiscal soundness to operate for the period of time for which authorization is sought; (3) the applicant school or any of its agents engages in advertising, sales, collection, credit or other practices which are false, deceptive, misleading or unfair; (4) the applicant school has any policy which discourages or prohibits the filing of inquiries or complaints regarding the school's operation with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner; (5) the applicant school fails to satisfactorily meet the criteria set forth in subsection (g) of section 10a-22b, or, on and after the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, the criteria set forth in such regulations; (6) a private career school that has previously closed fails to follow the procedures for school closure under section 10a-22m; or (7) the applicant school does not have a director

located at the school and at each of its branches in this state.

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may deny a certificate of authorization if the person who owns or intends to operate a private career school has been convicted in this state, or any other state, of larceny in violation of section 53a-122 or 53a-123; identity theft in violation of section 53a-129b or 53a-129c; forgery in violation of section 53a-138 or 53a-139; or has a criminal record in this state, or any other state, that the **[**executive director**]** commissioner reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to own and operate a private career school. A refusal of a certificate of authorization under this subsection shall be made in accordance with the provisions of sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive.

(c) No certificate to operate a private career school shall be issued by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner pursuant to section 10a-22d until such private career school seeking authorization files with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner certificates indicating that the buildings and premises for such school meet all applicable state and local fire and zoning requirements. Such certificates shall be attested to by the fire marshal and zoning enforcement officer within the municipality in which such school is located.

(d) No certificate to operate a new private career school shall be issued by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner pursuant to section 10a-22d until such private career school seeking authorization files with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank with its main office or branch located within this state in the penal amount of forty thousand dollars guaranteeing the payments required of the school to the private career school student protection account in accordance with the provisions of section 10a-22u, except that, any letter of credit issued on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, shall be in a penal amount specified in such regulations. The letter of credit shall be

payable to the private career school student protection account in the event that such school fails to make payments to the account as provided in subsection (a) of section 10a-22u or in the event the state takes action to reimburse the account for a tuition refund paid to a student pursuant to the provisions of section 10a-22v, provided the amount of the letter of credit to be paid into the private career school student protection account shall not exceed the amounts owed to the account. In the event a private career school fails to close in accordance with the provisions of section 10a-22m, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may seize the letter of credit, which shall be made payable to the private career school protection account.

(e) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall notify the applicant private career school, by certified mail, return receipt requested of the decision to grant or deny a certificate of authorization not later than sixty days after receiving the written report of the evaluation team appointed pursuant to subsection (e) of section 10a-22b.

Sec. 140. Section 10a-22d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) After the initial year of approval and for the next three years of operation as a private career school, renewal of the certificate of authorization shall be required annually.

(b) Following the fourth year of continuous authorization, a renewal of the certificate of authorization, if granted, shall be for a period not to exceed five years and may be subject to an evaluation pursuant to subsection (e) of section 10a-22b, provided no private career school shall operate for more than five additional years from the date of any renewal without the completion of an evaluation pursuant to subsection (e) of section 10a-22b.

(c) Renewal of the certificate of authorization shall be granted only

upon (1) payment of a nonrefundable renewal fee to the Office of Higher Education in the amount of two hundred dollars for the private career school and two hundred dollars for each branch of a private career school, except that, any renewal fees paid on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, shall be in the amount specified in such regulations, (2) submission of any reports or audits, as prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, concerning the fiscal condition of the private career school or its continuing eligibility to participate in federal student financial aid programs, (3) the filing with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner of a complete application for a renewed certificate of authorization not less than one hundred twenty days prior to the termination date of the most recent certificate of authorization, and (4) a determination that the private career school meets all the conditions of its recent authorization, including, but not limited to, at the discretion of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, evidence that such school is current on its financial obligations and has adequate financial resources to serve its current students, and the filing of documentation with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner that the private career school has a passing financial ratio score as required by 34 CFR 668, as amended from time to time.

(d) If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, determines, at any time during a school's authorization period, that such school is out of compliance with the conditions of authorization under sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, and any applicable regulations of Connecticut state agencies, the school may be placed on probation for a period not to exceed one year. If, after the period of one year of probationary status, the school remains out of compliance with the conditions of authorization, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may revoke such school's certificate of authorization to operate as a private career school pursuant to section 10a-22f. During the school's period of probation, the school shall post its

probationary certificate of authorization in public view. The Office of Higher Education may publish the school's probationary certificate of authorization status.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may authorize the extension of the most recent certificate of authorization for a period not to exceed sixty days for good cause shown, provided such extension shall not change the date of the original certificate's issuance or the date for each renewal.

(f) After the first year of authorization, each private career school shall pay a nonrefundable annual fee to the private career school student protection account in the amount of two hundred dollars for the private career school and two hundred dollars for each branch of a private career school, except that, any annual fee paid on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, shall be in the amount specified in such regulations. The annual fee shall be due and payable for each year after the first year of authorization that the private career school and any branch of a private career school is authorized by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner to offer career instruction. Such annual fee shall be in addition to any renewal fee assessed under this section.

(g) Each private career school shall keep financial records in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. An annual financial statement detailing the financial status of the school shall be prepared by school management and reviewed or audited, or, for a nonaccredited school annually receiving less than fifty thousand dollars in tuition revenue, compiled, by a licensed certified public accountant or licensed public accountant in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A copy of such financial statement shall be filed with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner on or before the last day of the fourth month following

the end of the school's fiscal year, except in the case of a nationally accredited school recognized by the United States Department of Education, in which case such financial statement shall be due on or before the last day of the sixth month following the end of the school's fiscal year. Only audited financial statements shall be accepted from a nationally accredited school. Upon a nonaccredited school's written request, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may authorize, for good cause shown, a filing extension for a period not to exceed sixty days. No filing extensions shall be granted to a nationally accredited school.

(h) The failure of any private career school to submit an application to the Office of Higher Education for the renewal of a certificate of authorization on or before the date on which it is due may result in the loss of authorization under section 10a-22f. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner of said office may deny the renewal of such certificate of authorization if there exists a failure to file such renewal application by the date on which it is due, or the end of any period of extension authorized pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

Sec. 141. Section 10a-22e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) During any period of authorization by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner to operate as a private career school pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, and sections 10a-22u to 10a-22w, inclusive, such private career school may request revision of the conditions of its authorization. Such school shall make such request to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in the manner and on such forms prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner sixty days prior to the proposed implementation date of any intended revision. Such revision shall include, but not be limited to, changes in (1) courses or programs; (2) ownership of the school; (3) name of the school; (4) location of the school's main campus; or (5) location of any of the school's additional classroom sites or branch campuses. A private career school requesting

revision of the conditions of its authorization based on a change in ownership of the school shall submit an application and letter of credit pursuant to sections 10a-22b and 10a-22c, accompanied by a nonrefundable change of ownership fee made payable to the private career school student protection account under section 10a-22u in the amount of two thousand dollars for the private career school and two hundred dollars for each branch of a private career school in this state, except that, any ownership fee paid on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, shall be in the amount specified in such regulations.

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may, not later than thirty days after receipt of a request to revise the conditions of authorization, issue an order prohibiting any such change if it would constitute a material or substantial deviation from the conditions of authorization.

(c) If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, fails to take action upon a request for revision by the thirtieth day following the proposed implementation date of the intended revision, such request shall be deemed approved, and the private career school's certificate of authorization shall be so revised for the same period as its current authorization.

Sec. 142. Section 10a-22f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) A certificate of authorization issued to a private career school pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, and sections 10a-22u to 10a-22w, inclusive, may be revoked by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner if such school (1) ceases to meet the conditions of its authorization; (2) commits a material or substantial violation of sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, or sections 10a-22u to 10a-22w, inclusive, or the regulations prescribed thereunder; (3) makes a false statement

about a material fact in application for authorization or renewal; (4) fails to make a required payment to the private career school student protection account pursuant to section 10a-22u; or (5) fails to submit a complete application for a renewal of a certificate of authorization pursuant to section 10a-22d.

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, shall serve written notice, by certified mail, return receipt requested upon a private career school indicating that revocation of the school's authorization is under consideration and the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall set forth the reasons such revocation is being considered. Not later than forty-five days after mailing such written notice, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, shall hold a compliance conference with the private career school.

(c) If, after the compliance conference, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines that revocation of the certificate of authorization is appropriate, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall issue an order and serve written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested upon the private career school, which notice shall include, but not be limited to, the date of the revocation.

(d) A private career school aggrieved by the order of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner revoking its certificate of authorization pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall, not later than fifteen days after such order is mailed, request in writing a hearing before the **[**executive director**]** commissioner. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 143. Section 10a-22g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) A private career school which is authorized by the **[**executive

director**]** commissioner pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, and sections 10a-22u to 10a-22w, inclusive, may request authorization to establish and operate additional classroom sites or branch schools, or to offer existing or new programs through a distance learning program, as defined in section 10a-22h, for the purpose of offering the occupational instruction authorized by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, provided the additional classroom site or branch school complies with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such school shall make such request for authorization to operate an additional classroom site or branch school or to offer existing or new programs through a distance learning program, in the manner and on such forms as prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, at least sixty days prior to the proposed establishment of such additional classroom site or branch school or such distance learning program.

(b) The buildings and premises for such additional classroom site or branch school shall meet all applicable state and local fire and zoning requirements, and certificates attesting the same signed by the local fire marshal and zoning enforcement officer shall be filed with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner prior to offering such occupational instruction. The additional classroom site or branch school shall be in compliance with the relevant requirements set forth in subsection (g) of section 10a-22b, or on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, the requirements set forth in such regulations.

(c) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, not later than thirty days after the proposed date for establishment of a branch school, may issue an order prohibiting any such establishment of a branch school if it would constitute a material or substantial deviation from the conditions of authorization or if the private career school fails to meet the requirements set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(d) If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, fails to take action upon the request for revision by the thirtieth day after the proposed date for establishment of such additional classroom site or branch school or such distance learning program, such request shall be deemed approved.

Sec. 144. Section 10a-22i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may assess any person, board, partnership, association, corporation, limited liability company or other entity which violates any provision of sections 10a-22a to 10a-22p, inclusive, sections 10a-22u to 10a-22w, inclusive, or regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, an administrative penalty in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars for each day of such violation, except that, any administrative penalty assessed on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, shall be in the amount specified in such regulations.

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall serve written notice upon a private career school when the assessment of such an administrative penalty is under consideration. The notice shall set forth the reasons for the assessment of the penalty. Not later than forty-five days after mailing such notice to the private career school, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, shall hold a compliance conference with the private career school.

(c) If, after the compliance conference, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines that imposition of an administrative penalty is appropriate, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall issue an order and serve written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested upon the private career school.

(d) A private career school aggrieved by the order of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner imposing an administrative penalty pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall, not later than fifteen days after such order is mailed, request in writing a hearing before the **[**executive director**]** commissioner. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 145. Section 10a-22j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, through the Attorney General, may seek an order from the Superior Court to prevent any violation of sections 10a-22a to 10a-22p, inclusive, or sections 10a-22u to 10a-22w, inclusive.

Sec. 146. Subsection (b) of section 10a-22*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may conduct an investigation and, through the Attorney General, maintain an action in the name of the state against any person to restrain or prevent the establishment or operation of an institution that does not have a certificate of authorization.

Sec. 147. Section 10a-22m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) A private career school shall notify the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in writing, at least sixty days prior to closure of such school. The private career school shall provide evidence prior to closing that: (1) All course work is or will be completed by current students at the school; (2) there are no refunds due any students; (3) all student records will be maintained as prescribed in section 10a-22n; (4) final

payment has been made to the private career school student protection account; (5) a designation of service form has been filed with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner; and (6) the certificate of authorization has been returned to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner.

(b) Any private career school that fails to meet the requirements outlined in subsection (a) of this section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars per day for each day of noncompliance, except that, any fine assessed on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 10a-22k, shall be in the amount specified in such regulations, and pursuant to subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 10a-22c, shall be ineligible to be issued a certificate of authorization upon application to operate a private career school. Funds collected pursuant to this subsection shall be placed in the private career student protection account established pursuant to section 10a-22u.

(c) If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner revokes a private career school's certificate of authorization, such school shall comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section. Failure to comply shall result in further penalties at the discretion of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner.

(d) In the event a private career school fails to meet the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this section and closes prior to graduating all current students, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may seize the letter of credit filed by the private career school pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10a-22c, and such letter of credit shall be made payable to the private career school student protection account. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may expend funds from the private career school student protection account up to the amount necessary to facilitate a teach-out of any remaining students up to and including the issuance of a certificate of completion pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. For purposes of this subsection and subsection (e) of this

section, (1) "teach-out" means the completion of instruction of a course or program of study in which a student was enrolled, provided the teach-out includes instruction of the entire program of study when a course is a part of such program of study, and (2) "certificate of completion" means the credential, documented in writing, that is issued to a student who completes a course or program of study offered by a private career school.

(e) In the event of a private career school closure that fails to meet the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may issue a certificate of completion to each student that, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's determination, has successfully completed the student's course or program of study in which the student was enrolled at the private career school.

Sec. 148. Section 10a-22n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) A private career school shall maintain, preserve and protect, in a manner approved by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, all school records including, but not limited to: (1) Student or academic transcripts, including, in a separate file, a duplicate copy of the academic transcript of each student who graduated from such school, and a duplicate copy of the academic transcript of each student enrolled at such school that contains the student's name, address, program of study, length of such program of study, grade point average and courses completed; (2) attendance records or other indicators of student progress; (3) copies of individual enrollment agreements or contracts; (4) evidence of tuition payments; and (5) any other documentation as prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner.

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may at any time during regular

business or school hours, with or without notice, visit a private career school. During such visitation, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may request an officer or director of the school to produce, and shall be provided with immediate access to, such records or information as are required to verify that the school continues to meet the conditions of authorization. If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines that such private career school has not maintained, preserved or protected school records in accordance with this section, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may assess an administrative penalty on such private career school pursuant to section 10a-22i.

(c) If a school ceases to operate as a private career school, it shall (1) immediately transmit all student or academic transcripts, described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, and (2) keep the **[**executive director**]** commissioner advised in writing as to the location and availability of all other student records or shall file all such other student records with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner.

(d) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall maintain all records, files and other documents associated with private career schools in a manner consistent with the mission and responsibilities of the Office of Higher Education.

Sec. 149. Section 10a-22o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, through the Attorney General, may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for the enforcement of any order issued by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, and for other appropriate relief. The court may issue such orders as are appropriate to aid in enforcement.

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may conduct any necessary review, inspection or investigation regarding applications for certificates of authorization or possible violations of sections 10a-22a to 10a-22p, inclusive, or any applicable regulations of Connecticut state agencies. In connection with any investigation, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel testimony and order the production of any record or document. If any person refuses to appear, testify or produce any record or document when so ordered, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may seek relief pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 150. Section 10a-22p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On and after January 1, 2020, any private career school, as defined in section 10a-22a, that requires any student, as a condition of enrollment, to enter into an agreement that (1) limits participation in a class action against such school, (2) limits any claim the student may have against such school or the damages for such claim, or (3) requires the student to assert any claim against such school in a forum that is less convenient, more costly or more dilatory for the resolution of a dispute than a judicial forum established in the state where the student may otherwise properly bring a claim, shall include in its application to the Office of Higher Education for initial or renewed certificate of authorization pursuant to sections 10a-22b and 10a-22d, a statement (A) disclosing the number of claims made against the school, including claims made against a parent organization or subsidiary of the school, by a student currently or formerly enrolled at the school, (B) describing the nature of the rights asserted, and (C) updating the status of such claims. The school shall submit additional details regarding such claims as the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher

Education may require.

(b) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education may deny the application for initial or renewed certificate of authorization of a private career school or consider a private career school ineligible to receive any public funds, including, but not limited to, federal funds administered by the office pursuant to section 10a-45 if (1) such school fails to include the statement required under subsection (a) of this section in its application, or (2) upon review of such statement, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines that the public policy of protecting the interests of students in the state requires such denial.

(c) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall have the authority granted under sections 10a-22i, 10a-22j and 10a-22o to investigate and enforce the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

Sec. 151. Section 10a-22r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Upon the availability of funds to award financial aid grants from the private career school student benefit account, there shall be established an advisory committee to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner consisting of seven members appointed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, including a representative of the private career schools, a representative from the Office of Higher Education and five members chosen from business or industry, state legislators, private career school alumni and the general public. Three of the members first appointed to the committee shall be appointed for a term of three years and four of the members first appointed shall be appointed for a term of two years. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a term of two years. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall administer the private career school student benefit account, established pursuant to section 10a-22u, with the advice of the advisory committee in accordance with the

provisions of this section and sections 10a-22s and 10a-22t and may assess the account for all direct expenses incurred in the implementation of this section. The account shall be used to award financial aid grants for the benefit of private career school students. The grants shall be paid to the private career school designated by the grant recipient to be applied against the tuition expenses of such recipient. If the balance of the student protection account is five per cent or less of the annual net tuition income of the schools which make payments to the account pursuant to section 10a-22u, any unallocated funds in the student benefit account shall be transferred to the private career school student protection account.

Sec. 152. Section 10a-22s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, with the advice of the advisory committee, shall establish the criteria for awarding financial aid grants. Applications for grants shall be submitted on such forms and in such manner as the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, with the advice of the advisory committee, shall prescribe. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall establish policies, with the advice of the advisory committee, for the return of any portion of a financial aid grant, representing tuition of a student, which would otherwise be refundable.

Sec. 153. Section 10a-22u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There shall be an account to be known as the private career school student protection account within the General Fund. Each private career school authorized in accordance with the provisions of sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, shall pay to the State Treasurer an amount equal to four-tenths of one per cent of the tuition received by such school per calendar quarter exclusive of any refunds paid, except that distance learning and correspondence schools authorized in accordance with the

provisions of section 10a-22h, shall contribute to said account only for Connecticut residents enrolled in such schools. Payments shall be made by January thirtieth, April thirtieth, July thirtieth and October thirtieth in each year for tuition received during the three months next preceding the month of payment. In addition to amounts received based on tuition, the account shall also contain any amount required to be deposited into the account pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive. Said account shall be used for the purposes of section 10a-22v. Any interest, income and dividends derived from the investment of the account shall be credited to the account. All direct expenses for the maintenance of the account may be charged to the account upon the order of the State Comptroller. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may assess the account for all direct expenses incurred in the implementation of the purposes of this section which are in excess of the normal expenditures of the Office of Higher Education.

(b) Payments required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be a condition of doing business in the state and failure to make any such payment within thirty days following the date on which it is due shall result in the loss of authorization under section 10a-22f. Such authorization shall not be issued or renewed if there exists a failure to make any such payment in excess of thirty days following the date on which it is due.

(c) If an audit conducted by the Office of Higher Education determines that a school has paid into the private career school student protection account an amount less than was required, the school shall pay such amount plus a penalty of ten per cent of the amount required to the State Treasurer within thirty days of receipt of notice from the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee of the amount of the underpayment and penalty.

(d) If an audit conducted by the Office of Higher Education

determines that a school has paid into the private career school student protection account an amount more than was required, subsequent payment or payments by the school shall be appropriately credited until such credited payment or payments equal the amount of the overpayment.

Sec. 154. Section 10a-22v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Any student enrolled in a private career school authorized in accordance with the provisions of sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, who is unable to complete an approved course or unit of instruction at such school because of the insolvency or cessation of operation of the school and who has paid tuition for such course or unit of instruction, may, not later than two years after the date on which such school became insolvent or ceased operations, make application to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner for a refund of tuition from the account established pursuant to section 10a-22u to the extent that such account exists or has reached the level necessary to pay outstanding approved claims, except that in the case of distance learning and correspondence schools authorized in accordance with the provisions of section 10a-22h, only Connecticut residents enrolled in such schools may be eligible for such refund. Upon such application, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall determine whether the applicant is unable to complete a course or unit of instruction because of the insolvency or cessation of operation of the school to which tuition has been paid. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may summon by subpoena any person, records or documents pertinent to the making of a determination regarding insolvency or cessation of operation. For the purpose of making any tuition refund pursuant to this section, a school shall be deemed to have ceased operation whenever it has failed to complete a course or unit of instruction for which the student has paid a tuition fee and, as a result, the school's authorization has been revoked

pursuant to section 10a-22f. If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner finds that the applicant is entitled to a refund of tuition because of the insolvency or cessation of operation of the school, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall determine the amount of an appropriate refund which shall be equal to the tuition paid for the uncompleted course or unit of instruction. Thereafter the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall direct the State Treasurer to pay, per order of the Comptroller, the refund to the applicant or persons, agencies or organizations indicated by the applicant who have paid tuition on the student's behalf. If the student is a minor, payment shall be made to the student's parent, parents or legal guardian. In no event shall a refund be made from the student protection account for any financial aid provided to or on behalf of any student in accordance with the provisions of Title IV, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended from time to time. Each recipient of a tuition refund made in accordance with the provisions of this section shall assign all rights to the state of any action against the school or its owner or owners for tuition amounts reimbursed pursuant to this section. Upon such assignment, the state may take appropriate action against the school or its owner or owners in order to reimburse the student protection account for any expenses or claims that are paid from the account and to reimburse the state for the reasonable and necessary expenses in undertaking such action. Any student who falsifies information on an application for tuition reimbursement shall lose his or her right to any refund from the account.

Sec. 155. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 10a-34 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) If the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, determines that further review of an application is needed due at least in part to the applicant offering instruction in a new program of higher

learning or new degree level or the financial condition of the institution of higher education is determined to be at risk of imminent closure as a result of a financial screening conducted pursuant to the provisions of section 10a-34h, then the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee shall conduct a focused or on-site review. Such applicant shall have an opportunity to state any objection regarding any individual selected to review an application on behalf of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner. For purposes of this subsection and subsection (f) of this section, "focused review" means a review by an out-of-state curriculum expert; and "on-site review" means a full team evaluation by the office at the institution of higher education.

(f) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may require (1) a focused or on-site review of any program application in a field requiring a license to practice in Connecticut, and (2) evidence that a program application in a field requiring a license to practice in Connecticut meets the state or federal licensing requirements for such license.

Sec. 156. Section 10a-34a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education may assess any person, school, board, association or corporation which violates any provision of section 10a-34, 10a-34g or10a-35 an administrative penalty in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars for each day of such violation.

(b) (1) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall serve written notice upon the person, school, board, association or corporation when the assessment of such an administrative penalty is under consideration. The notice shall set forth the reasons for the assessment of the penalty.

(2) Not later than forty-five days after the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee mails notice pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to such person, school, board, association or corporation, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee shall hold a compliance conference with such person, school, board, association or corporation.

(c) If, after the compliance conference pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines that imposition of the administrative penalty is appropriate, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall issue an order and serve written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested upon the person, school, board, association or corporation.

(d) The person, school, board, association or corporation aggrieved by the order of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner imposing an administrative penalty pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall, not later than fifteen days after such order is mailed, request, in writing, a hearing before the Office of Higher Education. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 157. Section 10a-34b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, through the Attorney General, may seek an order from the Superior Court to prevent any violation of sections 10a-34, 10a-34g and 10a-35 through the use of an injunction in accordance with the provisions of chapter 916.

Sec. 158. Section 10a-34c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education may conduct an investigation and, through the Attorney

General, maintain an action in the name of the state against any person, school, board, association or corporation to restrain or prevent the establishment or operation of an institution that is not authorized to award degrees by the Office of Higher Education pursuant to the provisions of section 10a-34.

Sec. 159. Section 10a-34d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Office of Higher Education, through the Attorney General, may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for the enforcement of any order issued by the office or the **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, and for other appropriate relief. The court may issue such orders as are appropriate to aid in enforcement.

Sec. 160. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10a-34e of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Office of Higher Education may conduct any necessary review, inspection or investigation regarding applications for authorization or possible violations of this section, sections 10a-34 to 10a-34d, inclusive, section 10a-34g or any applicable regulations of Connecticut state agencies. In connection with any investigation, the **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Higher Education or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel testimony and order the production of any record or document. If any person refuses to appear, testify or produce any record or document when so ordered, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may seek relief pursuant to section 10a-34d.

(b) If the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education determines that an institution of higher education that is not

regionally accredited is exhibiting financial and administrative indicators that such institution is in danger of closing, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may require such institution to facilitate a teach-out, as defined in section 10a-22m, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and such institution previously discussed a teach-out that ensures that current students of such institution are able to complete their programs without significant impact.

Sec. 161. Section 10a-34g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On and after January 1, 2020, any for-profit institution of higher education licensed to operate in the state that requires any student, as a condition of enrollment, to enter into an agreement that (1) limits participation in a class action against such institution, (2) limits any claim the student may have against such institution or the damages for such claim, or (3) requires the student to assert any claim against such institution in a forum that is less convenient, more costly or more dilatory for the resolution of a dispute than a judicial forum established in the state where the student may otherwise properly bring a claim, shall include in its application to the Office of Higher Education for authorization pursuant to section 10a-34, a statement (A) disclosing the number of claims made against the institution, including claims made against a parent organization or subsidiary of the institution, by a student currently or formerly enrolled at the institution, (B) a description of the nature of the rights asserted, and (C) the status of such claims. The institution shall submit additional details regarding such claims as the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education may require.

(b) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education may deny the application for initial or renewed license or accreditation of a for-profit institution of higher education or consider a for-profit institution of higher education ineligible to receive any public

funds, including, but not limited to, federal funds administered by the office pursuant to section 10a-45 if (1) such institution fails to include the statement required under subsection (a) of this section in its application, or (2) upon review of such statement, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines that the public policy of protecting the interests of students in the state requires such denial. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (i) of section 10a-34, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may deny the accreditation of an institution of higher education, for the purposes of this subsection, by refusing to accept or withdrawing any previous acceptance of regional accreditation made under subsection (i) of said section.

(c) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall have the authority granted under sections 10a-34a, 10a-34b and 10a-34e to investigate and enforce the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

Sec. 162. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 10a-34h of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The Office of Higher Education shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with one or more accrediting agencies to conduct an annual financial screening of each independent institution of higher education in the state. If an independent institution of higher education does not complete an annual financial screening with an accrediting agency, such financial screening shall be conducted by the office in the form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner of said office. The office may determine that an independent institution of higher education is at risk of imminent closure through (1) a financial screening conducted by the office, or (2) acceptance by the office of such determination made by an accrediting agency. Upon determining that an independent institution of higher education is at risk of imminent closure, the office shall submit a summary of the reasons for such

determination to such institution.

(c) Upon receiving a summary from the Office of Higher Education that an independent institution of higher education has been determined to be at risk of imminent closure, such institution shall submit to the office, in the form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner of said office, (1) notice of any known financial liability or risk, (2) any information necessary to accurately determine and monitor the institution's financial status and risk of imminent closure, and (3) an updated closure plan approved by the governing board of such institution pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10a-34e.

(d) If any independent institution of higher education in the state fails to comply with the requirements of this section, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education may request the suspension of any state funding designated for such institution, establish a date to suspend or revoke such institution's degree-granting authority or impose such other penalties the **[**executive director**]** commissioner deems appropriate.

Sec. 163. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 10a-35b of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, in consultation with the advisory council established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall create a database of credentials offered in the state for the purpose of explaining the skills and competencies earned through a credential in uniform terms and plain language. In creating the database, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall utilize the minimum data policy of the New England Board of Higher Education's High Value Credentials for New England initiative, the uniform terms and descriptions of Credentials Engine's Credential Transparency

Description Language and the uniform standards for comparing and linking credentials in Credential Engine's Credential Transparency Description Language-Achievement Standards Network. At a minimum, the database shall include the following information for each credential: (1) Credential status type, (2) the entity that owns or offers the credential, (3) the type of credential being offered, (4) a short description of the credential, (5) the name of the credential, (6) the Internet web site that provides information relating to the credential, (7) the language in which the credential is offered, (8) the estimated duration for completion, (9) the industry related to the credential which may include its code under the North American Industry Classification System, (10) the occupation related to the credential which may include its code under the standard occupational classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor or under The Occupational Information Network, (11) the estimated cost for earning the credential, and (12) a listing of online or physical locations where the credential is offered.

(c) There is established an advisory council for the purpose of advising the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education on the implementation of the database created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The advisory council shall consist of (1) representatives from the Office of Workforce Strategy, Office of Higher Education, Office of Policy and Management, Labor Department, Department of Education, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, The University of Connecticut and independent institutions of higher education, and (2) the Chief Data Officer, or such officer's designee. The Chief Workforce Officer, the Chief Data Officer and the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, or their designees, shall be cochairpersons of the advisory council and shall schedule the meetings of the advisory council.

(d) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, each regional

workforce development board, community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885, institution of higher education, private career school, provider of an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of Education, and provider of a training program listed on the Labor Department's Eligible Training Provider List shall submit information, in the form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, about any credential offered by such institution, school or provider for inclusion in the database created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Such information shall include, but need not be limited to, the data described in subdivisions (1) to (12), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, except an institution of higher education may omit the data required pursuant to subdivisions (6), (9) and (10) of subsection (b) of this section if such data is not applicable to a credential offered by such institution.

Sec. 164. Subsection (a) of section 10a-35c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Office of Workforce Strategy, established pursuant to section 4-124w, shall, in consultation with the Chief Data Officer, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of Education, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education or any other stakeholder as identified by the Chief Workforce Officer, establish standards for designating certain credentials, as defined in section 10a-34h, as credentials of value. Such standards may include, but need not be limited to, meeting the workforce needs of employers in the state, completion rates, net cost, whether the credential transfers to or stacks onto another credential of value, average time to completion, types of employment opportunities available upon completion and earnings upon completion. The Office of Workforce Strategy shall not require the submission of an application or

any other information from a provider of a credential for such credential to be designated a credential of value.

Sec. 165. Subsection (c) of section 10a-48 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) There is established a Connecticut Campus Compact for Student Community Service to review opportunities and initiatives for, and develop plans to encourage and support, student community service programs at institutions of higher education in the state or which involve cooperation and coordination among such institutions. The compact shall be composed of the chief executive officer or president of each public and independent institution of higher education in the state and the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, or their designees. On or before October 1, 1989, and at least annually thereafter, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall convene the members of the compact.

Sec. 166. Section 10a-48b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Office of Higher Education may, within the limits of available appropriations, provide grants on a competitive basis to public and nonprofit service entities seeking to participate in the federal National and Community Service Trust Program pursuant to 42 USC 12501 et seq., in order to assist such service entities in meeting federal matching fund requirements for service placements, provided no grant shall exceed one-half of the federally unreimbursed cost to the service entity for providing such placements. Applications for grants pursuant to this section shall be made at such time and in such manner as the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education prescribes.

Sec. 167. Section 10a-55y of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education and the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in consultation with an epidemiologist or other specialist with expertise in mental health issues at institutions of higher education, may jointly offer training workshops for the campus mental health coalitions established pursuant to section 10a-55x regarding best practices for the assessment and provision of mental health services and programming at institutions of higher education.

Sec. 168. Section 10a-57 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall report on or before March 1, 2013, and annually thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies on state, regional and national trends regarding Connecticut higher education, including, but not limited to, expenditures, funding, enrollment, faculty and staff positions, cost sharing and student financial aid. The Office of Higher Education shall collect such data and information as it deems necessary for the development of such annual report.

Sec. 169. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10a-77a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) (A) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, to June 30, 2006, inclusive, as part of the state contract with donors of endowment fund eligible gifts, the Office of Higher Education, in accordance with section 10a-8b, shall deposit in the Endowment Fund for the

Community-Technical College System a grant in an amount equal to half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received by or for the benefit of the community-technical college system as a whole and each regional community-technical college for the calendar year ending the December thirty-first preceding the commencement of such fiscal year, as certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees by February fifteenth to (i) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, (ii) the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and (iii) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, provided such sums do not exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for the fiscal year in which the grant is made.

(B) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2007, to June 30, 2014, inclusive, as part of the state contract with donors of endowment fund eligible gifts, the Office of Higher Education, in accordance with section 10a-8b, shall deposit in the Endowment Fund for the Community-Technical College System a grant in an amount equal to one-quarter of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts, except as provided in this subdivision, received by or for the benefit of the community-technical college system as a whole and each regional community-technical college for the calendar year ending the December thirty-first preceding the commencement of such fiscal year, as certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees by February fifteenth to (i) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, (ii) the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and (iii) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, provided such sums do not exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for the fiscal year in which the grant is made. Endowment fund eligible gifts that meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision, made by donors during the period from January 1, 2005, to

June 30, 2005, shall continue to be matched by the Office of Higher Education in an amount equal to one-half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received. Commitments by donors to make endowment fund eligible gifts for two or more years that meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision and that are made for the period prior to December 31, 2004, but ending before December 31, 2012, shall continue to be matched by the Office of Higher Education in an amount equal to one-half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received through the commitment.

(C) In any such fiscal year in which the total of the eligible gifts received by the community-technical colleges exceeds the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year the amount in excess of such endowment fund state grant maximum commitment shall be carried forward and be eligible for a matching state grant in any succeeding fiscal year from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, inclusive, subject to the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment. Any endowment fund eligible gifts that are not included in the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees pursuant to this subdivision may be carried forward and be eligible for a matching state grant in any succeeding fiscal year from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, inclusive, subject to the endowment fund state matching grant commitment for such fiscal year.

Sec. 170. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10a-99a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) (A) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, to June 30, 2006, inclusive, as part of the state contract with donors of endowment fund eligible gifts, the Office of Higher Education, in accordance with section 10a-8b, shall deposit in the Endowment Fund for the

Connecticut State University System a grant in an amount equal to half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received by or for the benefit of the Connecticut State University System as a whole and each state university for the calendar year ending the December thirty-first preceding the commencement of such fiscal year, as certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees by February fifteenth to (i) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, (ii) the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and (iii) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, provided such sums do not exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for the fiscal year in which the grant is made.

(B) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2007, to June 30, 2014, inclusive, as part of the state contract with donors of endowment fund eligible gifts, the Office of Higher Education, in accordance with section 10a-8b, shall deposit in the Endowment Fund for the Connecticut State University System a grant in an amount equal to one-quarter of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts, except as provided for in this subdivision, received by or for the benefit of the Connecticut State University System as a whole and each state university for the calendar year ending the December thirty-first preceding the commencement of such fiscal year, as certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees by February fifteenth to (i) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, (ii) the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and (iii) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, provided such sums do not exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for the fiscal year in which the grant is made. Endowment fund eligible gifts that meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision, made by donors during the period from January 1, 2005, to June 30, 2005, shall continue to be matched by the Office of Higher Education in an amount equal to one-

half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received. Commitments by donors to make endowment fund eligible gifts for two or more years that meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision and that are made for the period prior to December 31, 2004, but ending before December 31, 2012, shall continue to be matched by the Office of Higher Education in an amount equal to one-half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received.

(C) In any such fiscal year in which the total of the eligible gifts received by the Connecticut State University System as a whole and each state university exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year the amount in excess of such endowment fund state grant maximum commitment shall be carried forward and be eligible for a matching state grant in any succeeding fiscal year from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, inclusive, subject to the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment. Any endowment fund eligible gifts that are not included in the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees pursuant to this subdivision may be carried forward and be eligible for a matching state grant in any succeeding fiscal year from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, inclusive, subject to the endowment fund state matching grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year.

Sec. 171. Subsection (a) of section 10a-104 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall: (1) Make rules for the government of the university and shall determine the general policies of the university, including those concerning the admission of students and the establishment of schools, colleges, divisions and departments, which policies shall be consistent with the

goals identified in section 10a-11c, and shall direct the expenditure of the university's funds within the amounts available; (2) develop the mission statement for The University of Connecticut, and all campuses thereof, that shall be consistent with such goals and include, but not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational needs of and constituencies served by said university and campuses; (B) the degrees offered by said university; and (C) the role and scope of each institution and campus within the university system, which shall include each institution's and campus' particular strengths and specialties; (3) establish policies for the university system and for the individual institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (4) review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new academic programs; (5) report all new programs and program changes to the Office of Higher Education; (6) make recommendations, when appropriate, regarding institutional or campus mergers or closures; (7) coordinate the programs and services of the institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (8) be authorized to enter into agreements, consistent with the provisions of section 5-141d, to save harmless and indemnify sponsors of research grants to The University of Connecticut, provided such an agreement is required to receive the grant and limits liability to damages or injury resulting from acts or omissions related to such research by employees of the university; (9) promote fund-raising to assist the university and report to the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education by January 1, 1994, and biennially thereafter, on such fund-raising; (10) charge the direct costs for a building project under its jurisdiction to the bond fund account for such project, provided (A) such costs are charged in accordance with a procedure approved by the Treasurer and (B) nothing in this subdivision shall permit the charging of working capital costs, as defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, or costs originally paid

from sources other than the bond fund account; (11) exercise the powers delegated to it pursuant to section 10a-109d; and (12) establish by October 1, 1997, policies governing the acceptance of gifts made by a foundation established pursuant to sections 4-37e and 4-37f to the university or its employees for reimbursement of expenditures or payment of expenditures on behalf of the university or its employees.

Sec. 172. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10a-109i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) (A) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 1999, to June 30, 2006, inclusive, as part of the state contract with donors of endowment fund eligible gifts, the Office of Higher Education, in accordance with section 10a-8b, shall deposit in the endowment fund for the university a grant in an amount equal to half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts, except as provided in this subparagraph, received by the university or for the benefit of the university for the calendar year ending the December thirty-first preceding the commencement of such fiscal year, as certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees by February fifteenth to (i) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, (ii) the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and (iii) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, provided such sums do not exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for the fiscal year in which the grant is made. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1999, and June 30, 2000, the Office of Higher Education shall deposit in the endowment fund for the university grants in total amounts which shall not exceed the endowment fund state grant, as defined in subdivision (7) of section 10a-109c of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 1997, and which shall be equal to the amounts certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees for each such fiscal year of

endowment fund eligible gifts received by the university or for the benefit of the university and for which written commitments were made prior to July 1, 1997. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, the funds required to be deposited in the endowment fund pursuant to this subparagraph shall be appropriated to the university for such purpose and not appropriated to the fund established pursuant to section 10a-8b.

(B) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2007, to June 30, 2014, inclusive, as part of the state contract with donors of endowment fund eligible gifts, the Office of Higher Education, in accordance with section 10a-8b, shall deposit in the endowment fund for the university a grant in an amount equal to one-quarter of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts, except as provided in this subdivision, received by the university or for the benefit of the university for the calendar year ending the December thirty-first preceding the commencement of such fiscal year, as certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees by February fifteenth to (i) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, (ii) the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and (iii) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, provided such sums do not exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for the fiscal year in which the grant is made. Endowment fund eligible gifts that meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision, made by donors during the period from January 1, 2005, to June 30, 2005, shall continue to be matched by the Office of Higher Education in an amount equal to one-half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received. Commitments by donors to make endowment fund eligible gifts for two or more years that meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision and that are made for the period prior to December 31, 2004, but ending before December 31, 2012, shall continue to be matched by the Office of Higher Education in an amount equal to one-half of the total amount of

endowment fund eligible gifts received through the commitment.

(C) In any such fiscal year in which the eligible gifts received by the university exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year, the amount in excess of such endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year shall be carried forward and be eligible for a matching state grant in any succeeding fiscal year, from the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, inclusive, subject to the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year. Any endowment fund eligible gifts that are not included in the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts certified by the chairperson of the board of trustees pursuant to this subparagraph may be carried forward and be eligible for a matching state grant in any succeeding fiscal year from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, inclusive, subject to the endowment fund state matching grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year.

Sec. 173. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10a-143a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) (A) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, to June 30, 2006, inclusive, as part of the state contract with donors of endowment fund eligible gifts, the Office of Higher Education, in accordance with section 10a-8b, shall deposit in the Endowment Fund for Charter Oak State College a grant in an amount equal to half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received by or for the benefit of Charter Oak State College for the calendar year ending the December thirty-first preceding the commencement of such fiscal year, as certified by the chairperson of the Board of Regents for Higher Education by February fifteenth to (i) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, (ii) the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state

agencies, and (iii) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, provided such sums do not exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for the fiscal year in which the grant is made.

(B) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2007, to June 30, 2014, inclusive, as part of the state contract with donors of endowment fund eligible gifts, the Office of Higher Education, in accordance with section 10a-8b, shall deposit in the Endowment Fund for Charter Oak State College a grant in an amount equal to one-quarter of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts, except as provided in this subdivision, received by or for the benefit of Charter Oak State College for the calendar year ending the December thirty-first preceding the commencement of such fiscal year, as certified by the chairperson of the Board of Regents for Higher Education by February fifteenth to (i) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, (ii) the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and (iii) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education, provided such sums do not exceed the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for the fiscal year in which the grant is made. Endowment fund eligible gifts that meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision, made by donors during the period from January 1, 2005, to June 30, 2005, shall continue to be matched by the Office of Higher Education in an amount equal to one-half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received. Commitments by donors to make endowment fund eligible gifts for two or more years that meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision and that are made for the period prior to December 31, 2004, but ending before December 31, 2012, shall continue to be matched by the Office of Higher Education in an amount equal to one-half of the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts received through the commitment.

(C) In any such fiscal year in which the total of the eligible gifts received by Charter Oak State College exceeds the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year the amount in excess of such endowment fund state grant maximum commitment shall be carried forward and be eligible for a matching state grant in any succeeding fiscal year from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, inclusive, subject to the endowment fund state grant maximum commitment. Any endowment fund eligible gifts that are not included in the total amount of endowment fund eligible gifts certified by the chairperson of the Board of Regents for Higher Education pursuant to this subdivision may be carried forward and be eligible for a matching state grant in any succeeding fiscal year from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, inclusive, subject to the endowment fund state matching grant maximum commitment for such fiscal year.

Sec. 174. Section 10a-154e of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On or before January 1, 2024, the Office of Higher Education shall establish and administer, within available appropriations, an adjunct professor incentive grant program. The program shall provide an incentive grant in an amount of twenty thousand dollars to each licensed health care provider who (1) accepts a position as an adjunct professor at a public institution of higher education that was offered to such provider after being considered as an applicant for such position pursuant to section 10a-154d, and (2) remains in such position for not less than one academic year. Each licensed health care provider who receives a grant under this subsection shall be eligible for an additional grant in an amount of twenty thousand dollars if the provider remains in such position for not less than two academic years. The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall establish

the application process for the grant program.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the number and demographics of the adjunct professors who applied for and received incentive grants from the adjunct professor grant program established under subsection (a) of this section, the number and types of classes taught by such adjunct professors, the institutions of higher education employing such adjunct professors and any other information deemed pertinent by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner.

Sec. 175. Subsection (d) of section 10a-168b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) Persons may apply to the Office of Higher Education for grants under this section at such time and in such manner as the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education prescribes.

Sec. 176. Subdivision (10) of subsection (b) of section 2-137 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(10) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee;

Sec. 177. Section 4-5 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,

Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner of Revenue Services, Banking Commissioner, Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, State Board of Education, Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health, Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Commissioner of Social Services, Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Commissioner of Housing, Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, Commissioner of Early Childhood, **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, executive director of the Office of Military Affairs, executive director of the Technical Education and Career System, Chief Workforce Officer and **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Higher Education. As used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means the Commissioner of Education.

Sec. 178. Section 10-532 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section, "universal nurse home visiting" means an evidence-based nurse home visiting model in which a registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378, with specialized training provides services in the home to families with newborns in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Social Services, **[**and**]** Public Health and **[**the Executive Director of the Office of**]** Health Strategy, shall, within available appropriations, develop a state-wide program to offer

universal nurse home visiting services to all families with newborns residing in the state to support parental health, healthy child development and strengthen families.

(c) When developing the program, said commissioners **[**and executive director,**]** shall (1) consult with insurers that offer health benefit plans in the state, hospitals, local public health authorities, existing early childhood home visiting programs, community-based organizations and social service providers; and (2) maximize the use of available federal funding.

(d) The program shall provide universal nurse home visiting services that are (1) evidence-based, and (2) designed to improve outcomes in one or more of the following areas: (A) Child safety; (B) child health and development; (C) family economic self-sufficiency; (D) maternal and parental health; (E) positive parenting; (F) reducing child mistreatment; (G) reducing family violence; (H) parent-infant bonding; and (I) any other appropriate area established, in writing, by the Commissioners of Early Childhood, Social Services, **[**and**]** Public Health and **[**the executive director of the Office of**]** Health Strategy.

(e) The universal nurse home visiting services provided pursuant to the program shall (1) be voluntary and carry no negative consequences for a family that declines to participate, (2) include an evidence-based assessment of the physical, social and emotional factors affecting a family receiving such services, (3) include at least one visit during a newborn's first three months of life or other time frame as deemed appropriate by said commissioners **[**and executive director**]** and that is consistent with an evidence-based model, (4) allow families to choose up to a certain number of additional visits consistent with such model, (5) include a follow-up visit no later than three months or other time frame established by such model after the last visit, and (6) provide information and referrals to address each family's identified needs. Such services may be offered in every community in the state and to all

families with newborns based on the full extent of available provider capacity.

(f) The Commissioner of Social Services may seek approval of an amendment to the state Medicaid plan or a waiver from federal law to provide coverage for universal nurse home visiting services provided pursuant to this section and in a time frame and manner to ensure that such coverage does not duplicate other applicable federal funding.

(g) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Social Services**,** **[**and**]** Public Health and **[**the executive director of the Office of**]** Health Strategy, shall collect and analyze data generated by the program to assess the effectiveness of the program in meeting the goals described in subsection (d) of this section and collaborate with other state agencies to develop protocols for sharing such data, including the timely sharing of data with primary care providers that provide care to families with newborns receiving universal nurse home visiting services pursuant to the provisions of this section.

Sec. 179. Subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of section 17b-59a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, **[**established under section 19a-754a,**]** shall (1) develop, throughout the Departments of Developmental Services, Public Health, Correction, Children and Families, Veterans Affairs and Mental Health and Addiction Services, uniform management information, uniform statistical information, uniform terminology for similar facilities, and uniform electronic health information technology standards, (2) plan for increased participation of the private sector in the delivery of human services, and (3) provide direction and coordination to federally funded

programs in the human services agencies and recommend uniform system improvements and reallocation of physical resources and designation of a single responsibility across human services agencies lines to facilitate shared services and eliminate duplication.

(c) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services and the State Health Information Technology Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 17b-59f, implement and periodically revise the state-wide health information technology plan established pursuant to this section and shall establish electronic data standards to facilitate the development of integrated electronic health information systems for use by health care providers and institutions that receive state funding. Such electronic data standards shall: (1) Include provisions relating to security, privacy, data content, structures and format, vocabulary and transmission protocols; (2) limit the use and dissemination of an individual's Social Security number and require the encryption of any Social Security number provided by an individual; (3) require privacy standards no less stringent than the "Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information" established under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time, and contained in 45 CFR 160, 164; (4) require that individually identifiable health information be secure and that access to such information be traceable by an electronic audit trail; (5) be compatible with any national data standards in order to allow for interstate interoperability; (6) permit the collection of health information in a standard electronic format; and (7) be compatible with the requirements for an electronic health information system.

(d) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall, within existing resources and in consultation with the State Health Information Technology Advisory Council: (1) Oversee the development and implementation of the State-wide Health Information

Exchange in conformance with section 17b-59d; (2) coordinate the state's health information technology and health information exchange efforts to ensure consistent and collaborative cross-agency planning and implementation; and (3) serve as the state liaison to, and work collaboratively with, the State-wide Health Information Exchange established pursuant to section 17b-59d to ensure consistency between the state-wide health information technology plan and the State-wide Health Information Exchange and to support the state's health information technology and exchange goals.

(e) The state-wide health information technology plan, implemented and periodically revised pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall enhance interoperability to support optimal health outcomes and include, but not be limited to (1) general standards and protocols for health information exchange, and (2) national data standards to support secure data exchange data standards to facilitate the development of a state-wide, integrated electronic health information system for use by health care providers and institutions that are licensed by the state. Such electronic data standards shall (A) include provisions relating to security, privacy, data content, structures and format, vocabulary and transmission protocols, (B) be compatible with any national data standards in order to allow for interstate interoperability, (C) permit the collection of health information in a standard electronic format, and (D) be compatible with the requirements for an electronic health information system.

(f) Not later than February 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, in consultation with the State Health Information Technology Advisory Council, shall report in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and public health concerning: (1) The development and implementation of the state-wide

health information technology plan and data standards, established and implemented by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy pursuant to this section; (2) the establishment of the State-wide Health Information Exchange; and (3) recommendations for policy, regulatory and legislative changes and other initiatives to promote the state's health information technology and exchange goals.

Sec. 180. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 17b-59d of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) (1) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the State Health Information Technology Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 17b-59f, shall, upon the approval by the State Bond Commission of bond funds authorized by the General Assembly for the purposes of establishing a State-wide Health Information Exchange, develop and issue a request for proposals for the development, management and operation of the State-wide Health Information Exchange. Such request shall promote the reuse of any and all enterprise health information technology assets, such as the existing Provider Directory, Enterprise Master Person Index, Direct Secure Messaging Health Information Service provider infrastructure, analytic capabilities and tools that exist in the state or are in the process of being deployed. Any enterprise health information exchange technology assets purchased after June 2, 2016, and prior to the implementation of the State-wide Health Information Exchange shall be capable of interoperability with a State-wide Health Information Exchange.

(2) Such request for proposals may require an eligible organization responding to the request to: (A) Have not less than three years of experience operating either a state-wide health information exchange in any state or a regional exchange serving a population of not less than

one million that (i) enables the exchange of patient health information among health care providers, patients and other authorized users without regard to location, source of payment or technology, (ii) includes, with proper consent, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment information, (iii) supports transitions of care and care coordination through real-time health care provider alerts and access to clinical information, (iv) allows health information to follow each patient, (v) allows patients to access and manage their health data, and (vi) has demonstrated success in reducing costs associated with preventable readmissions, duplicative testing or medical errors; (B) be committed to, and demonstrate, a high level of transparency in its governance, decision-making and operations; (C) be capable of providing consulting to ensure effective governance; (D) be regulated or administratively overseen by a state government agency; and (E) have sufficient staff and appropriate expertise and experience to carry out the administrative, operational and financial responsibilities of the State-wide Health Information Exchange.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, if, on or before January 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the State Health Information Technology Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 17b-59f, submits a plan to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the establishment of a State-wide Health Information Exchange consistent with subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section, and such plan is approved by the secretary, the commissioner may implement such plan and enter into any contracts or agreements to implement such plan.

(f) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall have administrative authority over the State-wide Health Information Exchange. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall be responsible for designating, and posting on its Internet web site, the list of systems, technologies, entities and programs that shall constitute the

State-wide Health Information Exchange. Systems, technologies, entities, and programs that have not been so designated shall not be considered part of said exchange.

(g) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 that set forth requirements necessary to implement the provisions of this section. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner holds a public hearing at least thirty days prior to implementing such policies and procedures and publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations on the Office of Health Strategy's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after implementing such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the time such regulations are effective.

Sec. 181. Subsection (d) of section 17b-59e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 that set forth requirements necessary to implement the provisions of this section. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner holds a public hearing at least thirty days prior to implementing such policies and procedures and publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations on the Office of Health Strategy's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty

days after implementing such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the time such regulations are effective.

Sec. 182. Section 17b-59f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There shall be a State Health Information Technology Advisory Council to advise the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy and the health information technology officer, designated in accordance with section 19a-754a, in developing priorities and policy recommendations for advancing the state's health information technology and health information exchange efforts and goals and to advise the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and officer in the development and implementation of the state-wide health information technology plan and standards and the State-wide Health Information Exchange, established pursuant to section 17b-59d. The advisory council shall also advise the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and officer regarding the development of appropriate governance, oversight and accountability measures to ensure success in achieving the state's health information technology and exchange goals.

(b) The council shall consist of the following members:

(1) One member appointed by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, who shall be an expert in state health care reform initiatives;

(2) The health information technology officer, designated in accordance with section 19a-754a, or the health information technology officer's designee;

(3) The Commissioners of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Children and Families, Correction, Public Health and Developmental Services, or the commissioners' designees;

(4) The Chief Information Officer of the state, or the Chief Information Officer's designee;

(5) The chief executive officer of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, or the chief executive officer's designee;

(6) The chief information officer of The University of Connecticut Health Center, or the chief information officer's designee;

(7) The Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee;

(8) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

(9) Five members appointed by the Governor, one each who shall be (A) a representative of a health system that includes more than one hospital, (B) a representative of the health insurance industry, (C) an expert in health information technology, (D) a health care consumer or consumer advocate, and (E) a current or former employee or trustee of a plan established pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of 29 USC 186;

(10) Three members appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one each who shall be (A) a representative of a federally qualified health center, (B) a provider of behavioral health services, and (C) a physician licensed under chapter 370;

(11) Three members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one each who shall be (A) a technology expert who represents a hospital system, as defined in section 19a-486i, (B) a provider of home health care services, and (C) a health care consumer or a health care consumer advocate;

(12) One member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an independent community hospital;

(13) One member appointed by the majority leader of the House of

Representatives, who shall be a physician who provides services in a multispecialty group and who is not employed by a hospital;

(14) One member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a primary care physician who provides services in a small independent practice;

(15) One member appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be an expert in health care analytics and quality analysis;

(16) The president pro tempore of the Senate, or the president's designee;

(17) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or the speaker's designee;

(18) The minority leader of the Senate, or the minority leader's designee; and

(19) The minority leader of the House of Representatives, or the minority leader's designee.

(c) Any member appointed or designated under subdivisions (10) to (19), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) (1) The health information technology officer, designated in accordance with section 19a-754a, shall serve as a chairperson of the council. The council shall elect a second chairperson from among its members, who shall not be a state official. The chairpersons of the council may establish subcommittees and working groups and may appoint individuals other than members of the council to serve as members of the subcommittees or working groups. The terms of the members shall be coterminous with the terms of the appointing

authority for each member and subject to the provisions of section 4-1a. If any vacancy occurs on the council, the appointing authority having the power to make the appointment under the provisions of this section shall appoint a person in accordance with the provisions of this section. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum. Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(2) The chairpersons of the council may appoint up to four additional members to the council, who shall serve at the pleasure of the chairpersons.

(e) (1) The council shall establish a working group to be known as the All-Payer Claims Database Advisory Group. Said group shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Comptroller, the Commissioners of Public Health, Social Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Insurance Commissioner, the Healthcare Advocate and the Chief Information Officer, or their designees; (B) a representative of the Connecticut State Medical Society; and (C) representatives of health insurance companies, health insurance purchasers, hospitals, consumer advocates and health care providers. The health information technology officer may appoint additional members to said group.

(2) The All-Payer Claims Database Advisory Group shall develop a plan to implement a state-wide multipayer data initiative to enhance the state's use of heath care data from multiple sources to increase efficiency, enhance outcomes and improve the understanding of health care expenditures in the public and private sectors.

(f) Prior to submitting any application, proposal, planning document or other request seeking federal grants, matching funds or other federal support for health information technology or health information

exchange, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy or the Commissioner of Social Services shall present such application, proposal, document or other request to the council for review and comment.

Sec. 183. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17b-59g of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The state, acting by and through the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in collaboration with the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, shall establish a program to expedite the development of the State-wide Health Information Exchange, established under section 17b-59d, to assist the state, health care providers, insurance carriers, physicians and all stakeholders in empowering consumers to make effective health care decisions, promote patient-centered care, improve the quality, safety and value of health care, reduce waste and duplication of services, support clinical decision-making, keep confidential health information secure and make progress toward the state's public health goals. The purposes of the program shall be to (1) assist the State-wide Health Information Exchange in establishing and maintaining itself as a neutral and trusted entity that serves the public good for the benefit of all Connecticut residents, including, but not limited to, Connecticut health care consumers and Connecticut health care providers and carriers, (2) perform, on behalf of the state, the role of intermediary between public and private stakeholders and customers of the State-wide Health Information Exchange, and (3) fulfill the responsibilities of the Office of Health Strategy, as described in section 19a-754a.

(b) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, in consultation with the health information technology officer, designated in accordance with section 19a-754, shall design, and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in collaboration with

said **[**executive director**]** commissioner, may establish or incorporate an entity to implement the program established under subsection (a) of this section. Such entity shall, without limitation, be owned and governed, in whole or in part, by a party or parties other than the state and may be organized as a nonprofit entity.

Sec. 184. Subsection (c) of section 17b-337 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The Long-Term Care Planning Committee shall consist of: (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health, elderly services and long-term care; (2) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; (3) one member of the Office of Policy and Management appointed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management; (4) one member from the Department of Public Health appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health; (5) one member from the Department of Housing appointed by the Commissioner of Housing; (6) one member from the Department of Developmental Services appointed by the Commissioner of Developmental Services; (7) one member from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services appointed by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services; (8) one member from the Department of Transportation appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation; (9) one member from the Department of Children and Families appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families; (10) one member from the Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy appointed by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy; and (11) one member from the Department of Aging and Disability Services appointed by the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services. The committee shall convene no later than ninety days after June 4, 1998. Any vacancy shall

be filled by the appointing authority. The chairperson shall be elected from among the members of the committee. The committee shall seek the advice and participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

Sec. 185. Section 19a-6q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy **[**, established under section 19a-754a,**]** and local and regional health departments, shall, within available resources, develop a plan that is consistent with the Department of Public Health's Healthy Connecticut 2020 health improvement plan and the state healthcare innovation plan developed pursuant to the State Innovation Model Initiative by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Center. The **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Public Health shall develop and implement such plan to: (1) Reduce the incidence of tobacco use, high blood pressure, health care associated infections, asthma, unintended pregnancy and diabetes; (2) improve chronic disease care coordination in the state; and (3) reduce the incidence and effects of chronic disease and improve outcomes for conditions associated with chronic disease in the state. The **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Public Health shall post such plan on the Department of Public Health's Internet web site.

Sec. 186. Subsections (b) to (h), inclusive, of section 19a-127k of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) On and after January 1, 2023, each hospital shall submit community benefit program reporting to the Office of Health Strategy, or to a designee selected by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, in the form and manner described in

subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

(c) Each hospital shall submit its community health needs assessment to the Office of Health Strategy not later than thirty days after the date on which such assessment is made available to the public pursuant to 26 CFR 1.501(r)-(3)(b), provided the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may grant an extension of time to a hospital for the filing of such assessment. Such submission shall contain the following:

(1) Consistent with the requirements set forth in 26 CFR 1.501(r)-(3)(b)(6)(i), and as included in a hospital's federal filing submitted to the Internal Revenue Service:

(A) A definition of the community served by the hospital and a description of how the community was determined;

(B) A description of the process and methods used to conduct the community health needs assessment;

(C) A description of how the hospital solicited and took into account input received from persons who represent the broad interests of the community it serves;

(D) A prioritized description of the significant health needs of the community identified through the community health needs assessment, and a description of the process and criteria used in identifying certain health needs as significant and prioritizing those significant health needs;

(E) A description of the resources potentially available to address the significant health needs identified through the community health needs assessment;

(F) An evaluation of the impact of any actions that were taken, since the hospital finished conducting its immediately preceding community health needs assessment, to address the significant health needs identified in the hospital's prior community health needs assessment; and

(2) Additional documentation of the following:

(A) The names of the individuals responsible for developing the community health needs assessment;

(B) The demographics of the population within the geographic service area of the hospital and, to the extent feasible, a detailed description of the health disparities, health risks, insurance status, service utilization patterns and health care costs within such geographic service area;

(C) A description of the health status and health disparities affecting the population within the geographic service area of the hospital, including, but not limited to, the health status and health disparities affecting a representative spectrum of age, racial and ethnic groups, incomes and medically underserved populations;

(D) A description of the meaningful participation afforded to community benefit partners and diverse community members in assessing community health needs, priorities and target populations;

(E) A description of the barriers to achieving or maintaining health and to accessing health care, including, but not limited to, social, economic and environmental barriers, lack of access to or availability of sources of health care coverage and services and a lack of access to and availability of prevention and health promotion services and support;

(F) Recommendations regarding the role that the state and other community benefit partners could play in removing the barriers

described in subparagraph (E) of this subdivision and enabling effective solutions; and

(G) Any additional information, data or disclosures that the hospital voluntarily chooses to include as may be relevant to its community benefit program.

(d) Each hospital shall submit its implementation strategy to the Office of Health Strategy not later than thirty days after the date on which such implementation strategy is adopted pursuant to 26 CFR 1.501(r)-(3)(c), provided the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may grant an extension to a hospital for the filing of such implementation strategy. Such submission shall contain the following:

(1) Consistent with the requirements set forth in 26 CFR 1.501(r)-(3)(b)(6)(i), and as included in a hospital's federal filing submitted to the Internal Revenue Service:

(A) With respect to each significant health need identified through the community health needs assessment, either (i) a description of how the hospital plans to address the health need, or (ii) identification of the health need as one which the hospital does not intend to address;

(B) For significant health needs described in subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision, (i) a description of the actions that the hospital intends to take to address the health need and the anticipated impact of such actions, (ii) identification of the resources that the hospital plans to commit to address the health need, and (iii) a description of any planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities or organizations to address the health need;

(C) For significant health needs identified in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision, an explanation of why the hospital does not intend to

address such health need; and

(2) Additional documentation of the following:

(A) The names of the individuals responsible for developing the implementation strategy;

(B) A description of the meaningful participation afforded to community benefit partners and diverse community members;

(C) A description of the community health needs and health disparities that were prioritized in developing the implementation strategy with consideration given to the most recent version of the state health plan prepared by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-7;

(D) Reference-citing evidence, if available, that shows how the implementation strategy is intended to address the corresponding health need or reduction in health disparity;

(E) A description of the planned methods for the ongoing evaluation of proposed actions and corresponding process or outcome measures intended for use in assessing progress or impact;

(F) A description of how the hospital solicited commentary on the implementation strategy from the communities within such hospital's geographic service area and revisions to such strategy based on such commentary; and

(G) Any other information that the hospital voluntarily chooses to include as may be relevant to its implementation strategy, including, but not limited to, data, disclosures, expected or planned resource outlay, investments or commitments, including, but not limited to, staff, financial or in-kind commitments.

(e) On or before October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, each

hospital shall submit to the Office of Health Strategy a status report on such hospital's community benefit program, provided the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, may grant an extension to a hospital for the filing of such report. Such report shall include the following:

(1) A description of major updates regarding community health needs, priorities and target populations, if any;

(2) A description of progress made regarding the hospital's actions in support of its implementation strategy;

(3) A description of any major changes to the proposed implementation strategy and associated hospital actions; and

(4) A description of financial resources and other resources allocated or expended that supported the actions taken in support of the hospital's implementation strategy.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 19a-755a, and to the full extent permitted by 45 CFR 164.514(e), the Office of Health Strategy shall make data in the all-payer claims database available to hospitals for use in their community benefit programs and activities solely for the purposes of (1) preparing the hospital's community health needs assessment, (2) preparing and executing the hospital's implementation strategy, and (3) fulfilling community benefit program reporting, as described in subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section. Any disclosure made by said office pursuant to this subsection of information other than health information shall be made in a manner to protect the confidentiality of such information as may be required by state or federal law.

(g) A hospital shall not be responsible for limitations in its ability to fulfill community benefit program reporting requirements, as described

in subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section, if the all-payer claims database data is not provided to such hospital, as required by subsection (f) of this section.

(h) On or before April 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall develop a summary and analysis of the community benefit program reporting submitted by hospitals under this section during the previous calendar year and post such summary and analysis on its Internet web site and solicit stakeholder input through a public comment period. The Office of Health Strategy shall use such reporting and stakeholder input to:

(1) Identify additional stakeholders that may be engaged to address identified community health needs including, but not limited to, federal, state and municipal entities, nonhospital private sector health care providers and private sector entities that are not health care providers, including community-based organizations, insurers and charitable organizations;

(2) Determine how each identified stakeholder could assist in addressing identified community health needs or augmenting solutions or approaches reported in the implementation strategies;

(3) Determine whether to make recommendations to the Department of Public Health in the development of its state health plan; and

(4) Inform the state-wide health care facilities and services plan established pursuant to section 19a-634.

Sec. 187. Subdivision (6) of section 19a-486 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(6) **[**"Executive director"**]** "Commissioner" means the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, **[**established

under section 19a-754a,**]** or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee.

Sec. 188. Section 19a-486a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No nonprofit hospital shall enter into an agreement to transfer a material amount of its assets or operations or a change in control of operations to a person that is organized or operated for profit without first having received approval of the agreement by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General pursuant to sections 19a-486 to 19a-486h, inclusive, and pursuant to the Attorney General's authority under section 3-125. Any such agreement without the approval required by sections 19a-486 to 19a-486h, inclusive, shall be void.

(b) Prior to any transaction described in subsection (a) of this section, the nonprofit hospital and the purchaser shall concurrently submit a certificate of need determination letter as described in subsection (c) of section 19a-638 to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General by serving it on them by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivering it by hand to each office. The certificate of need determination letter shall contain: (1) The name and address of the nonprofit hospital; (2) the name and address of the purchaser; (3) a brief description of the terms of the proposed agreement; and (4) the estimated capital expenditure, cost or value associated with the proposed agreement. The certificate of need determination letter shall be subject to disclosure pursuant to section 1-210.

(c) Not later than thirty days after receipt of the certificate of need determination letter by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General, the purchaser and the nonprofit hospital shall hold a hearing on the contents of the certificate of need determination letter in the municipality in which the new hospital is proposed to be located.

The nonprofit hospital shall provide not less than two weeks' advance notice of the hearing to the public by publication in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the affected community for not less than three consecutive days. Such notice shall contain substantially the same information as in the certificate of need determination letter. The purchaser and the nonprofit hospital shall record and transcribe the hearing and make such recording or transcription available to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, the Attorney General or members of the public upon request. A public hearing held in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-639a shall satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(d) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General shall review the certificate of need determination letter. The Attorney General shall determine whether the agreement requires approval pursuant to this chapter. If such approval is required, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General shall transmit to the purchaser and the nonprofit hospital an application form for approval pursuant to this chapter, unless the **[**executive director**]** commissioner refuses to accept a filed or submitted certificate of need determination letter. Such application form shall require the following information: (1) The name and address of the nonprofit hospital; (2) the name and address of the purchaser; (3) a description of the terms of the proposed agreement; (4) copies of all contracts, agreements and memoranda of understanding relating to the proposed agreement; (5) a fairness evaluation by an independent person who is an expert in such agreements, that includes an analysis of each of the criteria set forth in section 19a-486c; (6) documentation that the nonprofit hospital exercised the due diligence required by subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 19a-486c, including disclosure of the terms of any other offers to transfer assets or operations or change control of operations received by the nonprofit hospital and the reason for rejection of such offers; and (7) such other information as the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or

the Attorney General deem necessary to their review pursuant to the provisions of sections 19a-486 to 19a-486f, inclusive, and chapter 368z. The application shall be subject to disclosure pursuant to section 1-210.

(e) No later than sixty days after the date of mailing of the application form, the nonprofit hospital and the purchaser shall concurrently file an application with the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General containing all the required information. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General shall review the application and determine whether the application is complete. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General shall, no later than twenty days after the date of their receipt of the application, provide written notice to the nonprofit hospital and the purchaser of any deficiencies in the application. Such application shall not be deemed complete until such deficiencies are corrected.

(f) No later than twenty-five days after the date of their receipt of the completed application under this section, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General shall jointly publish a summary of such agreement in a newspaper of general circulation where the nonprofit hospital is located.

(g) Any person may seek to intervene in the proceedings under section 19a-486e, in the same manner as provided in section 4-177a.

Sec. 189. Section 19a-486b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than one hundred twenty days after the date of receipt of the completed application pursuant to subsection (e) of section 19a-486a, the Attorney General and the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall approve the application, with or without modification, or deny the application. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall also determine, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 368z, whether to approve,

with or without modification, or deny the application for a certificate of need that is part of the completed application. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 19a-639a, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall complete the decision on the application for a certificate of need within the same time period as the completed application. Such one-hundred-twenty-day period may be extended by (1) agreement of the Attorney General, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, the nonprofit hospital and the purchaser, or (2) the **[**executive director**]** commissioner for an additional one hundred twenty days pending completion of a cost and market impact review conducted pursuant to section 19a-639f. If the Attorney General initiates a proceeding to enforce a subpoena pursuant to section 19a-486c or 19a-486d, the one-hundred-twenty-day period shall be tolled until the final court decision on the last pending enforcement proceeding, including any appeal or time for the filing of such appeal. Unless the one-hundred-twenty-day period is extended pursuant to this section, if the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and Attorney General fail to take action on an agreement prior to the one hundred twenty-first day after the date of the filing of the completed application, the application shall be deemed approved.

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner and the Attorney General may place any conditions on the approval of an application that relate to the purposes of sections 19a-486a to 19a-486h, inclusive. In placing any such conditions the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall follow the guidelines and criteria described in subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 19a-639. Any such conditions may be in addition to any conditions placed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 19a-639.

Sec. 190. Section 19a-486d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall deny an application filed pursuant to subsection (d) of section 19a-486a unless the **[**executive

director**]** commissioner finds that: (1) In a situation where the asset or operation to be transferred provides or has provided health care services to the uninsured or underinsured, the purchaser has made a commitment to provide health care to the uninsured and the underinsured; (2) in a situation where health care providers or insurers will be offered the opportunity to invest or own an interest in the purchaser or an entity related to the purchaser safeguard procedures are in place to avoid a conflict of interest in patient referral; and (3) certificate of need authorization is justified in accordance with chapter 368z. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may contract with any person, including, but not limited to, financial or actuarial experts or consultants, or legal experts with the approval of the Attorney General, to assist in reviewing the completed application. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall submit any bills for such contracts to the purchaser. Such bills shall not exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars. The purchaser shall pay such bills no later than thirty days after the date of receipt of such bills.

(b) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may, during the course of a review required by this section: (1) Issue in writing and cause to be served upon any person, by subpoena, a demand that such person appear before the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and give testimony or produce documents as to any matters relevant to the scope of the review; and (2) issue written interrogatories, to be answered under oath, as to any matters relevant to the scope of the review and prescribing a return date that would allow a reasonable time to respond. If any person fails to comply with the provisions of this subsection, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, through the Attorney General, may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford seeking enforcement of such subpoena. The superior court may, upon notice to such person, issue and cause to be served an order requiring compliance. Service of subpoenas ad testificandum, subpoenas duces tecum, notices of deposition and written interrogatories as provided in this subsection

may be made by personal service at the usual place of abode or by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the person to be served at such person's principal place of business within or without this state or such person's residence.

Sec. 191. Section 19a-486e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Prior to making any decision to approve, with or without modification, or deny any application filed pursuant to subsection (d) of section 19a-486a, the Attorney General and the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall jointly conduct one or more public hearings, one of which shall be in the primary service area of the nonprofit hospital. At least fourteen days before conducting the public hearing, the Attorney General and the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall provide notice of the time and place of the hearing through publication in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the affected community.

Sec. 192. Section 19a-486f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or the Attorney General denies an application filed pursuant to subsection (d) of section 19a-486a, or approves it with modification, the nonprofit hospital or the purchaser may appeal such decision in the same manner as provided in section 4-183, provided that nothing in sections 19a-486 to 19a-486f, inclusive, shall be construed to apply the provisions of chapter 54 to the proceedings of the Attorney General.

Sec. 193. Section 19a-486g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Commissioner of Public Health shall refuse to issue a license to, or if issued shall suspend or revoke the license of, a hospital if the commissioner finds, after a hearing and opportunity to be heard, that:

(1) There was a transaction described in section 19a-486a that occurred without the approval of the **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, if such approval was required by sections 19a-486 to 19a-486h, inclusive;

(2) There was a transaction described in section 19a-486a without the approval of the Attorney General, if such approval was required by sections 19a-486 to 19a-486h, inclusive, and the Attorney General certifies to the **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy that such transaction involved a material amount of the nonprofit hospital's assets or operations or a change in control of operations; or

(3) The hospital is not complying with the terms of an agreement approved by the Attorney General and **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy pursuant to sections 19a-486 to 19a-486h, inclusive.

Sec. 194. Section 19a-486h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Nothing in sections 19a-486 to 19a-486h, inclusive, shall be construed to limit: (1) The common law or statutory authority of the Attorney General; (2) the statutory authority of the Commissioner of Public Health including, but not limited to, licensing; (3) the statutory authority of the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, including, but not limited to, certificate of need authority; or (4) the application of the doctrine of cy pres or approximation.

Sec. 195. Subsections (d) to (i), inclusive, of section 19a-486i of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) (1) The written notice required under subsection (c) of this section shall identify each party to the transaction and describe the material change as of the date of such notice to the business or corporate structure

of the group practice, including: (A) A description of the nature of the proposed relationship among the parties to the proposed transaction; (B) the names and specialties of each physician that is a member of the group practice that is the subject of the proposed transaction and who will practice medicine with the resulting group practice, hospital, hospital system, captive professional entity, medical foundation or other entity organized by, controlled by, or otherwise affiliated with such hospital or hospital system following the effective date of the transaction; (C) the names of the business entities that are to provide services following the effective date of the transaction; (D) the address for each location where such services are to be provided; (E) a description of the services to be provided at each such location; and (F) the primary service area to be served by each such location.

(2) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of any transaction described in subsection (c) of this section, the parties to the transaction shall submit written notice to the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy. Such written notice shall include, but need not be limited to, the same information described in subdivision (1) of this subsection. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall post a link to such notice on the Office of Health Strategy's Internet web site.

(e) Not less than thirty days prior to the effective date of any transaction that results in an affiliation between one hospital or hospital system and another hospital or hospital system, the parties to the affiliation shall submit written notice to the Attorney General of such affiliation. Such written notice shall identify each party to the affiliation and describe the affiliation as of the date of such notice, including: (1) A description of the nature of the proposed relationship among the parties to the affiliation; (2) the names of the business entities that are to provide services following the effective date of the affiliation; (3) the address for each location where such services are to be provided; (4) a description of the services to be provided at each such location; and (5) the primary

service area to be served by each such location.

(f) Written information submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this section shall be maintained and used by the Attorney General in the same manner as provided in section 35-42.

(g) Not later than January 15, 2018, and annually thereafter, each hospital and hospital system shall file with the Attorney General and the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy a written report describing the activities of the group practices owned or affiliated with such hospital or hospital system. Such report shall include, for each such group practice: (1) A description of the nature of the relationship between the hospital or hospital system and the group practice; (2) the names and specialties of each physician practicing medicine with the group practice; (3) the names of the business entities that provide services as part of the group practice and the address for each location where such services are provided; (4) a description of the services provided at each such location; and (5) the primary service area served by each such location.

(h) Not later than January 15, 2018, and annually thereafter, each group practice comprised of thirty or more physicians that is not the subject of a report filed under subsection (g) of this section shall file with the Attorney General and the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy a written report concerning the group practice. Such report shall include, for each such group practice: (1) The names and specialties of each physician practicing medicine with the group practice; (2) the names of the business entities that provide services as part of the group practice and the address for each location where such services are provided; (3) a description of the services provided at each such location; and (4) the primary service area served by each such location.

(i) Not later than January 15, 2018, and annually thereafter, each hospital and hospital system shall file with the Attorney General and the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy a written report describing each affiliation with another hospital or hospital system. Such report shall include: (1) The name and address of each party to the affiliation; (2) a description of the nature of the relationship among the parties to the affiliation; (3) the names of the business entities that provide services as part of the affiliation and the address for each location where such services are provided; (4) a description of the services provided at each such location; and (5) the primary service area served by each such location.

Sec. 196. Subsections (l) and (m) of section 19a-508c of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(l) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no hospital, health system or hospital-based facility shall collect a facility fee for (A) outpatient health care services that use a current procedural terminology evaluation and management (CPT E/M) code or assessment and management (CPT A/M) code and are provided at a hospital-based facility located off-site from a hospital campus, or (B) outpatient health care services provided at a hospital-based facility located off-site from a hospital campus received by a patient who is uninsured of more than the Medicare rate.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, on and after July 1, 2024, no hospital or health system shall collect a facility fee for outpatient health care services that use a current procedural terminology evaluation and management (CPT E/M) code or assessment and management (CPT A/M) code and are provided on the hospital campus. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to (A) an emergency department located on a hospital campus, or (B) observation stays on a hospital campus and (CPT E/M) and (CPT A/M)

codes when billed for the following services: (i) Wound care, (ii) orthopedics, (iii) anticoagulation, (iv) oncology, (v) obstetrics, and (vi) solid organ transplant.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, in circumstances when an insurance contract that is in effect on July 1, 2016, provides reimbursement for facility fees prohibited under the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and in circumstances when an insurance contract that is in effect on July 1, 2024, provides reimbursement for facility fees prohibited under the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, a hospital or health system may continue to collect reimbursement from the health insurer for such facility fees until the applicable date of expiration, renewal or amendment of such contract, whichever such date is the earliest.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a freestanding emergency department. As used in this subdivision, "freestanding emergency department" means a freestanding facility that (A) is structurally separate and distinct from a hospital, (B) provides emergency care, (C) is a department of a hospital licensed under chapter 368v, and (D) has been issued a certificate of need to operate as a freestanding emergency department pursuant to chapter 368z.

(5) (A) On and after July 1, 2024, if the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy receives information and has a reasonable belief, after evaluating such information, that any hospital, health system or hospital-based facility charged facility fees, other than through isolated clerical or electronic billing errors, in violation of any provision of this section, or rule or regulation adopted thereunder, such hospital, health system or hospital-based facility shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may issue a notice of violation and civil penalty by first class mail or personal service. Such notice shall include: (i) A reference to the section of the general statutes, rule or section of the regulations of

Connecticut state agencies believed or alleged to have been violated; (ii) a short and plain language statement of the matters asserted or charged; (iii) a description of the activity to cease; (iv) a statement of the amount of the civil penalty or penalties that may be imposed; (v) a statement concerning the right to a hearing; and (vi) a statement that such hospital, health system or hospital-based facility may, not later than ten business days after receipt of such notice, make a request for a hearing on the matters asserted.

(B) The hospital, health system or hospital-based facility to whom such notice is provided pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision may, not later than ten business days after receipt of such notice, make written application to the Office of Health Strategy to request a hearing to demonstrate that such violation did not occur. The failure to make a timely request for a hearing shall result in the issuance of a cease and desist order or civil penalty. All hearings held under this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

(C) Following any hearing before the Office of Health Strategy pursuant to this subdivision, if said office finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that such hospital, health system or hospital-based facility violated or is violating any provision of this subsection, any rule or regulation adopted thereunder or any order issued by said office, said office shall issue a final cease and desist order in addition to any civil penalty said office imposes.

(m) (1) Each hospital and health system shall report not later than October 1, 2023, and thereafter not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, to the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, on a form prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, concerning facility fees charged or billed during the preceding calendar year. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) the name and address of each facility owned or operated

by the hospital or health system that provides services for which a facility fee is charged or billed, and an indication as to whether each facility is located on or outside of the hospital or health system campus, (B) the number of patient visits at each such facility for which a facility fee was charged or billed, (C) the number, total amount and range of allowable facility fees paid at each such facility disaggregated by payer mix, (D) for each facility, the total amount of facility fees charged and the total amount of revenue received by the hospital or health system derived from facility fees, (E) the total amount of facility fees charged and the total amount of revenue received by the hospital or health system from all facilities derived from facility fees, (F) a description of the ten procedures or services that generated the greatest amount of facility fee gross revenue, disaggregated by current procedural terminology category (CPT) code for each such procedure or service and, for each such procedure or service, patient volume and the total amount of gross and net revenue received by the hospital or health system derived from facility fees, disaggregated by on-campus and off-campus, and (G) the top ten procedures or services for which facility fees are charged based on patient volume and the gross and net revenue received by the hospital or health system for each such procedure or service, disaggregated by on-campus and off-campus. For purposes of this subsection, "facility" means a hospital-based facility that is located on a hospital campus or outside a hospital campus.

(2) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall publish the information reported pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or post a link to such information, on the Internet web site of the Office of Health Strategy.

Sec. 197. Subsection (a) of section 19a-612 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established, within the Office of Health Strategy,

established under section 19a-754a, a unit to be known as the Health Systems Planning Unit. The unit, under the direction of the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, shall constitute a successor to the former Office of Health Care Access, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d and 4-39.

Sec. 198. Section 19a-612d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall oversee the Health Systems Planning Unit and shall exercise independent decision-making authority over all certificate of need decisions.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Deputy Commissioner of Public Health shall retain independent decision-making authority over only the certificate of need applications that are pending before the Office of Health Care Access and have been deemed completed by said office on or before May 14, 2018. Following the issuance by the Deputy Commissioner of Public Health of a final decision on any such certificate of need application, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall exercise independent authority on any further action required on such certificate of need application or the certificate of need issued pursuant to such application.

Sec. 199. Subsection (c) of section 19a-613 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or any person the **[**executive director**]** commissioner designates, may conduct a hearing and render a final decision in any case when a hearing is required or authorized under the provisions of

any statute dealing with the Health Systems Planning Unit.

Sec. 200. Section 19a-614 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may employ and pay professional and support staff subject to the provisions of chapter 67 and contract with and engage consultants and other independent professionals as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the functions of the Health Systems Planning Unit.

Sec. 201. Subdivision (7) of section 19a-630 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(7) **[**"Executive director"**]** "Commissioner" means the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy.

Sec. 202. Subsection (b) of section 19a-631 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) Each hospital shall annually pay to the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, for deposit in the General Fund, an amount equal to its share of the actual expenditures made by the unit during each fiscal year including the cost of fringe benefits for unit personnel as estimated by the Comptroller, the amount of expenses for central state services attributable to the unit for the fiscal year as estimated by the Comptroller, plus the expenditures made on behalf of the unit from the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund pursuant to section 4a-9 for such year. Payments shall be made by assessment of all hospitals of the costs calculated and collected in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 19a-632. If for any reason a hospital ceases operation, any unpaid assessment for the operations of the unit shall be reapportioned among the remaining hospitals to be paid in

addition to any other assessment.

Sec. 203. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 19a-632 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) Immediately following the close of each state fiscal year the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall recalculate the proposed assessment for each hospital based on the costs of the unit in accordance with subsection (b) of this section using the actual expenditures made by the unit during that fiscal year and the actual expenditures made on behalf of the unit from the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund pursuant to section 4a-9. On or before August thirty-first, annually, the unit shall render to each hospital a statement showing the difference between the respective recalculated assessment and the amount previously paid. On or before September thirtieth, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, after receiving any objections to such statements, shall make such adjustments which in said **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's opinion may be indicated and shall render an adjusted assessment, if any, to the affected hospitals. Adjustments to reflect any credit or amount due under the recalculated assessment for the previous state fiscal year shall be made to the proposed assessment due on or before December thirty-first of the following state fiscal year.

(e) If any assessment is not paid when due, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall impose a fee equal to (1) two per cent of the assessment if such failure to pay is for not more than five days, (2) five per cent of the assessment if such failure to pay is for more than five days but not more than fifteen days, or (3) ten per cent of the assessment if such failure to pay is for more than fifteen days. If a hospital fails to pay any assessment for more than thirty days after the date when due, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may, in addition to the fees imposed pursuant to this subsection, impose a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars per day for each day past the initial thirty days that the

assessment is not paid. Any civil penalty authorized by this subsection shall be imposed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner in accordance with subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 19a-653.

Sec. 204. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 19a-633 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, or any agent authorized by **[**such executive director**]** the commissioner to conduct any inquiry, investigation or hearing under the provisions of this chapter, shall have power to administer oaths and take testimony under oath relative to the matter of inquiry or investigation. At any hearing ordered by the unit, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or such agent having authority by law to issue such process may subpoena witnesses and require the production of records, papers and documents pertinent to such inquiry. If any person disobeys such process or, having appeared in obedience thereto, refuses to answer any pertinent question put to such person by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or such **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's authorized agent or to produce any records and papers pursuant thereto, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or such **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's agent may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford or for the judicial district wherein the person resides or wherein the business has been conducted, or to any judge of said court if the same is not in session, setting forth such disobedience to process or refusal to answer, and said court or such judge shall cite such person to appear before said court or such judge to answer such question or to produce such records and papers.

(b) If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or such agent has received information and has a reasonable belief that any person, health care facility or institution has violated or is violating any provision of this chapter, or any regulation or order of the unit, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or such agent may issue a notice pursuant to this

section. The unit shall notify the person, health care facility or institution against whom such order is issued by first class mail or personal service. The notice shall include: (1) A reference to the sections of the general statutes, regulations of Connecticut state agencies or orders alleged or believed to have been violated; (2) a short and plain language statement of the matters asserted or charged; (3) a description of the activity alleged to have violated a statute or regulation identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (4) a statement concerning the right to a hearing of such person, health care facility or institution; and (5) a statement that such person, health care facility or institution may, not later than ten business days after receipt of such notice, make a written request for a hearing on the matters asserted, to be sent to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner or such agent.

Sec. 205. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 19a-634 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Health Systems Planning Unit shall conduct, on a biennial basis, a state-wide health care facility utilization study. Such study may include an assessment of: (1) Current availability and utilization of acute hospital care, hospital emergency care, specialty hospital care, outpatient surgical care, primary care and clinic care; (2) geographic areas and subpopulations that may be underserved or have reduced access to specific types of health care services; and (3) other factors that the unit deems pertinent to health care facility utilization. Not later than June thirtieth of the year in which the biennial study is conducted, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and human services on the findings of the study. Such report may also include the unit's recommendations for addressing identified gaps in the provision of health care services and

recommendations concerning a lack of access to health care services.

(b) The unit, in consultation with such other state agencies as the **[**executive director**]** commissioner deems appropriate, shall establish and maintain a state-wide health care facilities and services plan. Such plan may include, but not be limited to: (1) An assessment of the availability of acute hospital care, hospital emergency care, specialty hospital care, outpatient surgical care, primary care and clinic care; (2) an evaluation of the unmet needs of persons at risk and vulnerable populations as determined by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner; (3) a projection of future demand for health care services and the impact that technology may have on the demand, capacity or need for such services; and (4) recommendations for the expansion, reduction or modification of health care facilities or services. In the development of the plan, the unit shall consider the recommendations of any advisory bodies which may be established by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may also incorporate the recommendations of authoritative organizations whose mission is to promote policies based on best practices or evidence-based research. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in consultation with hospital representatives, shall develop a process that encourages hospitals to incorporate the state-wide health care facilities and services plan into hospital long-range planning and shall facilitate communication between appropriate state agencies concerning innovations or changes that may affect future health planning. The unit shall update the state-wide health care facilities and services plan not less than once every two years.

Sec. 206. Subsections (d) to (f), inclusive, of section 19a-638 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may implement policies and procedures necessary to

administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulation, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner holds a public hearing prior to implementing the policies and procedures and posts notice of intent to adopt regulations on the office's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

(e) On or before June 30, 2026, a mental health facility seeking to increase licensed bed capacity without applying for a certificate of need, as permitted pursuant to subdivision (23) of subsection (b) of this section, shall notify the Office of Health Strategy, in a form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director of said office**]** commissioner, regarding (1) such facility's intent to increase licensed bed capacity, (2) the address of such facility, and (3) a description of all services that are being or will be provided at such facility.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the **[**executive director of the Office of Health Strategy**]** commissioner shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health concerning the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's recommendations, if any, regarding the establishment of an expedited certificate of need process for mental health facilities.

Sec. 207. Subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection (d) of section 19a-639 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(3) The unit shall deny any certificate of need application involving a transfer of ownership of a hospital unless the **[**executive director**]** commissioner finds that the affected community will be assured of continued access to high quality and affordable health care after

accounting for any proposed change impacting hospital staffing.

(4) The unit may deny any certificate of need application involving a transfer of ownership of a hospital subject to a cost and market impact review pursuant to section 19a-639f if the **[**executive director**]** commissioner finds that (A) the affected community will not be assured of continued access to high quality and affordable health care after accounting for any consolidation in the hospital and health care market that may lessen health care provider diversity, consumer choice and access to care, and (B) any likely increases in the prices for health care services or total health care spending in the state may negatively impact the affordability of care.

Sec. 208. Subsection (h) of section 19a-639a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(h) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulation, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner holds a public hearing prior to implementing the policies and procedures and posts notice of intent to adopt regulations on the office's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

Sec. 209. Subsection (e) of section 19a-639b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may implement policies and procedures necessary to

administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulation, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner holds a public hearing prior to implementing the policies and procedures and posts notice of intent to adopt regulations on the office's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

Sec. 210. Subsection (b) of section 19a-639c of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulation, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner holds a public hearing prior to implementing the policies and procedures and posts notice of intent to adopt regulations on the office's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

Sec. 211. Subsection (d) of section 19a-639e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulation, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner holds a public hearing prior to implementing the policies and procedures and posts notice of intent to adopt

regulations on the office's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

Sec. 212. Subsection (l) of section 19a-639f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(l) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning cost and market impact reviews and to administer the provisions of this section. Such regulations shall include definitions of the following terms: "Dispersed service area", "health status adjusted total medical expense", "major service category", "relative prices", "total health care spending" and "health care services". The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided the **[**executive director**]** commissioner publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations on the office's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after implementing such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the time such regulations are effective.

Sec. 213. Subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of section 19a-654 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) An outpatient surgical facility, as defined in section 19a-493b, a short-term acute care general or children's hospital, or a facility that provides outpatient surgical services as part of the outpatient surgery department of a short-term acute care hospital shall submit to the unit

the data identified in subsection (c) of section 19a-634. The unit shall convene a working group consisting of representatives of outpatient surgical facilities, hospitals and other individuals necessary to develop recommendations that address current obstacles to, and proposed requirements for, patient-identifiable data reporting in the outpatient setting. On or before February 1, 2012, the working group shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and insurance and real estate. Additional reporting of outpatient data as the unit deems necessary shall begin not later than July 1, 2015. On or before July 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the Connecticut Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers shall provide a progress report to the Office of Health Strategy, until such time as all ambulatory surgery centers are in full compliance with the implementation of systems that allow for the reporting of outpatient data as required by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner. Until such additional reporting requirements take effect on July 1, 2015, the department may work with the Connecticut Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers and the Connecticut Hospital Association on specific data reporting initiatives provided that no penalties shall be assessed under this chapter or any other provision of law with respect to the failure to submit such data.

(d) Except as provided in this subsection, patient-identifiable data received by the unit shall be kept confidential and shall not be considered public records or files subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200. The unit may release de-identified patient data or aggregate patient data to the public in a manner consistent with the provisions of 45 CFR 164.514. Any de-identified patient data released by the unit shall exclude provider, physician and payer organization names or codes and shall be kept confidential by the recipient. The unit may release patient-identifiable data (1) for medical and scientific research as provided for in section

19a-25-3 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, and (2) to (A) a state agency for the purpose of improving health care service delivery, (B) a federal agency or the office of the Attorney General for the purpose of investigating hospital mergers and acquisitions, (C) another state's health data collection agency with which the unit has entered into a reciprocal data-sharing agreement for the purpose of certificate of need review or evaluation of health care services, upon receipt of a request from such agency, provided, prior to the release of such patient-identifiable data, such agency enters into a written agreement with the unit pursuant to which such agency agrees to protect the confidentiality of such patient-identifiable data and not to use such patient-identifiable data as a basis for any decision concerning a patient, or (D) a consultant or independent professional contracted by the Office of Health Strategy pursuant to section 19a-614 to carry out the functions of the unit, including collecting, managing or organizing such patient-identifiable data. No individual or entity receiving patient-identifiable data may release such data in any manner that may result in an individual patient, physician, provider or payer being identified. The unit shall impose a reasonable, cost-based fee for any patient data provided to a nongovernmental entity.

(e) Not later than October 1, 2018, the Health Systems Planning Unit shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Comptroller that shall permit the Comptroller to access the data set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, provided the Comptroller agrees, in writing, to keep individual patient and provider data identified by proper name or personal identification code and submitted pursuant to this section confidential.

(f) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this section.

Sec. 214. Section 19a-673a of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to establish uniform debt collection standards for hospitals.

Sec. 215. Section 19a-676 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

On or before March thirty-first of each year, for the preceding fiscal year, each hospital shall submit to the unit, in the form and manner prescribed by the unit, the data specified in regulations adopted by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner in accordance with chapter 54, the hospital's verification of net revenue required under section 19a-649 and any other data required by the unit, including hospital budget system data for the hospital's twelve months' actual filing requirements.

Sec. 216. Subsection (b) of section 19a-725 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) The Health Care Cabinet shall consist of the following members who shall be appointed on or before August 1, 2011: (A) Five appointed by the Governor, two of whom may represent the health care industry and shall serve for terms of four years, one of whom shall represent community health centers and shall serve for a term of three years, one of whom shall represent insurance producers and shall serve for a term of three years and one of whom shall be an at-large appointment and shall serve for a term of three years; (B) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be an oral health specialist engaged in active practice and shall serve for a term of four years; (C) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall represent labor and shall serve for a term of three years; (D) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be an

advanced practice registered nurse engaged in active practice and shall serve for a term of two years; (E) one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a consumer advocate and shall serve for a term of four years; (F) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a primary care physician engaged in active practice and shall serve for a term of four years; (G) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall represent the health information technology industry and shall serve for a term of three years; (H) five appointed jointly by the chairpersons of the SustiNet Health Partnership board of directors, one of whom shall represent faith communities, one of whom shall represent small businesses, one of whom shall represent the home health care industry, one of whom shall represent hospitals, and one of whom shall be an at-large appointment, all of whom shall serve for terms of five years; (I) the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee; (J) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee; the chief executive officer of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, or said officer's designee; the Commissioners of Social Services and Public Health, or their designees; and the Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee, all of whom shall serve as ex-officio voting members; and (K) the Commissioners of Children and Families, Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Insurance Commissioner, or their designees, and the nonprofit liaison to the Governor, or the nonprofit liaison's designee, all of whom shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting members.

(2) Following the expiration of initial cabinet member terms, subsequent cabinet terms shall be for four years, commencing on August first of the year of the appointment. If an appointing authority fails to make an initial appointment to the cabinet or an appointment to fill a cabinet vacancy within ninety days of the date of such vacancy, the

appointed cabinet members shall, by majority vote, make such appointment to the cabinet.

(3) Upon the expiration of the initial terms of the five cabinet members appointed by SustiNet Health Partnership board of directors, five successor cabinet members shall be appointed as follows: (A) One appointed by the Governor; (B) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (C) one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; and (D) two appointed by majority vote of the appointed board members. Successor board members appointed pursuant to this subdivision shall be at-large appointments.

(4) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the Health Care Cabinet.

Sec. 217. Subsection (a) of section 19a-754a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established an Office of Health Strategy, which shall be within the Department of Public Health for administrative purposes only. The department head of said office shall be the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, who shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, with the powers and duties therein prescribed.

Sec. 218. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 19a-754b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) (1) Beginning on January 1, 2020, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may conduct a study, with the assistance of the Comptroller and not more frequently than once annually, of each pharmaceutical manufacturer of a pipeline drug that,

in the opinion of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner in consultation with the Comptroller and the Commissioner of Social Services, may have a significant impact on state expenditures for outpatient prescription drugs. The office may work with the Comptroller to utilize existing state resources and contracts, or contract with a third party, including, but not limited to, an accounting firm, to conduct such study.

(2) Each pharmaceutical manufacturer that is the subject of a study conducted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall submit to the office, or any contractor engaged by the office or the Comptroller to perform such study, the following information for the pipeline drug that is the subject of such study:

(A) The primary disease, condition or therapeutic area studied in connection with such drug, and whether such drug is therapeutically indicated for such disease, condition or therapeutic area;

(B) Each route of administration studied for such drug;

(C) Clinical trial comparators, if applicable, for such drug;

(D) The estimated year of market entry for such drug;

(E) Whether the federal Food and Drug Administration has designated such drug as an orphan drug, a fast track product or a breakthrough therapy; and

(F) Whether the federal Food and Drug Administration has designated such drug for accelerated approval and, if such drug contains a new molecular entity, for priority review.

(d) (1) On or before March 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, in consultation with the Comptroller, Commissioner of Social Services and Commissioner of Public Health, shall prepare a list of not more than ten

outpatient prescription drugs that the **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, determines are (A) provided at substantial cost to the state, considering the net cost of such drugs, or (B) critical to public health. The list shall include outpatient prescription drugs from different therapeutic classes of outpatient prescription drugs and not less than one generic outpatient prescription drug.

(2) Prior to publishing the annual list pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall prepare a preliminary list that includes outpatient prescription drugs that the **[**executive director**]** commissioner plans to include on such annual list. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall make such preliminary list available for public comment for not less than thirty days. During the public comment period, any manufacturer of an outpatient prescription drug included on the preliminary list may produce documentation, as permitted by federal law, to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner to establish that the wholesale acquisition cost of such drug, less all rebates paid to the state for such outpatient prescription drug during the immediately preceding calendar year, does not exceed the limits established in subdivision (3) of this subsection. If such documentation establishes, to the satisfaction of the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, that the wholesale acquisition cost of the drug, less all rebates paid to the state for such drug during the immediately preceding calendar year, does not exceed the limits established in subdivision (3) of this subsection, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall, not later than fifteen days after the closing of the public comment period, remove such drug from the preliminary list before publishing the annual list pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall not list any outpatient prescription drugs under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection unless the wholesale acquisition cost of such outpatient prescription drug (A)

increased by not less than sixteen per cent cumulatively during the immediately preceding two calendar years, and (B) was not less than forty dollars for a course of treatment.

(4) (A) The pharmaceutical manufacturer of an outpatient prescription drug included on a list prepared by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall provide to the office, in a form and manner specified by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, (i) a written, narrative description, suitable for public release, of all factors that caused the increase in the wholesale acquisition cost of the listed outpatient prescription drug, and (ii) aggregate, company-level research and development costs and such other capital expenditures that the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, deems relevant for the most recent year for which final audited data are available.

(B) The quality and types of information and data that a pharmaceutical manufacturer submits to the office under this subdivision shall be consistent with the quality and types of information and data that the pharmaceutical manufacturer includes in (i) such pharmaceutical manufacturer's annual consolidated report on Securities and Exchange Commission Form 10-K, or (ii) any other public disclosure.

(5) The office shall establish a standardized form for reporting information and data pursuant to this subsection after consulting with pharmaceutical manufacturers. The form shall be designed to minimize the administrative burden and cost of reporting on the office and pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Sec. 219. Section 19a-754e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**Executive Director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health

Strategy, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management, the Department of Social Services, the Connecticut Insurance Department and the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange established pursuant to section 38a-1081, shall study the feasibility of offering health care coverage for (1) income-eligible children ages nine to eighteen, inclusive, regardless of immigration status, who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, or an offer of affordable employer sponsored insurance as defined in the Affordable Care Act, as an employee or a dependent of an employee, and (2) adults with household income not exceeding two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level who do not otherwise qualify for medical assistance, an offer of affordable, employer-sponsored insurance as defined in the Affordable Care Act, as an employee or a dependent of an employee, or health care coverage through the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange due to household income.

(b) The study on the feasibility of providing health care coverage to income-eligible children ages nine to eighteen, inclusive, shall include, but not be limited to: (1) The age groups that would be provided medical assistance in each year, and appropriations necessary to provide such assistance, (2) income eligibility criteria and health care coverage consistent with the medical assistance programs established pursuant to sections 17b-261 and 17b-292, and (3) recommendations for identifying and enrolling such children in such coverage.

(c) The study on the feasibility of providing health care coverage for adults with household income not exceeding two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Household income caps for adults who would be provided health care coverage in each year, and appropriations necessary to provide such coverage, (2) health care coverage consistent with the medical assistance programs established pursuant to section 17b-261 and the HUSKY D program as defined in section 17b-290, and (3) recommendations for

identifying and enrolling such adults in such coverage.

(d) Not later than July 1, 2022, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on provisions of the feasibility study to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and insurance and real estate.

Sec. 220. Subdivisions (1) to (9), inclusive, of section 19a-754f of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(1) "Drug manufacturer" means the manufacturer of a drug that is: (A) Included in the information and data submitted by a health carrier pursuant to section 38a-479qqq, (B) studied or listed pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of section 19a-754b, or (C) in a therapeutic class of drugs that the **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy determines, through public or private reports, has had a substantial impact on prescription drug expenditures, net of rebates, as a percentage of total health care expenditures;

(2) **[**"Executive director"**]** "Commissioner" means the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy;

(3) "Health care cost growth benchmark" means the annual benchmark established pursuant to section 19a-754g;

(4) "Health care quality benchmark" means an annual benchmark established pursuant to section 19a-754g;

(5) "Health care provider" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 19a-17b;

(6) "Net cost of private health insurance" means the difference

between premiums earned and benefits incurred, and includes insurers' costs of paying bills, advertising, sales commissions, and other administrative costs, net additions or subtractions from reserves, rate credits and dividends, premium taxes and profits or losses;

(7) "Office" means the Office of Health Strategy established under section 19a-754a;

(8) "Other entity" means a drug manufacturer, pharmacy benefits manager or other health care provider that is not considered a provider entity;

(9) "Payer" means a payer, including Medicaid, Medicare and governmental and nongovernment health plans, and includes any organization acting as payer that is a subsidiary, affiliate or business owned or controlled by a payer that, during a given calendar year, pays health care providers for health care services or pharmacies or provider entities for prescription drugs designated by the **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy;

Sec. 221. Section 19a-754g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than July 1, 2022, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall publish (1) the health care cost growth benchmarks and annual primary care spending targets as a percentage of total medical expenses for the calendar years 2021 to 2025, inclusive, and (2) the annual health care quality benchmarks for the calendar years 2022 to 2025, inclusive, on the office's Internet web site.

(b) (1) (A) Not later than July 1, 2025, and every five years thereafter, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall develop and adopt annual health care cost growth benchmarks and annual primary care spending targets for the succeeding five calendar years for provider entities and payers.

(B) In developing the health care cost growth benchmarks and primary care spending targets pursuant to this subdivision, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall consider (i) any historical and forecasted changes in median income for individuals in the state and the growth rate of potential gross state product, (ii) the rate of inflation, and (iii) the most recent report prepared by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of section 19a-754h.

(C) (i) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall hold at least one informational public hearing prior to adopting the health care cost growth benchmarks and primary care spending targets for each succeeding five-year period described in this subdivision. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may hold informational public hearings concerning any annual health care cost growth benchmark and primary care spending target set pursuant to subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. Such informational public hearings shall be held at a time and place designated by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner in a notice prominently posted by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner on the office's Internet web site and in a form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall make available on the office's Internet web site a summary of any such informational public hearing and include the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's recommendations, if any, to modify or not to modify any such annual benchmark or target.

(ii) If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines, after any informational public hearing held pursuant to this subparagraph, that a modification to any health care cost growth benchmark or annual primary care spending target is, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, reasonably warranted, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may modify such benchmark or target.

(iii) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall annually (I) review

the current and projected rate of inflation, and (II) include on the office's Internet web site the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's findings of such review, including the reasons for making or not making a modification to any applicable health care cost growth benchmark. If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines that the rate of inflation requires modification of any health care cost growth benchmark adopted under this section, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may modify such benchmark. In such event, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall not be required to hold an informational public hearing concerning such modified health care cost growth benchmark.

(D) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall post each adopted health care cost growth benchmark and annual primary care spending target on the office's Internet web site.

(E) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, if the average annual health care cost growth benchmark for a succeeding five-year period described in this subdivision differs from the average annual health care cost growth benchmark for the five-year period preceding such succeeding five-year period by more than one-half of one per cent, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall submit the annual health care cost growth benchmarks developed for such succeeding five-year period to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance for the committee's review and approval. The committee shall be deemed to have approved such annual health care cost growth benchmarks for such succeeding five-year period, except upon a vote to reject such benchmarks by the majority of committee members at a meeting of such committee called for the purpose of reviewing such benchmarks and held not later than thirty days after the **[**executive director**]** commissioner submitted such benchmarks to such committee. If the committee votes to reject such benchmarks, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may submit to the

committee modified annual health care cost growth benchmarks for such succeeding five-year period for the committee's review and approval in accordance with the provisions of this subparagraph. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall not be required to hold an informational public hearing concerning such modified benchmarks. Until the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance approves annual health care cost growth benchmarks for the succeeding five-year period, such benchmarks shall be deemed to be equal to the average annual health care cost growth benchmark for the preceding five-year period.

(2) (A) Not later than July 1, 2025, and every five years thereafter, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall develop and adopt annual health care quality benchmarks for the succeeding five calendar years for provider entities and payers.

(B) In developing annual health care quality benchmarks pursuant to this subdivision, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall consider (i) quality measures endorsed by nationally recognized organizations, including, but not limited to, the National Quality Forum, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Centers for Disease Control, the Joint Commission and expert organizations that develop health equity measures, and (ii) measures that: (I) Concern health outcomes, overutilization, underutilization and patient safety, (II) meet standards of patient-centeredness and ensure consideration of differences in preferences and clinical characteristics within patient subpopulations, and (III) concern community health or population health.

(C) (i) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall hold at least one informational public hearing prior to adopting the health care quality benchmarks for each succeeding five-year period described in this subdivision. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may hold informational public hearings concerning the quality measures the

[executive director**]** commissioner proposes to adopt as health care quality benchmarks. Such informational public hearings shall be held at a time and place designated by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner in a notice prominently posted by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner on the office's Internet web site and in a form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall make available on the office's Internet web site a summary of any such informational public hearing and include the **[**executive director's**]** recommendations, if any, to modify or not modify any such health care quality benchmark.

(ii) If the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines, after any informational public hearing held pursuant to this subparagraph, that modifications to any health care quality benchmarks are, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, reasonably warranted, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner may modify such quality benchmarks. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall not be required to hold an additional informational public hearing concerning such modified quality benchmarks.

(D) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall post each adopted health care quality benchmark on the office's Internet web site.

(c) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may enter into such contractual agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, contractual agreements with actuarial, economic and other experts and consultants.

Sec. 222. Section 19a-754h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than August 15, 2022, and annually thereafter, each payer shall report to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in a form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, for the

preceding or prior years, if the **[**executive director**]** commissioner so requests based on material changes to data previously submitted, aggregated data, including aggregated self-funded data as applicable, necessary for the **[**executive director**]** commissioner to calculate total health care expenditures, primary care spending as a percentage of total medical expenses and net cost of private health insurance. Each payer shall also disclose, as requested by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, payer data required for adjusting total medical expense calculations to reflect changes in the patient population.

(b) Not later than March 31, 2023, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall prepare and post on the office's Internet web site, a report concerning the total health care expenditures utilizing the total aggregate medical expenses reported by payers pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, including, but not limited to, a breakdown of such population-adjusted total medical expenses by payer and provider entities. The report may include, but shall not be limited to, information regarding the following:

(1) Trends in major service category spending;

(2) Primary care spending as a percentage of total medical expenses;

(3) The net cost of private health insurance by payer by market segment, including individual, small group, large group, self-insured, student and Medicare Advantage markets; and

(4) Any other factors the **[**executive director**]** commissioner deems relevant to providing context on such data, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following factors: (A) The impact of the rate of inflation and rate of medical inflation; (B) impacts, if any, on access to care; and (C) responses to public health crises or similar emergencies.

(c) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall annually submit a request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for

the unadjusted total medical expenses of Connecticut residents.

(d) Not later than August 15, 2023, and annually thereafter, each payer or provider entity shall report to the **[**executive director**]** commissioner in a form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, for the preceding year, and for prior years if the **[**executive director**]** commissioner so requests based on material changes to data previously submitted, on the health care quality benchmarks adopted pursuant to section 19a-754g.

(e) Not later than March 31, 2024, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall prepare and post on the office's Internet web site, a report concerning health care quality benchmarks reported by payers and provider entities pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

(f) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may enter into such contractual agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, contractual agreements with actuarial, economic and other experts and consultants.

Sec. 223. Section 19a-754i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) For each calendar year, beginning on January 1, 2023, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall, if the payer or provider entity subject to the cost growth benchmark or primary care spending target so requests, meet with such payer or provider entity to review and validate the total medical expenses data collected pursuant to section 19a-754h for such payer or provider entity. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall review information provided by the payer or provider entity and, if deemed necessary, amend findings for such payer or provider prior to the identification of payer or provider entities that exceeded the health care cost growth benchmark or failed to meet

the primary care spending target for the performance year as set forth in section 19a-754h. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall identify, not later than May first of such calendar year, each payer or provider entity that exceeded the health care cost growth benchmark or failed to meet the primary care spending target for the performance year.

(2) For each calendar year beginning on or after January 1, 2024, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall, if the payer or provider entity subject to the health care quality benchmarks for the performance year so requests, meet with such payer or provider entity to review and validate the quality data collected pursuant to section 19a-754h for such payer or provider entity. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall review information provided by the payer or provider entity and, if deemed necessary, amend findings for such payer or provider prior to the identification of payer or provider entities that exceeded the health care quality benchmark as set forth in section 19a-754h. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall identify, not later than May first of such calendar year, each payer or provider entity that exceeded the health care quality benchmark for the performance year.

(3) Not later than thirty days after the **[**executive director**]** commissioner identifies each payer or provider entity pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall send a notice to each such payer or provider entity. Such notice shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, and shall disclose to each such payer or provider entity:

(A) That the **[**executive director**]** commissioner has identified such payer or provider entity pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection; and

(B) The factual basis for the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's

identification of such payer or provider entity pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection.

(b) (1) For each calendar year beginning on and after January 1, 2023, if the **[**executive director**]** commissioner determines that the annual percentage change in total health care expenditures for the performance year exceeded the health care cost growth benchmark for such year, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall identify, not later than May first of such calendar year, any other entity that significantly contributed to exceeding such benchmark. Each identification shall be based on:

(A) The report prepared by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of section 19a-754h for such calendar year;

(B) The report filed pursuant to section 38a-479ppp for such calendar year;

(C) The information and data reported to the office pursuant to subsection (d) of section 19a-754b for such calendar year;

(D) Information obtained from the all-payer claims database established under section 19a-755a; and

(E) Any other information that the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, deems relevant for the purposes of this section.

(2) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall account for costs, net of rebates and discounts, when identifying other entities pursuant to this section.

Sec. 224. Section 19a-754j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) Not later than June 30, 2023, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall hold an informational public

hearing to compare the growth in total health care expenditures in the performance year to the health care cost growth benchmark established pursuant to section 19a-754g for such year. Such hearing shall involve an examination of:

(A) The report most recently prepared by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of section 19a-754h;

(B) The expenditures of provider entities and payers, including, but not limited to, health care cost trends, primary care spending as a percentage of total medical expenses and the factors contributing to such costs and expenditures; and

(C) Any other matters that the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, deems relevant for the purposes of this section.

(2) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may require any payer or provider entity that, for the performance year, is found to be a significant contributor to health care cost growth in the state or has failed to meet the primary care spending target, to participate in such hearing. Each such payer or provider entity that is required to participate in such hearing shall provide testimony on issues identified by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and provide additional information on actions taken to reduce such payer's or entity's contribution to future state-wide health care costs and expenditures or to increase such payer's or provider entity's primary care spending as a percentage of total medical expenses.

(3) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may require that any other entity that is found to be a significant contributor to health care cost growth in this state during the performance year participate in such hearing. Any other entity that is required to participate in such hearing shall provide testimony on issues identified by the **[**executive director**]**

commissioner and provide additional information on actions taken to reduce such other entity's contribution to future state-wide health care costs. If such other entity is a drug manufacturer, and the **[**executive director**]** commissioner requires that such drug manufacturer participate in such hearing with respect to a specific drug or class of drugs, such hearing may, to the extent possible, include representatives from at least one brand-name manufacturer, one generic manufacturer and one innovator company that is less than ten years old.

(4) Not later than October 15, 2023, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall prepare and submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance and public health. Such report shall be based on the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's analysis of the information submitted during the most recent informational public hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection and any other information that the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, deems relevant for the purposes of this section, and shall:

(A) Describe health care spending trends in this state, including, but not limited to, trends in primary care spending as a percentage of total medical expense, and the factors underlying such trends;

(B) Include the findings from the report prepared pursuant to subsection (b) of section 19a-754h;

(C) 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 implementation of such plan; and

(D) Disclose the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's recommendations, if any, concerning strategies to increase the efficiency

of the state's health care system, including, but not limited to, any recommended legislation concerning the state's health care system.

(b) (1) Not later than June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall hold an informational public hearing to compare the performance of payers and provider entities in the performance year to the quality benchmarks established for such year pursuant to section 19a-754g. Such hearing shall include an examination of:

(A) The report most recently prepared by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner pursuant to subsection (e) of section 19a-754h; and

(B) Any other matters that the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, deems relevant for the purposes of this section.

(2) The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may require any payer or provider entity that failed to meet any health care quality benchmarks in this state during the performance year to participate in such hearing. Each such payer or provider entity that is required to participate in such hearing shall provide testimony on issues identified by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner and provide additional information on actions taken to improve such payer's or provider entity's quality benchmark performance.

(3) Not later than October 15, 2024, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director**]** commissioner shall prepare and submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance and public health. Such report shall be based on the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's analysis of the information submitted during the most recent informational public hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection and any other information that the **[**executive director**]**

commissioner, in the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's discretion, deems relevant for the purposes of this section, and shall:

(A) Describe health care quality trends in this state and the factors underlying such trends;

(B) Include the findings from the report prepared pursuant to subsection (e) of section 19a-754h; and

(C) Disclose the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's recommendations, if any, concerning strategies to improve the quality of the state's health care system, including, but not limited to, any recommended legislation concerning the state's health care system.

Sec. 225. Section 19a-754k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**executive director**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of section 19a-754a and sections 19a-754f to 19a-754j, inclusive.

Sec. 226. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 19a-755a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) There is established an all-payer claims database program. The Office of Health Strategy shall: (A) Oversee the planning, implementation and administration of the all-payer claims database program for the purpose of collecting, assessing and reporting health care information relating to safety, quality, cost-effectiveness, access and efficiency for all levels of health care; (B) ensure that data received is securely collected, compiled and stored in accordance with state and federal law; (C) conduct audits of data submitted by reporting entities in order to verify its accuracy; and (D) in consultation with the Health Information Technology Advisory Council established under section

17b-59f, maintain written procedures for the administration of such all-payer claims database. Any such written procedures shall include (i) reporting requirements for reporting entities, and (ii) requirements for providing notice to a reporting entity regarding any alleged failure on the part of such reporting entity to comply with such reporting requirements.

(2) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall seek funding from the federal government, other public sources and other private sources to cover costs associated with the planning, implementation and administration of the all-payer claims database program.

(3) (A) Upon the adoption of reporting requirements as set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection**,** a reporting entity shall report health care information for inclusion in the all-payer claims database in a form and manner prescribed by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy. The **[**executive director**]** commissioner may, after notice and hearing, impose a civil penalty on any reporting entity that fails to report health care information as prescribed. Such civil penalty shall not exceed one thousand dollars per day for each day of violation and shall not be imposed as a cost for the purpose of rate determination or reimbursement by a third-party payer.

(B) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may provide the name of any reporting entity on which such penalty has been imposed to the Insurance Commissioner. After consultation with **[**said executive director**]** the Commissioner of Health Strategy, the **[**commissioner**]** Insurance Commissioner may request the Attorney General to bring an action in the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to recover any penalty imposed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

(4) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit Medicaid and

CHIP data to the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy for inclusion in the all-payer claims database only for purposes related to administration of the State Medicaid and CHIP Plans, in accordance with 42 CFR 431.301 to 42 CFR 431.306, inclusive.

(5) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall: (A) Utilize data in the all-payer claims database to provide health care consumers in the state with information concerning the cost and quality of health care services for the purpose of allowing such consumers to make economically sound and medically appropriate health care decisions; and (B) make data in the all-payer claims database available to any state agency, insurer, employer, health care provider, consumer of health care services or researcher for the purpose of allowing such person or entity to review such data as it relates to health care utilization, costs or quality of health care services. If health information, as defined in 45 CFR 160.103, as amended from time to time, is permitted to be disclosed under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time, or regulations adopted thereunder, any disclosure thereof made pursuant to this subdivision shall have identifiers removed, as set forth in 45 CFR 164.514, as amended from time to time. Any disclosure made pursuant to this subdivision of information other than health information shall be made in a manner to protect the confidentiality of such other information as required by state and federal law. The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may set a fee to be charged to each person or entity requesting access to data stored in the all-payer claims database.

(6) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may (A) in consultation with the All-Payer Claims Database Advisory Group set forth in section 17b-59f, enter into a contract with a person or entity to plan, implement or administer the all-payer claims database program, (B) enter into a contract or take any action that is

necessary to obtain data that is the same data required to be submitted by reporting entities under Medicare Part A or Part B, (C) enter into a contract for the collection, management or analysis of data received from reporting entities, and (D) in accordance with subdivision (4) of this subsection, enter into a contract or take any action that is necessary to obtain Medicaid and CHIP data. Any such contract for the collection, management or analysis of such data shall expressly prohibit the disclosure of such data for purposes other than the purposes described in this subsection.

(c) Unless otherwise specified, nothing in this section and no action taken by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy pursuant to this section or section 19a-755b shall be construed to preempt, supersede or affect the authority of the Insurance Commissioner to regulate the business of insurance in the state.

Sec. 227. Section 19a-755b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For purposes of this section and sections 19a-904a, 19a-904b and 38a-477d to 38a-477f, inclusive:

(1) "Allowed amount" means the maximum reimbursement dollar amount that an insured's health insurance policy allows for a specific procedure or service;

(2) "Consumer health information Internet web site" means an Internet web site developed and operated by the Office of Health Strategy to assist consumers in making informed decisions concerning their health care and informed choices among health care providers;

(3) "Episode of care" means all health care services related to the treatment of a condition or a service category for such treatment and, for acute conditions, includes health care services and treatment provided from the onset of the condition to its resolution or a service

category for such treatment and, for chronic conditions, includes health care services and treatment provided over a given period of time or a service category for such treatment;

(4) **[**"Executive director"**]** "Commissioner" means the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy;

(5) "Health care provider" means any individual, corporation, facility or institution licensed by this state to provide health care services;

(6) "Health carrier" means any insurer, health care center, hospital service corporation, medical service corporation, fraternal benefit society or other entity delivering, issuing for delivery, renewing, amending or continuing any individual or group health insurance policy in this state providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469;

(7) "Hospital" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-490;

(8) "Out-of-pocket costs" means costs that are not reimbursed by a health insurance policy and includes deductibles, coinsurance and copayments for covered services and other costs to the consumer associated with a procedure or service;

(9) "Outpatient surgical facility" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-493b; and

(10) "Public or private third party" means the state, the federal government, employers, a health carrier, third-party administrator, as defined in section 38a-720, or managed care organization.

(b) (1) Within available resources, the consumer health information Internet web site shall: (A) Contain information comparing the quality, price and cost of health care services, including, to the extent practicable, (i) comparative price and cost information for the health care services

and procedures reported pursuant to subsection (c) of this section categorized by payer or listed by health care provider, (ii) links to Internet web sites and consumer tools where consumers may obtain comparative cost and quality information, including The Joint Commission and Medicare hospital compare tool, (iii) definitions of common health insurance and medical terms so consumers may compare health coverage and understand the terms of their coverage, and (iv) factors consumers should consider when choosing an insurance product or provider group, including provider network, premium, cost sharing, covered services and tier information; (B) be designed to assist consumers and institutional purchasers in making informed decisions regarding their health care and informed choices among health care providers and, to the extent practicable, provide reference pricing for services paid by various health carriers to health care providers; (C) present information in language and a format that is understandable to the average consumer; and (D) be publicized to the general public. All information outlined in this section shall be posted on an Internet web site established, or to be established, by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy in a manner and time frame as may be organizationally and financially reasonable in his or her sole discretion.

(2) Information collected, stored and published by the Office of Health Strategy pursuant to this section is subject to the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time.

(3) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy may consider adding quality measures to the consumer health information Internet web site.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall, to the extent the information is available, make available to the public

on the consumer health information Internet web site a list of: (1) The fifty most frequently occurring inpatient services or procedures in the state; (2) the fifty most frequently provided outpatient services or procedures in the state; (3) the twenty-five most frequent surgical services or procedures in the state; (4) the twenty-five most frequent imaging services or procedures in the state; and (5) the twenty-five most frequently used pharmaceutical products and medical devices in the state. Such lists may (A) be expanded to include additional admissions and procedures, (B) be based upon those services and procedures that are most commonly performed by volume or that represent the greatest percentage of related health care expenditures, or (C) be designed to include those services and procedures most likely to result in out-of-pocket costs to consumers or include bundled episodes of care.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, to the extent practicable, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall issue a report, in a form and manner **[**to be decided**]** prescribed by the **[**executive director**]** commissioner, that includes the (1) billed and allowed amounts paid to health care providers in each health carrier's network for each service and procedure included pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (2) out-of-pocket costs for each such service and procedure.

(e) (1) On and after January 1, 2018, each hospital shall, at the time of scheduling a service or procedure for nonemergency care that is included in the report prepared by the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, regardless of the location or setting where such services are delivered, notify the patient of the patient's right to make a request for cost and quality information. Upon the request of a patient for a diagnosis or procedure included in such report, the hospital shall, not later than three business days after scheduling such service or procedure, provide written notice, electronically or by mail, to the

patient who is the subject of the service or procedure concerning: (A) If the patient is uninsured, the amount to be charged for the service or procedure if all charges are paid in full without a public or private third party paying any portion of the charges, including the amount of any facility fee, or, if the hospital is not able to provide a specific amount due to an inability to predict the specific treatment or diagnostic code, the estimated maximum allowed amount or charge for the service or procedure, including the amount of any facility fee; (B) the corresponding Medicare reimbursement amount or, if there is no corresponding Medicare reimbursement amount for such diagnosis or procedure, (i) the approximate amount Medicare would have paid the hospital for the services on the billing statement, or (ii) the percentage of the hospital's charges that Medicare would have paid the hospital for the services; (C) if the patient is insured, the allowed amount, the toll-free telephone number and the Internet web site address of the patient's health carrier where the patient can obtain information concerning charges and out-of-pocket costs; (D) The Joint Commission's composite accountability rating and the Medicare hospital compare star rating for the hospital, as applicable; and (E) the Internet web site addresses for The Joint Commission and the Medicare hospital compare tool where the patient may obtain information concerning the hospital.

(2) If the patient is insured and the hospital is out-of-network under the patient's health insurance policy, such written notice shall include a statement that the service or procedure will likely be deemed out-of-network and that any out-of-network applicable rates under such policy may apply.

Sec. 228. Subsection (b) of section 19a-911 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The Council on Protecting Women's Health shall be comprised of (1) the following ex-officio voting members: (A) The Commissioner of

Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (B) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee; (C) the Insurance Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee; (D) the **[**executive director of Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee; (E) the Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee; and (F) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; and (2) fourteen public members, three of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, three of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, two of whom shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, two of whom shall be appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, two of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate and two of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and all of whom shall be knowledgeable on issues relative to women's health care in the state. The membership of the council shall fairly and adequately represent women who have had issues accessing quality health care in the state.

Sec. 229. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 20-195sss of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy **[**, established under section 19a-754a,**]** shall, within available resources and in consultation with the Community Health Worker Advisory Committee established by said office and the Commissioner of Public Health, study the feasibility of creating a certification program for community health workers. Such study shall examine the fiscal impact of implementing such a certification program and include recommendations for (1) requirements for certification and renewal of certification of community health workers, including any training, experience or continuing education requirements, (2) methods for

administering a certification program, including a certification application, a standardized assessment of experience, knowledge and skills, and an electronic registry, and (3) requirements for recognizing training program curricula that are sufficient to satisfy the requirements of certification.

(c) Not later than October 1, 2018, the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the results of such study and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and human services.

Sec. 230. Subsection (c) of section 20-195ttt of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the **[**executive director's**]** commissioner's designee, shall act as the chair of the Community Health Worker Advisory Body and shall appoint the following members to said body:

(1) Six members who are actively practicing as community health workers in the state;

(2) A member of the Community Health Workers Association of Connecticut;

(3) A representative of a community-based community health worker training organization;

(4) A representative of a regional community-technical college;

(5) An employer of community health workers;

(6) A representative of a health care organization that employs

community health workers;

(7) A health care provider who works directly with community health workers; and

(8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee.

Sec. 231. Subsection (a) of section 38a-477e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On and after January 1, 2017, each health carrier, as defined in section 19a-755b, shall maintain an Internet web site and toll-free telephone number that enables consumers to request and obtain: (1) Information on in-network costs for inpatient admissions, health care procedures and services, including (A) the allowed amount for, at a minimum, admissions and procedures reported to the **[**executive director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy pursuant to section 19a-755b for each health care provider in the state; (B) the estimated out-of-pocket costs that a consumer would be responsible for paying for any such admission or procedure that is medically necessary, including any facility fee, coinsurance, copayment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense; and (C) data or other information concerning (i) quality measures for the health care provider, (ii) patient satisfaction, to the extent such information is available, (iii) a directory of participating providers, as defined in section 38a-472f, in accordance with the provisions of section 38a-477h; and (2) information on out-of-network costs for inpatient admissions, health care procedures and services.

Sec. 232. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 38a-477ee of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(B) The Attorney General, Healthcare Advocate and **[**executive

director of the Office**]** Commissioner of Health Strategy.

Sec. 233. (*Effective from passage*) The following sums are appropriated from the GENERAL FUND for the purposes herein specified for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

GENERAL FUND	2023-2024
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Personal Services	3,300,000
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt Operations	4,100,000
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	
Other Expenses	800,000
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING	
Housing/Homeless Services	3,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES	
Other Expenses	1,200,000
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES	
Professional Services	5,200,000
Behavioral Health Medications	500,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	
Medicaid	165,000,000
Old Age Assistance	500,000
Aid To The Blind	19,000
Aid To The Disabled	4,400,000
State Administered General Assistance	3,300,000
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM	
Personal Services	2,410,000

Other Expenses	1,510,000
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD	
Birth to Three	607,000
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION	
National Service Act	185,253
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD	
Retirees Health Service Cost	550,000
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	
Personal Services	33,500,000
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	
Other Expenses	990,000
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT	
Personal Services	350,000
Other Expenses	2,700,000
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION	
Personal Services	1,030,000
STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS	
Higher Education Alternative Retirement System	70,000,000
Pensions and Retirements - Other Statutory	105,536
Employers Social Security Tax	3,000,000
Other Post Employment Benefits	19,000,000
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Workers Comp Claims – UConn	600,000
Workers Comp Claims – DOC	5,700,000
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND	333,556,789

Sec. 234. (*Effective from passage*) The amounts appropriated to the following agencies in section 1 of public act 23-204, are reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

GENERAL FUND	2023-2024
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT	
Personal Services	5,000,000
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS	
Personal Services	100,000
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE	
Personal Services	800,000
SECRETARY OF THE STATE	
Personal Services	750,000
ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION	
Elections Enforcement Commission	500,000
STATE TREASURER	
Personal Services	300,000
STATE COMPTROLLER	
Personal Services	600,000
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES	
Personal Services	11,000,000
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY	
Personal Services	300,000

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT	
Personal Services	1,000,000
Distressed Municipalities	1,500,000
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	
Personal Services	600,000
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Other Expenses	6,550,000
Rents and Moving	650,000
ATTORNEY GENERAL	
Personal Services	2,600,000
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE	
Personal Services	4,400,000
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION	
Personal Services	1,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION	
Personal Services	2,400,000
Other Expenses	500,000
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	
Healthcare Apprenticeship Initiative	500,000
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	
Personal Services	400,000
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Personal Services	300,000
Other Expenses	12,000,000
Office of Workforce Strategy	300,000

MRDA	400,000
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION	
Personal Services	400,000
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	
Personal Services	3,300,000
Gun Violence Prevention	500,000
OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY	
Personal Services	500,000
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES	
Personal Services	19,700,000
Behavioral Services Program	1,500,000
Employment Opportunities and Day Services	24,200,000
Community Residential Services	7,800,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	
HUSKY B Program	16,000,000
Temporary Family Assistance - TANF	1,300,000
Connecticut Home Care Program	4,000,000
Community Services	500,000
DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES	
Personal Services	900,000
Educational Aid for Children - Blind or Visually Impaired	200,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
Personal Services	5,500,000
Sheff Settlement	12,500,000
Non Sheff Transportation	300,000
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	2,000,000
Charter Schools	3,000,000

Magnet Schools	5,000,000
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD	
Personal Services	1,650,000
Early Care and Education	9,700,000
STATE LIBRARY	
Personal Services	700,000
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION	
Personal Services	100,000
Health Care Adjunct Grant Program	200,000
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD	
Personal Services	100,000
Municipal Retiree Health Insurance Costs	1,300,000
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	
Other Expenses	750,000
Inmate Medical Services	1,200,000
Board of Pardons and Paroles	800,000
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	
Personal Services	18,400,000
No Nexus Special Education	500,000
Board and Care for Children - Foster	2,300,000
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	3,900,000
Juvenile Review Boards	4,300,000
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT	
Workers' Compensation Claims	250,000
Juvenile Justice Outreach Services	375,000
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	375,000

PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION	
Assigned Counsel - Criminal	**[**2,600,000**]** 1,000,000
Expert Witnesses	200,000
STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS	
Unemployment Compensation	2,000,000
State Employees Retirement Contributions	2,300,000
Insurance - Group Life	500,000
State Employees Health Service Cost	8,000,000
Retired State Employees Health Service Cost	3,000,000
SERS Defined Contribution Match	4,400,000
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Workers' Compensation Claims	2,050,000
Workers' Comp Claims - UCHC	150,000
Workers' Comp Claims – DCF	3,500,000
Workers' Comp Claims – DMHAS	1,150,000
Workers' Comp Claims – DESPP	300,000
Workers' Comp Claims – DDS	5,300,000
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND	**[**245,800,000**]** 244,300,000

Sec. 235. (*Effective from passage*) The following sums are appropriated from the SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND for the purpose herein specified for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	2023-2024
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Personal Services	400,000
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt Operations	3,800,000

STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS	
Other Post Employment Benefits	800,000
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Workers' Compensation Claims	1,600,000
TOTAL - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	6,600,000

Sec. 236. (*Effective from passage*) The amounts appropriated to the following agencies in section 2 of public act 23-204, are reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	2023-2024
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	
Personal Services	1,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	
Personal Services	19,850,000
STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS	
State Employees Health Service Cost	1,500,000
TOTAL - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	22,350,000

Sec. 237. (*Effective from passage*) The amounts appropriated to the following agency in section 4 of public act 23-204, are reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

BANKING FUND	2023-2024

DEPARTMENT OF BANKING	
Personal Services	**[**2,500,000**]** 2,700,000
Fringe Benefits	2,100,000
TOTAL – BANKING FUND	**[**4,600,000**]** 4,800,000

Sec. 238. (*Effective from passage*) The amounts appropriated to the following agencies in section 5 of public act 23-204, are reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

INSURANCE FUND	2023-2024
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT	
Personal Services	2,000,000
Fringe Benefits	2,650,000
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	
Immunization Services	4,000,000
OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY	
Fringe Benefits	800,000
TOTAL - INSURANCE FUND	9,450,000

Sec. 239. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the following agency in section 7 of public act 23-204, is reduced by the following amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND	2023-2024

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION	
Personal Services	900,000
Fringe Benefits	**[**1,500,000**]** 1,900,000
TOTAL – WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND	**[**1,500,000**]** 2,800,000

Sec. 240. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Up to $800,000 of the unexpended balance of funds that was transferred and made available to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, for Other Expenses, for costs associated with the legalization of cannabis in subdivision (36) of subsection (b) of section 12 of public act 22-118 and, in subsection (d) of section 41 of public act 23-204, carried forward and made available for the same purpose during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall be made available to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, for Other Expenses, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, as follows:

(1) Up to $500,000 to implement executive branch agency process improvements; and

(2) Up to $300,000 for pension consultation services.

(b) The unexpended balance of funds made available to the secretary under subsection (a) of this section shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and shall continue to be available for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this section during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sec. 241. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Up to $1,500,000 of the unexpended balance of funds that was transferred and made available to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, for Other Expenses, for costs associated with the legalization of cannabis in subdivision (36) of subsection (b) of section 12 of public act 22-118 and, in subsection (d) of section 41 of public act 23-204, carried forward and made available

for the same purpose during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, and such funds shall be transferred and made available to the Department of Social Services, for Community Action Agencies, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sec. 242. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-215b of the general statutes, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Department of Education shall be financially responsible for the portion of the cost to local and regional boards of education of reduced priced meals under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for those students not enrolled in a school that qualifies for the maximum federal reimbursement for all school meals served under the federal Community Eligibility Provision. As used in this section, "Community Eligibility Provision" means the federal meal reimbursement program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, as set forth in 7 CFR 245.9, as amended from time to time.

Sec. 243. Section 8-169rr of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2024*)

Approved May 30, 2024