General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 6854

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **4313**

Referred to Committee on GENERAL LAW

Introduced by:
(GL)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION.

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

Section 1. Section 21a-425 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

For the purposes of this section and sections 21a-425a and 21a-425b:

(1) "Cannabis" means marijuana, as defined in section 21a-240;

(2) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(3) "Cannabis product" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(4) "Cannabis testing laboratory" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408;

(5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer

Protection;

(6) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(7) "Container" (A) means **[**an object**]** a child-resistant can or bottle that is offered, intended for sale or sold to a consumer and directly contains an infused beverage, and (B) does not include an object or packaging that indirectly contains, or contains in bulk for transportation purposes, an infused beverage;

(8) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(9) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

(10) "Dispensary facility" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(11) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(12) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61*l*;

(13) "Hemp producer" means producer, as defined in section 22-61*l*;

(14) "Hemp products" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61*l*;

(15) "Hybrid retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(16) "Infused beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an alcoholic beverage, as defined in section 30-1, (B) is intended for human consumption, and (C) contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, total THC that is not greater than three milligrams per container;

(17) "Infused beverage manufacturer" means a person licensed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-425a;

(18) "Legacy infused beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an alcoholic beverage, as defined in section 30-1, (B) is intended for human consumption, (C) contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, THC, as defined in section 21a-240, and (D) as of June 30, 2024, is in compliance with (i) the provisions of RERACA, as defined in section 21a-420, and (ii) the policies and procedures issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to implement, and any regulations adopted pursuant to, RERACA, as defined in section 21a-420;

(19) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(20) "Manufacturer hemp product" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61*l*;

(21) "Producer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(22) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(23) "Retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420; and

(24) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240.

Sec. 2. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 30-14 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each permit shall be a purely personal privilege that is revocable in the discretion of the Department of Consumer Protection, and subject to appeal, as provided in section 30-55. Except as otherwise provided in the general statutes, including, but not limited to, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 30-19f, as amended by this act, and sections 30-35, 30-37g and 30-37u, each permit shall expire annually. No permit

shall constitute property, be subject to attachment and execution or be alienable, except a permit shall descend to the estate of a deceased permittee by the laws of testate or intestate succession. An airline permit issued under section 30-28a or a cafe permit issued under subsection (h) of section 30-22a shall be granted to the airline corporation or railway corporation and not to any person, and the corporation shall be the permittee.

(b) Any permit in this part, except a permit issued under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 30-19f, as amended by this act, and sections 30-35, 30-37g and 30-37u, may be issued for a continuous period of not more than six consecutive calendar months, at two-thirds of regular fees, but rebate of fees shall not be permitted for any unexpired portion of the term of a permit revoked by reason of a violation of any provision of this chapter.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 30-19f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) An annual in-state transporter's permit for alcoholic liquor shall allow the commercial transportation of any alcoholic liquor and, with the approval of the Department of Consumer Protection, the provision or sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption in a boat engaged in the transportation of passengers for hire or a motor vehicle in livery service, as permitted by law. One permit shall cover all such boats or vehicles that are under common control, direction, management or ownership. When applying for such approval, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, the owner of any such boat or vehicle in which the sale or consumption of alcoholic liquor will be available shall specifically identify to the department each such boat or vehicle. The **[**annual**]** fee for an annual in-state transporter's liquor permit shall be one thousand two hundred fifty dollars for the first boat or vehicle and an additional annual fee of two hundred dollars for each additional boat or vehicle.

(2) A daily in-state transporter's permit for alcoholic liquor shall allow the commercial transportation of any alcoholic liquor and, with the approval of the department, the provision or sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption in a boat engaged in the transportation of passengers for hire or a motor vehicle in livery service, as permitted by law. One permit shall cover all such boats or vehicles that are under common control, direction, management or ownership. When applying for such approval, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, the owner of any such boat or vehicle in which the sale or consumption of alcoholic liquor will be available shall specifically identify to the department each such boat or vehicle. The fee for a daily in-state transporter's liquor permit shall be one hundred fifty dollars per boat or vehicle. Not more than eight daily in-state transporter's liquor permits shall be issued to any one backer pursuant to this section per calendar year. During the calendar year in which a daily in-state transporter's liquor permit is issued to a permittee pursuant to this subdivision, the permittee may apply to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, to convert such daily in-state transporter's liquor permit to an annual in-state transporter's liquor permit. The effective date of such annual in-state transporter's liquor permit shall be the effective date of the first daily in-state transporter's liquor permit that was issued to such applicant during such calendar year. The fee for such annual in-state transporter's liquor permit shall be the fee established in subdivision (1) of this subsection less the total fees such applicant paid for daily in-state transporter's liquor permits during such calendar year, except no rebate shall be issued to such applicant if the total fees such applicant paid for daily in-state transporter's liquor permits during such calendar year exceeds the fee established in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 30-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "grocery store" (1) means any

store that (A) is commonly known as a delicatessen, food store, grocery store or supermarket, and (B) **[**is primarily engaged in the retail sale of**]** derives more than fifty per cent of such store's retail sales from any combination of dairy products, eggs and poultry, fruits and vegetables, meat, seafood, bakery products and various canned or dry goods **[**and dry goods**]** such as coffee, flour, spices, sugar and tea, whether packaged or in bulk, **[**regardless of whether**]** except no such store **[**sells**]** shall be required to sell fresh fruits and vegetables or **[**fresh, prepared or smoked fish,**]** poultry, meat **[**and poultry**]** or seafood, and (2) does not include any store that is primarily engaged in the retail sale of one category of food items such as bakery products, **[**candy, nuts and**]** candies, confectionaries, dairy products, **[**eggs and poultry,**]** fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry or seafood.

Sec. 5. Section 30-22b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Catering establishment" means any premises that (A) has an adequate, suitable and sanitary kitchen, dining room and facilities to provide hot meals, (B) has no sleeping accommodations for the public, (C) is owned or operated by any person who, or business entity that, (i) regularly furnishes for hire on such premises one or more ballrooms, reception rooms, dining rooms, banquet halls or similar places of assemblage for a particular function, occasion or event, or (ii) furnishes, provisions and services for consumption or use at any function, occasion or event described in subparagraph (C)(i) of this subdivision, and (D) employs an adequate number of employees on such premises at the time of any function, occasion or event described in subparagraph (C)(i) of this subdivision; and

(2) "Qualified managed residential community" means a managed residential community, as defined in section 19a-693, that (A) has an adequate, suitable and sanitary kitchen, dining room and facilities to

provide hot meals, (B) provides daily meals in the dining room described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and (C) exclusively serves meals to (i) residents of the managed residential community and their guests, and (ii) employees of the managed residential community.

[(a)**]** (b) (1) A restaurant permit for a catering establishment or qualified managed residential community shall allow a catering establishment or a qualified managed residential community to serve alcoholic liquor at a function, occasion or event on the premises of **[**a**]** the catering establishment, or at the daily scheduled meals on the premises of the qualified managed residential community, provided **[**(1)**]** (A) alcoholic liquor shall be sold only to persons invited to and attending such **[**a**]** function, occasion**, [**or**]** event or meals, and **[**(2)**]** (B) alcoholic liquor shall be sold only during the specific hours such function, occasion or event is, or meals are, scheduled on **[**the**]** such premises. The permittee shall comply with the regulations of the local department of health.

(2) The department may waive the requirements of **[**subdivisions (1) and (2)**]** subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) for not more than sixteen functions, occasions or events of a catering establishment annually, provided such establishment makes written application to the department at least ten days prior to the scheduled date of the function, occasion or event for which a waiver is sought, and (B) permanently for a qualified managed residential community, provided such community offers alcoholic beverages exclusively with daily scheduled meals on the premises of such community.

(3) The annual fee for a restaurant permit for a catering establishment or qualified managed residential community shall be one thousand four hundred fifty dollars.

[(b)**]** (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any catering establishment operated under a restaurant permit for a catering establishment or qualified managed residential community be open for

business to the public at any time other than when a particular function, occasion or event is scheduled on such premises.

[(c)**]** (d) No organization eligible for a club or nonprofit club permit, or other entity established primarily to serve its members, shall be eligible for a restaurant permit for a catering establishment or qualified managed residential community.

[(d) "Catering establishment" means any premises that (1) has an adequate, suitable and sanitary kitchen, dining room and facilities to provide hot meals, (2) has no sleeping accommodations for the public, (3) is owned or operated by any person who, or business entity that, (A) regularly furnishes for hire on such premises one or more ballrooms, reception rooms, dining rooms, banquet halls or similar places of assemblage for a particular function, occasion or event, or (B) furnishes provisions and services for consumption or use at any function, occasion or event described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and (4) employs an adequate number of employees on such premises at the time of any function, occasion or event described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of this subsection.**]**

Sec. 6. Section 30-37j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "meal" means any combination of appetizers, entrees or desserts that is reasonably capable of satisfying hunger.

[(a)**]** (b) A caterer liquor permit shall allow a person **[**regularly**]** primarily engaged in the business of providing **[**food and beverages**]** meals to others for service at private gatherings or at special events to sell and serve alcoholic liquor for on-premises consumption with or without the provision of **[**food**]** meals at any activity, event or function for which such person has been hired, pursuant to a contract between the holder of the caterer liquor permit and the hiring party. The holder of a caterer liquor permit shall not engage in self-dealing or self-hiring

in order to generate catering events. The annual fee for a caterer liquor permit shall be four hundred forty dollars.

(c) A mobile bar permit shall allow a person to sell and serve alcoholic liquor for on-premises consumption without the provision of meals at any activity, event or function for which such person has been hired, pursuant to a contract between the holder of the mobile bar permit and the hiring party. The holder of a mobile bar permit shall not engage in self-dealing or self-hiring in order to generate hired events. The annual fee for a mobile bar permit shall be seven hundred fifty dollars.

[(b)**]** (d) The holder of a caterer liquor permit or a mobile bar permit shall, on a form prescribed by the Department of Consumer Protection or electronically, notify the department, in writing, of the date, location and hours of each event at which alcohol is served under such permit at least one business day in advance of such event. If the holder of a caterer liquor permit or a mobile bar permit is unable to provide the written notice required under this **[**section**]** subsection due to exigent circumstances, such holder may provide notice to the department by telephone of the date, location and hours of each event at which alcohol is served under such permit.

[(c)**]** (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 30-48, a backer or holder of a caterer liquor permit may be a backer or holder of any other permit issued under the provisions of this chapter, except that a backer or holder of a caterer liquor permit may not be a backer or holder of any other manufacturer permit issued under section 30-16 or a wholesaler permit issued under section 30-17.

[(d)**]** (f) The holder of a caterer liquor permit, or a mobile bar permit, and any other permit issued under the provisions of this chapter that prohibits the off-premises consumption of alcoholic liquor shall be exempt from such prohibition for the purposes of conducting such holder's catering or mobile bar business only.

[(e)**]** (g) The holder of a caterer liquor permit or a mobile bar permit

shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 30-38, 30-52 and 30-54 and from the requirements to affix and maintain a placard, as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 30-39, as amended by this act.

[(f)**]** (h) The holder of a caterer liquor permit or a mobile bar permit may enter into a contract with another business entity to provide exclusive catering or mobile bar services at a specific venue, provided the holder of the caterer liquor permit or the mobile bar permit is available for hire at other venues and is using the permit at other venues. No holder or member of the backer of the caterer liquor permit or the mobile bar permit, nor the holder's or member's spouse or child, shall have an ownership interest in the venue that is subject to the exclusivity agreement.

Sec. 7. Section 30-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, the "filing date" of an application means the date upon which the department, after approving the application for processing, mails or otherwise delivers to the applicant a placard containing such date.

(b) (1) Any person desiring a liquor permit or a renewal of such a permit shall make an affirmed application therefor to the Department of Consumer Protection, upon forms to be furnished by the department, showing the name and address of the applicant and of the applicant's backer, if any, the location of the club or place of business which is to be operated under such permit and a financial statement setting forth all elements and details of any business transactions connected with the application. Such application shall include a detailed description of the type of live entertainment that is to be provided. A club or place of business shall be exempt from providing such detailed description if the club or place of business (A) was issued a liquor permit prior to October 1, 1993, and (B) has not altered the type of entertainment provided. The

application shall also indicate any crimes of which the applicant or the applicant's backer may have been convicted. **[**Applicants shall submit**]** The department shall not review an initial application until the applicant has submitted all documents **[**, only upon initial application, sufficient**]** necessary to establish that state and local building, fire and zoning requirements and local ordinances concerning hours and days of sale will be met, except that local building and zoning requirements and local ordinances concerning hours and days of sale shall not apply to a cafe permit issued under subsection (d) or (h) of section 30-22a. If the applicant does not submit all such documents within the thirty-day period beginning on the date on which the department receives the initial application, or if such documents are not fully executed by the appropriate authorities, such initial application shall be deemed withdrawn and invalid. The State Fire Marshal or the marshal's certified designee shall be responsible for approving compliance with the State Fire Code at Bradley International Airport. Any person desiring a permit provided for in section 30-33b shall file a copy of such person's license with such application if such license was issued by the Department of Consumer Protection. The department may, at its discretion, conduct an investigation to determine (i) whether a permit shall be issued to an applicant or the applicant's backer, or (ii) the suitability of the proposed permit premises. Completion of an inspection pursuant to subsection (f) of section 29-305 shall not be deemed to constitute a precondition to renewal of a permit that is subject to subsection (f) of section 29-305.

(2) The applicant shall pay to the department a nonrefundable application fee, which fee shall be in addition to the fees prescribed in this chapter for the permit sought. An application fee shall not be charged for an application to renew a permit. The application fee shall be in the amount of ten dollars for the filing of each application for a permit by a nonprofit golf tournament permit under section 30-37g or a temporary liquor permit for a noncommercial entity under section 30-35; and in the amount of one hundred dollars for the filing of an initial

application for all other permits. Any permit issued shall be valid only for the purposes and activities described in the application.

(3) **[**The applicant, immediately after filing an application, shall give notice thereof, with the name and residence of the permittee, the type of permit applied for and the location of the place of business for which such permit is to be issued and the type of live entertainment to be provided, all in a form prescribed by the department, by publishing the same in a newspaper having a circulation in the town in which the place of business to be operated under such permit is to be located, at least once a week for two successive weeks, the first publication to be not more than seven days after the filing date of the application and the last publication not more than fourteen days after the filing date of the application.**]** The applicant shall affix, and maintain in a legible condition upon the outer door of the building wherein such place of business is to be located and clearly visible from the public highway, the placard provided by the department, not later than the day following the receipt of the placard by the applicant. If such outer door of such premises is so far from the public highway that such placard is not clearly visible as provided, the department shall direct a suitable method to notify the public of such application. When an application is filed for any type of permit for a building that has not been constructed, such applicant shall erect and maintain in a legible condition a sign not less than six feet by four feet upon the site where such place of business is to be located, instead of such placard upon the outer door of the building. The sign shall set forth the type of permit applied for and the name of the proposed permittee, shall be clearly visible from the public highway and shall be so erected not later than the day following the receipt of the placard. Such applicant shall make a return to the department, under oath, of compliance with the foregoing requirements, in such form as the department may determine, but the department may require any additional proof of such compliance. Upon receipt of evidence of such compliance, the department may hold a hearing as to the suitability of the proposed location. The provisions of

this subdivision shall not apply to applications for (A) airline permits issued under section 30-28a, (B) temporary liquor permits for noncommercial entities issued under section 30-35, (C) concession permits issued under section 30-33, (D) military permits issued under section 30-34, (E) cafe permits issued under subsection (h) of section 30-22a, (F) warehouse permits issued under section 30-32, (G) broker's permits issued under section 30-30, (H) out-of-state shipper's permits for alcoholic liquor issued under section 30-18, (I) out-of-state shipper's permits for beer issued under section 30-19, (J) coliseum permits issued under section 30-33a, (K) nonprofit golf tournament permits issued under section 30-37g, (L) Connecticut craft cafe permits issued under section 30-22d to permittees who held a manufacturer permit for a brew pub or a manufacturer permit for beer issued under subsection (b) of section 30-16 and a brew pub before July 1, 2020, (M) off-site farm winery sales and wine, cider and mead tasting permits issued under section 30-16a, (N) out-of-state retailer shipper's permits for wine issued under section 30-18a, (O) out-of-state winery shipper's permits for wine issued under section 30-18a, (P) in-state transporter's permits for alcoholic liquor issued under section 30-19f, as amended by this act, including, but not limited to, boats operating under such permits, (Q) seasonal outdoor open-air permits issued under section 30-22e, (R) festival permits issued under section 30-37t, (S) temporary auction permits issued under section 30-37u, (T) outdoor open-air permits issued under section 30-22f, and (U) renewals of any permit described in subparagraphs (A) to (T), inclusive, of this subdivision, if applicable. The provisions of this subdivision regarding **[**publication and**]** placard display shall also be required of any applicant who seeks to amend the type of entertainment either upon filing of a renewal application or upon requesting permission of the department in a form that requires the approval of the municipal zoning official.

(4) In any case in which a permit has been issued to a partnership, if one or more of the partners dies or retires, the remaining partner or partners need not file a new application for the unexpired portion of the

current permit, and no additional fee for such unexpired portion shall be required. Notice of any such change shall be given to the department and the permit shall be endorsed to show correct ownership. When any partnership changes by reason of the addition of one or more persons, a new application with new fees shall be required.

(c) Any ten persons who are at least eighteen years of age, and are residents of the town within which the business for which the permit or renewal thereof has been applied for, is intended to be operated, or, in the case of a manufacturer's or a wholesaler's permit, any ten persons who are at least eighteen years of age and are residents of the state, may file with the department **[**, within three weeks from the last date of publication of notice made pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section**]** for an initial permit, and in the case of renewal of an existing permit, at least twenty-one days before the renewal date of such permit, 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 shall give such notice as it deems reasonable of the time and place at least five days before such hearing is had. 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. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to festival permits issued under section 30-37t.

(d) No new permit shall be issued until the foregoing provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section have been complied with. If no new permit is issued within twelve months of the filing date, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, the application may, in the discretion of the department, be deemed withdrawn and shall then be returned to the

applicant. Six months' or seasonal permits may be renewed, provided the renewal application and fee shall be filed at least twenty-one days before the reopening of the business, there is no change in the permittee, ownership or type of permit, and the permittee or backer did not receive a rebate of the permit fee with respect to the permit issued for the previous year.

(e) The department may renew a permit that has expired if the applicant pays to the department a nonrefundable late fee pursuant to subsection (c) of section 21a-4, which fee shall be in addition to the fees prescribed in this chapter for the permit applied for. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to one-day permits, to any permit which is the subject of administrative or court proceedings, or where otherwise provided by law.

(f) (1) On and after July 1, 2026, no initial final permit shall be issued, and no transfer of interest application or application to permanently substitute the identity of the permittee shall be approved, unless the applicant, the applicant's backer, all members of the applicant's backer and the permittee have completed a liquor education program. Such liquor education program shall be conducted in a form and manner prescribed by the department, and shall address (A) the prevention of (i) sales of alcoholic liquor to minors, and (ii) overservice of alcoholic liquor, (B) restrictions on alcoholic beverage promotions, and (C) any other topics prescribed by the department.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A) the department may, in the department's discretion, waive the liquor education program requirement established in said subdivision (1) of this subsection, provided the department waives such requirement in writing, (B) no person who holds a provisional permit on July 1, 2026, shall be required to complete the liquor education program required under said subdivision (1) of this subsection in order to obtain a final permit, and (C) no person who holds a final permit on July 1, 2026, shall be required to complete such liquor education

program in order to renew such permit.

[(f)**]** (g) No person who assists an applicant, backer or permittee in submitting an application for a liquor permit shall submit, or cause to be submitted, any false statement in connection with such application, or engage in any conduct which delays or impedes the department in processing such application. A violation of this subsection shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b. The commissioner, after providing an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with chapter 54, may impose on any person who violates the provisions of this subsection a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars per violation, and may order such person to pay restitution to the applicant, backer or permittee. All civil penalties paid, collected or recovered under this subsection shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.

Sec. 8. Section 30-47 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Department of Consumer Protection may, in **[**its**]** the department's discretion, suspend, revoke or refuse to grant or renew a permit for the sale of alcoholic liquor, or impose a fine of not greater than one thousand dollars per violation, if the department has reasonable cause to believe: (1) That the applicant or permittee appears to be financially irresponsible or neglects to provide for the applicant's or permittee's family, or neglects or is unable to pay the applicant's or permittee's just debts; (2) that the applicant or permittee has been provided with funds by any wholesaler or manufacturer or has any forbidden connection with any other class of permittee as provided in this chapter; (3) that the applicant or permittee is in the habit of using alcoholic beverages to excess; (4) that the applicant or permittee has wilfully made any false statement to the department in a material matter; (5) that the applicant or permittee has been convicted of violating any of the liquor laws of this or any other state or the liquor

laws of the United States or has been convicted of a felony as such term is defined in section 53a-25, provided any action taken is based upon (A) the nature of the conviction and its relationship to the applicant or permittee's ability to safely or competently perform the duties associated with such permit, (B) information pertaining to the degree of rehabilitation of the applicant or permittee, and (C) the time elapsed since the conviction or release, or has such a criminal record that the department reasonably believes the applicant or permittee is not a suitable person to hold a permit, provided no refusal shall be rendered under this subdivision except in accordance with the provisions of sections 46a-80 and 46a-81; (6) that the applicant or permittee has not been delegated full authority and control of the permit premises and of the conduct of all business on such premises; or (7) that the applicant, applicant's backer, backer or permittee has violated any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted under this chapter. Any applicant, applicant's backer or backer shall be subject to the same disqualifications as provided in this chapter, or any regulation adopted under this chapter, for permittees.

(b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, in **[**his or her**]** the commissioner's discretion, require a permittee who has had **[**his or her**]** the permittee's permit for the sale of alcoholic liquor suspended or revoked pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to have such permittee's employees participate in an alcohol seller and server training program approved by the commissioner. The commissioner may require proof of completion of the program from the permittee prior to reactivation or reissuance of such permit.

[(c) In lieu of suspending or revoking a permit for the sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the commissioner may require a permittee to have such permittee's employees participate in an alcohol seller and server training program.**]**

(c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, in the commissioner's discretion, enter into a settlement agreement, or a

comparable negotiated settlement instrument, in lieu of proceeding to an administrative hearing. Such agreement or instrument may contain, but need not be limited to, provisions concerning settlement fees, probation, the suspension or placement of conditions on a permit issued or conferred by the department pursuant to this chapter, training requirements or additional security measures.

(d) (1) Any individual who has been convicted of any criminal offense may request, at any time, that the commissioner determine whether such individual's criminal conviction disqualifies the individual from obtaining a permit issued or conferred by the department pursuant to this chapter based on (A) the nature of the conviction and its relationship to the individual's ability to safely or competently perform the duties or responsibilities associated with such permit, (B) information pertaining to the degree of rehabilitation of the individual, and (C) the time elapsed since the conviction or release of the individual.

(2) An individual making such request shall include (A) details of the individual's criminal conviction, and (B) any payment required by the commissioner. The commissioner may charge a fee of not more than fifteen dollars for each request made under this subsection. The department may waive such fee.

(3) Not later than thirty days after receiving a request under this subsection, the commissioner shall inform the individual making such request whether, based on the criminal record information submitted, such individual is disqualified from receiving or holding a permit issued pursuant to this chapter.

(4) The commissioner is not bound by a determination made under this section, if, upon further investigation, the commissioner determines that the individual's criminal conviction differs from the information presented in the determination request.

Sec. 9. Section 30-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

No permit may be issued for the sale of alcoholic liquor in any building, a portion of which will not be used as the permit premises, unless the application therefor is accompanied by an affidavit signed and affirmed by the applicant, stating that access from the portion of the building that will not be used as the permit premises to the portion of the building that will be used as the permit premises is effectually separate, unless the Department of Consumer Protection endorses upon such application that it has dispensed with such affidavit for reasons considered by it good and satisfactory and also endorses thereon such reasons. No new means of access into the permit premises shall be opened, after such permit is issued, without the written consent of the Department of Consumer Protection endorsed on such permit. If any permittee or any backer thereof opens, causes to be opened, allows to be opened or allows to remain open, at any time during the term for which such permit is issued, any new means of access from any portion of a building not part of the permit premises into the permit premises, without the written consent of the Department of Consumer Protection endorsed on such permit, such permittee or backer shall be subject to the **[**penalties**]** penalty provided in section 30-113, as amended by this act. The Department of Consumer Protection shall require every applicant for a permit to sell alcoholic liquor to state under oath whether any portion of the building in which it is proposed to carry on such business will not be used as the permit premises; and, if so, the Department of Consumer Protection shall appoint a suitable person to examine the premises and to see that any and all access between the portion so to be used for the sale of alcoholic liquor and the portion not so used is effectually separate, and may designate the manner of such separation, and, if necessary, order seals to be placed so that such way of access cannot be opened without breaking the seals, and the breaking or removal of such seals or other methods of preventing access, so ordered and provided, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section. The above provisions shall not apply to any premises operating under a hotel permit.

Sec. 10. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 30-74 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The sale of alcoholic liquor, except as permitted by this chapter, is prohibited, and any person or permittee who keeps or operates any bar or establishment which is a place where alcoholic liquor is kept for sale or exchange contrary to law shall be liable to the **[**penalties**]** penalty provided in section 30-113, as amended by this act.

(b) The sale, distribution or dispensing of alcoholic liquor without a permit issued under the provisions of this chapter in any premises, building, apartment or other place used by any club, association, social or fraternal society or organization to the members thereof, their guests or other persons shall be unlawful. Any officer, agent or employee of any club, association, social or fraternal society or organization without such a permit, who dispenses or permits to be dispensed, to or by its members, guests or other persons, any alcoholic liquor shall be subject to the **[**penalties**]** penalty provided in section 30-113, as amended by this act.

Sec. 11. Section 30-76 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

No person holding a permit for the retail sale of alcoholic liquor shall purchase for resale alcoholic liquor except from a person holding a permit under the provisions of sections 30-16 and 30-17, provided any permittee going out of business may, upon application to and approval by the Department of Consumer Protection, sell all or part of **[**his**]** such permittee's stock in trade to any permittee authorized by law to retail the kind of liquors so sold. No person holding a manufacturer or wholesaler permit shall purchase for resale alcoholic liquor except from a person holding a manufacturer permit, wholesaler permit or out-of-state shipper's permit. Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be subject to the **[**penalties**]** penalty provided in section 30-113, as

amended by this act.

Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 30-77 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any person who, without a permit therefor, except as provided in section 30-37 or subsection (b) of section 12-436, the provisions of which shall not be construed as requiring an individual to be physically present at the point of purchase of alcoholic beverages to import such alcoholic beverages, or contrary to the provisions of this chapter and the regulations of the Department of Consumer Protection with respect to the class of permit held by such person, manufactures or, by sample, by soliciting or procuring orders, or otherwise, sells or delivers, or offers or exposes for sale or delivery, or owns or keeps with intent to sell or deliver, or who ships, transports or imports into this state, any alcoholic liquor, shall be subject to the **[**penalties**]** penalty prescribed in section 30-113, as amended by this act; provided nothing in this section shall prohibit any common carrier, warehouseman or other lien holder, or any officer acting under legal process, or any insurance company that acquires the same as the result of fire, flood or water damage, from exercising the right of such person or such entity to sell alcoholic liquor under a lien or such process or such acquisition, with the permission of the department. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the delivery to a permittee under this chapter of alcoholic liquor which is legally authorized. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the shipment into this state of ethyl alcohol intended for use or used for scientific, mechanical and industrial uses, for use in hospitals and public institutions, for medicinal purposes in the manufacture of patented, proprietary, medicinal, pharmaceutical, antiseptic, toilet, scientific, chemical, mechanical and industrial preparations or products not sold as a beverage for human consumption, nor to the shipment of wine to be used in the manufacture of patented, proprietary or pharmaceutical preparations or products or in the manufacture of fruit preserves. No such shipment shall be made except with the approval of the

department and only in such manner as the department prescribes. The department shall notify the Commissioner of Revenue Services of the approval of any such shipment.

Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 30-86 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) (1) Any permittee or any servant or agent of a permittee who sells or delivers alcoholic liquor to any minor or any intoxicated person, or to any habitual drunkard, knowing the person to be such a habitual drunkard, shall be subject to the **[**penalties of**]** penalty prescribed in section 30-113, as amended by this act.

(2) Any person who sells, ships, delivers or gives alcoholic liquor to a minor, by any means, including, but not limited to, the Internet or any other on-line computer network, except on the order of a practicing physician, shall be fined not more than three thousand five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than eighteen months, or both.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply (A) to a sale, shipment or delivery made to a person over age eighteen who is an employee or permit holder under section 30-90a and where such sale, shipment or delivery is made in the course of such person's employment or business, (B) to a sale, shipment or delivery made in good faith to a minor who practices any deceit in the procurement of an identity card issued in accordance with the provisions of section 1-1h, who uses or exhibits any such identity card belonging to any other person or who uses or exhibits any such identity card that has been altered or tampered with in any way, or (C) to a shipment or delivery made to a minor by a parent, guardian or spouse of the minor, provided such parent, guardian or spouse has attained the age of twenty-one and provided such minor possesses such alcoholic liquor while accompanied by such parent, guardian or spouse.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to burden a person's

exercise of religion under section 3 of article first of the Constitution of the state in violation of subsection (a) of section 52-571b.

Sec. 14. Section 30-87 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Any person who induces any minor to procure alcoholic liquor from any person permitted to sell such alcoholic liquor shall be subject to the **[**penalties**]** penalty prescribed in section 30-113, as amended by this act. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1) the procurement of liquor by a person over age eighteen who is an employee or permit holder under section 30-90a where such procurement is made in the course of such person's employment or business, or (2) any such inducement in furtherance of an official investigation or enforcement activity authorized or conducted by a law enforcement agency or the Department of Consumer Protection. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any action from being taken under section 30-55 or section 30-86, as amended by this act, or both, against any person permitted to sell alcoholic liquor who has sold alcoholic liquor to a minor where such minor is participating in an official investigation or enforcement activity authorized or conducted by a law enforcement agency or the department.

Sec. 15. Section 30-90 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any permittee who, either personally or through such permittee's servant or agent, allows any minor, intoxicated person or person to whom the sale or gift of alcoholic liquor has been prohibited by law to loiter on the permit premises where alcoholic liquor is kept for sale, or who allows any minor, other than a person who is at least eighteen years of age and an employee or permit holder under section 30-90a or a minor accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian, or intoxicated person to be in any room where alcoholic liquor is served at any bar, shall be subject to the **[**penalties described**]** penalty prescribed in section 30-113,

as amended by this act. For barrooms consisting of only one room and for permit premises without effective separation between a barroom and a dining room, an unaccompanied minor or intoxicated person may remain on the permit premises while waiting for and consuming food prepared on such permit premises. No minor may sit or stand at a consumer bar without being accompanied by a parent, guardian or spouse.

Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 30-91 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The sale, dispensing, consumption or presence in glasses or other receptacles suitable to allow for the consumption of alcoholic liquor by an individual in places operating under hotel permits issued under section 30-21, restaurant permits issued under section 30-22, cafe permits issued under section 30-22a, cafe permits for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g, Connecticut craft cafe permits issued under section 30-22d, club permits issued under section 30-22aa, restaurant permits for catering establishments or qualified managed residential communities issued under section 30-22b, as amended by this act, coliseum permits issued under section 30-33a, temporary liquor permits for noncommercial entities issued under section 30-35, nonprofit public museum permits issued under section 30-37a, manufacturer permits for beer, a farm winery or wine, cider and mead issued under subsection (b), (c) or (d), respectively, of section 30-16, casino permits issued under section 30-37k and caterer liquor and mobile bar permits issued under section 30-37j, as amended by this act, shall be unlawful on: (1) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between the hours of one o'clock a.m. and nine o'clock a.m.; (2) Saturday between the hours of two o'clock a.m. and nine o'clock a.m.; (3) Sunday between the hours of two o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m.; (4) Christmas, except (A) for alcoholic liquor that is served where food is also available during the hours otherwise permitted by this section for the day on which Christmas falls, and (B) by casino permittees at

casinos, as defined in section 30-37k; and (5) January first between the hours of three o'clock a.m. and nine o'clock a.m., except that on any Sunday that is January first the prohibitions of this section shall be between the hours of three o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m.

Sec. 17. Section 30-98 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

[Every**]** Any jailer, prisonkeeper or other officer who furnishes, or suffers to be furnished, to any prisoner under **[**his**]** such jailer's, prisonkeeper's or officer's charge any alcoholic liquor, except as medicine, and any person who delivers to any such prisoner any alcoholic liquor without authority from such **[**keeper**]** jailer, prisonkeeper or officer, shall be subject to the **[**penalties of**]** penalty prescribed in section 30-113, as amended by this act.

Sec. 18. Section 30-101 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

[Every**]** Any pharmacist who, **[**by himself, his**]** either personally or through such pharmacist's agent or employee, sells alcoholic liquor to be drunk on the premises shall, upon conviction, forfeit both **[**his**]** such pharmacist's druggist's permit for the sale of such liquor and **[**his**]** such pharmacist's license to practice pharmacy, and be subject to the **[**penalties of**]** penalty prescribed in section 30-113, as amended by this act.

Sec. 19. Section 30-113 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any person convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter for which a specified penalty is not imposed **[**,**]** shall, for each **[**offense**]** violation, be **[**subject to any penalty set forth in section 30-55**]** guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 52-572w of the general statutes is

repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any covenant, agreement or understanding in, in connection with or collateral to any contract or agreement made or entered into with any caterer or catering establishment, as defined in subsection **[**(d)**]** (a) of section 30-22b, as amended by this act, that exempts such caterer or catering establishment from liability for damages for bodily injury to persons or damage to property caused by or resulting from the negligence of the caterer or catering establishment, the agents, servants or employees of such caterer or catering establishment or the patrons at the event to which such contract or agreement pertains is against public policy and void.

Sec. 21. Section 30-53 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2025*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	21a-425
Sec. 2	*October 1, 2025*	30-14(a) and (b)
Sec. 3	*October 1, 2025*	30-19f(a)
Sec. 4	*October 1, 2025*	30-20(a)
Sec. 5	*October 1, 2025*	30-22b
Sec. 6	*October 1, 2025*	30-37j
Sec. 7	*October 1, 2025*	30-39
Sec. 8	*October 1, 2025*	30-47
Sec. 9	*October 1, 2025*	30-51
Sec. 10	*October 1, 2025*	30-74(a) and (b)
Sec. 11	*October 1, 2025*	30-76
Sec. 12	*October 1, 2025*	30-77(a)
Sec. 13	*October 1, 2025*	30-86(b)
Sec. 14	*from passage*	30-87
Sec. 15	*October 1, 2025*	30-90
Sec. 16	*October 1, 2025*	30-91(a)
Sec. 17	*October 1, 2025*	30-98
Sec. 18	*October 1, 2025*	30-101

Sec. 19	*October 1, 2025*	30-113
Sec. 20	*October 1, 2025*	52-572w(a)
Sec. 21	*October 1, 2025*	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) redefine "container" for purposes of infused beverages, (2) establish a daily in-state transporter's liquor permit, a restaurant permit for a catering establishment or a qualified managed residential community and a mobile bar permit, (3) redefine "grocery store" for purposes of the grocery store beer permit and related provisions, (4) redefine "meal" for purposes of the caterer liquor permit, (5) specify that the Department of Consumer Protection shall not review an initial application for a liquor permit in the absence of certain required documents, (6) eliminate the newspaper publication requirement for liquor permit applications, (7) provide for a liquor education program, (8) authorize the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to enter into certain settlement agreements, (9) clarify the investigation and enforcement exception regarding purchases by minors, (10) specify that the default penalty for violation of the Liquor Control Act is a class A misdemeanor, and (11) eliminate the municipal recording requirement for liquor permits.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]